



TOWN of  
**THOMPSON**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**

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*Linda Paradise*  
TOWN CLERK ASST

**Economic Development Commission**

**Wednesday, December 19, 2018 SENEY MEETING ROOM**

**Town Hall 6:30 P.M**

**MINUTES**

I. The call to order was by Chair Brian Yacino at 6:32

Present: Chairman Brian Yacino

JoAnn Hall

Brian Santos

H. Charles Obert

Tyra Penn-Gesek

Also present: First Selectman Ken Beausoleil

Dorothy Durst, Recording Secretary

Absent: Robert Larkin

John Sharpe

II. Motion to approve the Minutes of October 17, 2018 by J. Hall seconded by C. Obert carried unanimously. Note that in item #4, the new name is The Far Away Café.

III. Reports

1. Chairman: next year the October meeting will be upstairs. The new website will have an interactive calendar of meeting notices for the benefit of the public; members will be reminded in September.

2. Treasurer: a paper report from the Finance Office could not be obtained. The previous balance was \$27,561 with pending expenses for the Business of the Year plaque and items being processed by the Recreation Director. B. Yacino will try to obtain the report and scan/send it to all appropriate parties.

3. Other reports: none

IV. Update on Businesses in Town: It appears that management changes at Our Father's Table may be underway as well as at the Quaddick Country Store. Anya and the Milltown Grill both seem to be busy.

V. Citizen's Comments Pertaining to Agenda Items: none

VI. Old Business

1. Invitation letter- Branding Implementation Plan/Strategy "unveiling" events: B. Yacino reviewed the key points of the letter to all Boards/Commissions, with the first meeting for brainstorming set for February 6, followed by another on March 6. The first Wednesday of the month was selected so as to avoid conflicts with other Board/Commission schedules, thus allowing maximum participation.

2. EDC/Branding Subcommittee roles in planning/conducting the events: B. Yacino will seek ideas for snacks/cookies and coffee for the February 6 meeting and bring suggestions to the next EDC meeting. J. Hall confirmed that funds are available for promoting the Branding

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Plan/Strategy. The individual who will facilitate the discussion is yet to be determined; Renee Waldron, Chair of the Branding Subcommittee, has a person in mind.

3. Website Training was conducted for representatives of most Boards/Commission and Recording Secretaries today by the website designer. The site goes live in January. All of the site data and information for each Board/Commission was migrated to the new site; C. Obert participated in planning the transfer for EDC. Ideally, video clips and many event/business photos can be added. J. Hall: when can we begin to add links to the businesses who request it? Next someone will have to be identified to keep the site current; B. Santos offered to be considered to handle this. **ACTION ITEM:** B. Santos asks that all members come to the January meeting with 5 ideas of what should be on the EDC webpage.

4. Zoning Regulations revision status: the process is moving along. On January 7, J. Filchak returns to PnZ with more proposed updates. The EDC is interested in establishing a completion date, as the master Schedule for the Strategic plan indicated completion by December 31.

5. BAR Grant report (Brownfields): K. Beausoleil- CME has reviewed which of their staff members will work on the project, the specific streets/intersections and traffic data. The approximately 2-mile loop is a key part of the re-Branding effort.

6. Status of Town Planner position: Re-posted. In the current economy, it is a buyer's market; other towns may be finding the skill set Thompson needs but so far we have not.

7. 929 Riverside Drive Update: nothing to report. **ACTION ITEM:** How can we learn what a commercial developer looks for to consider a parcel? Perhaps invite a commercial lender in?

#### VII. New Business

1. Planning a WELCOME Letter: a revised, shorter version was distributed, which looks more user-friendly and readable. B. Santos offered suggestions; T. Penn-Gesek will rework it and email her draft out.

2. Other new business: question about the status of the unifying of Thompson under one name and the link to the zip codes? K. Beausoleil- Representative Joe Courtney responded to Thompson's inquiry with a set of questions for us. He will reach out to the postal service. The key point is to identify all residents as living in THOMPSON, with individual zip codes retained if required.

#### VIII. Correspondence: none

IX. Comments by Commission Members: C. Obert reported that this year's Turkey Trot was the most successful to date, even with the loss of a Silver-level sponsor and the absence of the very experienced Recreation Director, who was on maternity leave. Brian Loffredo has done a super job with this and already has formulated ideas for next year to build it even more.

X. Next Meeting: January 16, 2019: 6:30 pm, Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall

XI. Adjournment was at 7:48 PM by Chair B. Yacino.

Respectfully Submitted; Dorothy Durst, Recording Secretary *Dorothy Durst*

*These minutes have not yet been approved by the Economic Development Commission. Please refer to next month's meeting minutes for approval of and/or amendments to these minutes.*