



TOWN OF THOMPSON

Economic Development
Commission

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Economic Development Commission Minutes

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Via Zoom 6:30pm

View the Zoom Recording

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/aUOgJv7TCcXkQWbXXFID14raNq-iRcS6efHfB0Ed6bK4_bUItuIMlgizITRF2Gvq.WQAJ-cDdXJ_sjSbr?startTime=1708558276000

Passcode: xRy#W2!y

Members attending: B. Yacino – Chair, D. Bennett, J. Hall, B. Loffredo, C. Obert, B. Santos, A. St. Onge

Others attending: Tyra Penn-Gesek (Director of Planning & Development), Lynn Looby (Recording Secretary)

- I. Call to Order 6:30pm by B. Yacino. The recording was started by T. Penn-Gesek.
- II. Approval of Minutes from January 17, 2024
J. Hall motioned to approve the minutes as presented, B. Loffredo seconded the motion
Motion passes unanimously. at time stamp 0:47
- III. Reports
 1. Chairman – B. Yacino
 - Proposals for FY25 Budget
 - o T. Penn Gesek reported that the Board of Finance is amenable to a pool of funds with a more flexible assignment; would need to provide examples of types of opportunity that might arise – matching funds for grants, continuation of the current Marketing RFP, etc.
 - o Continue to discuss ideas/goals and bring forward budget requests for current and future years
 2. Treasurer – J. Hall
 - Available budget \$23,042.44 (6.6%)
- IV. Update on businesses in Thompson – at time stamp 11:43
 1. New business Adoption of Trade Name
 - 2024-2 – Superior Storage – 72 Main Street, North Grosvenordale
 2. TBA Membership – There are 75 businesses in membership
- V. Citizen's comments pertaining to agenda items – no citizens comments
- VI. Old Business at time stamp 12:46
 1. Report on renewed EDC members – all members have been sworn in
 2. Open slot for EDC alternate – any suggestions let B. Yacino know
 3. Hosted commercial real estate group (February 6)
 - Riverside Commercial Park Proposal – 11 acres; potential sewer/water for 100,000 sq. ft. of buildings; plan endorsed by Planning and Development staff
- VII. New Business at time stamp 14:10
- VIII. Progress Reports at time stamp 14:19
 1. Grant applications / updates – Tyra
 - 65 Main SBA Congressional Appropriation (renovation grant) – closing in on end of funding; hazmat demo and abatement complete; new roof is complete (gutters and other metal work will be done in

the Spring); deciding on expenditures for the remaining \$40,000 – options would be electrical completion, general paint colors chosen by Historical Society, and possibly paying for exterior painting in lieu of soliciting volunteers

- CIF Grant – \$3.88 Million – notification end of March; possible funding options – 65 Main renovation gap, Veteran’s Parks (2), reconstruction Main Street and sidewalks
- Train Wreck Park (2) – Butler property purchase transaction complete; will receive bid documents shortly
- Brownfield Grant – still assembling the contract documentation
- Library Roof – closing grants; need to get photos of project results for final submittal
- High School Track – the Building Committee is overseeing the project; will be starting mid-May and finished by mid-August
- USDA UAIP Grant – 65 Main Planning – Public Workshops – finishing permaculture portion of the project; next 6 months will focus on education and small business portions; 6 months following will be writing the master plan with partners
- Lowe’s Community Foundation – submitted a letter of intent form for \$200,000 request; 65 Main renovation gap; decision in June

2. Website notes at time stamp 22:43

- no new comments

3. Train Wreck Park progress – discussed previously under Progress Reports at time stamp 17:42

4. Upcoming events at time stamp 24:15

- Natchaug Epic – March 24 – C. Obert previously shared an event brochure with Commission members; TBA discussed their participation
- Maker Fair – May 4
- Summer Concert Series – June 29, July 13, July 27, August 3
- Town Yard Sale – July 27
- Community Day – October 5
- Marketing / revitalization of downtown core: (including 65 Main)

5. Marketing / revitalization of downtown core: (including 65 Main) at time stamp 28:43

- Next Public Workshop is on February 28, 2024 from 6-8pm (Hybrid meeting – In-person and Zoom)
- RFP Submittals – 7 proposals received; Commission members will take a week to review proposals and return preliminary score sheets to T. Penn-Gesek; discussed options for determining how to move forward with the bids

IX. Comments by Commission members / next agenda

- Mill Complex Update – T. Penn-Gesek is working with attorneys (developer and owner) and state
- Discussed openings of new businesses in Town – Brewery and The Kitchen at New Boston Beef
- Discussion/Thoughts on the Public Workshops (4) that have taken place to date

X. Next meeting: March 20, 2024 6:30pm

XI. Adjourn – 7:27pm by B. Yacino

Also available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZHqYLGLxYY>

Submitted 02/29/24

Lynn S. Looby

Recording Secretary

**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.