



# TOWN *of* THOMPSON

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

### Economic Development Commission Minutes

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Via ZOOM 6:30 P.M. >>See bottom of minutes for links of the recorded Zoom meeting<<

- I. Call to Order – The call to order was by Chair Brian Yacino at 6:31 pm.  
Present: Chair Brian Yacino, Planner Tyra Penn-Gesek, H. Charles Obert, JoAnn Hall, Brian Santos, Ashley Pomes; Recording Secretary, First Selectman Amy St. Onge  
Others present: John Rice
- II. Approval of Minutes: August 19, 2020 – **Motion made by C. Obert seconded by J. Hall to approve the minutes as written. All in favor, minutes approved.**
- III. Reports
  1. Chairman – No official report.
  2. Treasurer – Per Treasurer J. Hall, her report states \$22,948.24 is available as of August 27<sup>th</sup>.
- IV. Update on Businesses in Town – New business opening, B Thomas Plumbing at 222 Fabyan-Woodstock Road in North Grosvenordale.
- V. Citizen's Comments Pertaining to Agenda Items - None
- VI. Old Business
  1. EDC alternate – B. Yacino hasn't heard anything from J. Sharpe regarding his position on the Commission. He had one person that had some interest in joining but she is not able to at this time, however, she referred someone else. The new person of interest is going to check the website and look over some agendas and minutes and let him know next month if she is interested in becoming an alternate.
- VII. New Business
  1. CCGP (Connecticut Community Connectivity Grant Program) funding for infrastructure improvement projects. – T. Penn-Gesek will be looking into this for grants, nothing on there yet. She has the guidelines and materials. She needs the final product back on the Wayfinding project and she will then convert that into a grant application. Deadline is Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> of October. This grant is specializing more specifically in pedestrian and cycling connectivity with signs and wayfinding.
- VIII. Progress Reports:
  1. Marketing and branding plan with Sullivan & LeShane – At the September Branding meeting, the group reviewed the initial proposal with taglines and logos.

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A discussion took place with what people did or didn't like and that info was forwarded to Sullivan & LeShane. They have not come back with any further samples yet. B. Santos asks if there is a list of how the plan will be distributed and to whom? T. Penn-Gesek says Renee Waldron might answer this better but as she understands it, they'll do the development of the taglines and logos. Open ended question who it will be distributed to as of right now, need to figure out who it is most relevant to. C. Obert wanted to note, there were elements of the logo that they like but they want to ask if they hadn't given so much guidance would this logo of gone in a different direction?

2. Repair of the foundation at 65 Main – B. Yacino says in July we had voted to approve up to \$10,000 to repair foundation and shore up the building, Tyra was already looking for quotes. There is some pushback now where the project wasn't recognized by the Selectman's office. B. Yacino suggests it's not a bad idea to at least shore up the building for now no matter what the town wants to do with it, he says let's not let another one crumble to the ground. C. Obert says he is willing to go on record as saying, if someone wants to micromanage then they ought to be at the various meetings where these discussions take place instead of coming in late and saying I don't know about this. T. Penn-Gesek states it is frustrating having someone come in and obstruct the work that you are trying to do but she will just go get more information and keep pushing forward. J. Hall says it was suggested last night that it should just be torn down. She says it is not in shambles or such disrepair that it can't be converted back into a livable space, to suggest that it gets torn down was not acceptable. B. Santos asks with all those things just outlined, how they have anything to do with the repair of a foundation system. T. Penn-Gesek lists all of the items that she sent to the Board of Selectman after their opening of bids on the project was denied. C. Obert says some of the resistance seemed to be focused on the liability concerns. He suggests all members of the EDC should reach out to the Selectman and ask what questions they need answered in order to go through with this. There was a discussion about general contractors that could be used to go through and give an estimate on the repairs of the building.
3. Airline Trail Z-card brochure – T. Penn-Gesek says they're on the verge of getting match funds from the ERTD. Pomfret, Windham and Hampton are also donating funds towards this.
4. Community Day – Upcycled Art Show Maker Fair on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Registration was closed last Friday with 50 vendors signed up which was the goal.
5. Train Wreck Site – C. Obert says the cost of maps he picked up was a little over \$1.00/map, he talked about how to lower that cost. Trails Committee and EDC both say they would give some funds towards these maps. C. Obert has reached out to people in Webster and Douglas and the East Coast Greenway Coalition, they will designate Thompson as an official connector route. Drone photographer did some overhead shots, the trees covered a lot. He rode his bike down the trail with a GoPro helmet on to get better shots. He has a lot of photographs from newspapers from the day of the wreck as well. T. Penn-Gesek says biweekly call with NPS tomorrow to talk about a public workshop engagement, she is following up with UCONN students tomorrow morning to see if they will have a student team for the design. Also related to the Airline Trail, ERTD contact from

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Hampton, is also an editor at their community newspaper, they want information on what Thompson is doing on the Airline Trail and Train wreck Park. Song and video from the contest are done and fully mastered, should be getting the video by the end of the week. ERTD wants footage to include in statewide marketing programs.

6. 6-month project to update the PoCD – Making good progress, working on a very aggressive schedule to try to pull it in. The draft will be finalized by the end of November, final draft presented to P&Z at regular meeting at the end of December.
7. CME Wayfinding Plan & Signage (IOBY) – No final report yet.
8. “**Nips** for Holiday Cheer” April 1 - December 5 – Nip collection is finished; total was upwards of 48,000. Gift cards will be given out at Community Day. One person collected 12,000 Nips; he would like that to be used to offset his property taxes. The taxpayers name is Kevin Santerre and the value of his Nips collection is \$1,250.10. B. Santos asks for a letter proving that this is okay’d by the Town before giving a motion to approve. J. Hall asks if the Commission could vote pending the approval. **Motion made by C. Obert to approve this as long as we have the proper documentation from the tax office to satisfy legal requirements, seconded by J. Hall.** All in favor, no opposition.
9. “Six Months of Suffrage” update – Another event this Sunday, Proper Ladies at Riverside Park at 4:00pm, event is free of charge.
10. Zoning Regulations revision – After all the hard work, it was put through and adopted officially yesterday. It is on the Thompson website. B. Santos says he would like EDC to review it together and figure out how to get it in people’s hands for business in town, talk about it further next meeting.

IX. Comments by Commission Members - None

X. Next Meeting: October 21, 2020: 6:30 pm, location TBD

XI. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned by Chair B. Yacino at 7:36pm.

**>>The recorded Zoom video of the meeting can be found at the following links:**

Topic: EDC Meeting

Date: Sep 16, 2020 06:19 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/gP4fOXvX3dbtMOl\\_8AMfXknmnaTQGn\\_C-rsYYiJ1kgAZP03ON25VAxFeTcsHctg.Rj\\_LKNfnyceMKet5](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/gP4fOXvX3dbtMOl_8AMfXknmnaTQGn_C-rsYYiJ1kgAZP03ON25VAxFeTcsHctg.Rj_LKNfnyceMKet5)

Passcode: HJR?dA8F

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCg67evhE3c5likFChLUv3bQ?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCg67evhE3c5likFChLUv3bQ?view_as=subscriber)

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