



TOWN of
THOMPSON

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

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Linda Paradise
TOWN CLERK, ASST

Economic Development Commission Branding Implementation Committee
SPECIAL MEETING Project Graduation Exercise/Strategies for Student Success
COMMUNITY ROOM/Library Wednesday, October 2, 2019
MINUTES

1. EDC Branding Implementation Committee Chair Renee Waldron greeted the attendees and welcomed them to the exercise at 6 PM. Superintendent of School Melinda Smith outlined the national Project Graduation initiative, and pointed out that a core group of Thompson school staff who were trained in the concept were present to facilitate. Town Planner Tyra Penn-Gesek noted the Branding subcommittee of the EDC is working to connect all Thompson Boards/Commissions/Committees, to develop an interactive forum to support the town's common goals. First Selectman Ken Beausoleil observed that the community is working together to change a local self-perception of Thompson as being only a bedroom community, when the town actually has significant strengths.
2. Roll call: see page 2
3. Schools Director of Finance Bob Gentes presented data regarding the costs of Education in Thompson compared with 2 neighboring communities, which highlighted the lower per pupil expenditure in Thompson.
4. C. Langlois, C. Obert, B. Loffredo and R. Waldron, members of the EDC, provided perspective about the education system in Thompson, whether as students themselves or as a parent deciding if to select Thompson as the town in which to raise their children.
5. Evening Activity: Teams Exercise- Community Planning for a strong Education system. Facilitator Melinda Smith gave an explanation of the interactive exercise. Each of the 7 teams was to prioritize the aspects of Education considered to be essential for students. Then presentations were made by each of the Teams identifying the aspects of education which that Team considered most important for Thompson's students' futures.
6. The materials will be tabulated and distributed; other venues such as Community Day and surveys will be utilized to gather even broader data.
7. Planner Tyra Penn-Gesek summarized the evening, tying it back to previous Branding Committee activity. Education is identified as an important focus of attention for the promotion Thompson. Consider the slogan for Thompson, ***Green and Growing***, in a new context when we think of our students; the participants in the room are the leaders of Thompson and can incrementally move Thompson ahead.
8. All attendees were thanked for their enthusiastic participation. The meeting was ended at 8:30 PM by Chair Renee Waldron.

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

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

Antonson	Scott	Tax Official	O'Neill	George	IWWA
Beausoleil	Ken	First Selectman	Orr	Kies	Fort Hill Farms
Beltram	Novaline	Principal/Elem	Penn-Gesek	Tyra	Town Planner
			Polsky	Matt	BOE
Brissette	Shawn	BOE	Quiercia	Bernadette	Retired teacher
Chatelle	Christine	Fire Advisory Comm	Rice	John	Building Committee, P&Z
Gentes	Bob	School district Director of Finance			
Godzik	Donna	BOE	Rooney	Rhonda	BOF, TBA
Gray	Greg	Thompson UUC			
			Smith	Melinda	Superintendent of Schools
			St. Onge	Amy	Board of Selectmen
Hall	Jo Ann	EDC, MSRAC, Ordinance	St. Onge	Jason	ZBA
Herbert	Kathleen	BOE	Thomas	Phil	Conservation Comm
Herbert	Steve	Board of Selectmen	Trottier	Jesse	Student
			Waldron	Renee	EDC Branding, Town Clerk
Houghton	Jody	BOE	Witkowski	Susan	BOF
			Witkowski	Aileen	Library, Registrar of Voters
Iamartino	Valentine	BOE	Yacino	Brian	EDC, TBA
Jarmolowicz	Linda	BOE			
Langlois	Charlene	Branding, MSRAC, P&Z, TBA	Interns, staff		
Langlois	Lucille	Trails			
Lavallee	Leslie	ZBA			
Loffredo	Brian	Branding, Trails, EDC			
McGarry	Frank	Registrar			
Morano	Fran	IWWA			
Obert	Charles	Branding, EDC, Trails			