



TOWN OF THOMPSON

Planning & Development

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REGULAR MEETING - BAR

Held via zoom – recording unavailable

Attending: J. Blanchette – Chair, K. Beausoleil, B. Davis, J. Hall, S. Lewis, N. O'Leary, T. Penn-Gesek –
Director of Planning & Development, A. St Onge – First Selectman

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER – 9:28 a.m.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - a. June 11, 2021 Regular Meeting – postponed to September meeting
3. CORRESPONDENCE – addressed under 5.b.
4. CITIZEN COMMENTS - none
5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS
 - a. LOTCIP Route 12 sidewalk project
 - i. Construction – bidding, schedule, etc
J. Blanchette & T. Penn dialed into a zoom call with the consultant from Freeman Co & staff from ConnDOT. The consultant reviewed all of the DOT comments on the latest revision of the plan and promised a quick turnaround (within one week) of a new revision responsive to those comments. ConnDOT would not commit or otherwise project a timeframe for final approval from the department. J. Blanchette asks the First Selectman to follow up again with ConnDOT if no response is received by the end of August.
 - ii. Inspection Consultant RPF
The RFP is prepared and ready to be posted simultaneously with the construction bid documents. Both postings are pending approval by ConnDOT and possibly some additional administrative tasks from NECCOG.
 - iii. End of BAR grant deadline
The BAR grant award technically expired as of 30 June 2021. T. Penn has been in contact with DECD and they understand the difficulty posed by delays at ConnDOT. There is less than \$3k remaining in the grant, and DECD is willing to extend the performance period to accommodate for those delays. The last funds are designated for Freeman Co preparation of the bid documents
 - b. John Gumpert liason/River Mill
T. Penn met with Atty Elkow, J. Gumpert, Fire Marshal J. Seney and two of the local property managers for 929 to discuss how the developer would address the deficiencies in the state fire marshal report. The meeting was very favorable, and a checklist and order of action was agreed upon by the fire marshal, the developer and his property managers. Those parties will continue working & following up on that checklist.
J. Blanchette shares that J. Gumpert had reached out to her company to possibly take on floodplain surveys for the 929 Riverside mill. Financing for the project is held up waiting for this piece. J. Blanchette declined the contract as a potential conflict of interest, but did agree to act as a “middle man” between the developer and CHA. There is a potential obstacle in that FEMA is expected to revise the floodplain maps for the area, and that revision could complicate the mill project. T. Penn agrees to reach out to her contact at DEMHS to see if there is any information they can share about the reasons for the change. The anticipated changes could any future development along the Route 12 corridor potentially complicated.

c. Other Committee Business

K. Beausoleil mentions that another resident has asked him about the status of the fence at 630 Riverside. The fence has been in the same condition for months, and the prior property manager has not been around for some time.

J. Blanchette mentions that she is looking forward to seeing the work begin on the Blain Road intersection, and that the project may spur new interest in the 630 property, as the safety and appearance is improved.

T. Penn mentions that UConn declined the proposal to work on LID measures & greenscaping for the Blain Rd intersection, but she did have a conversation with a Master Gardener candidate recently. That program may be a source of volunteers to install a rain garden on the site, especially if ECCD has resources available for the design. T. Penn will follow up on that as the Blain Road project gets underway.

B. Davis mentions that a new Conservation Agent has been hired and starts on Monday 16 August. The new Agent is Dan Malo. He will be working part time for Thompson and part time for Windsor Locks.

6. MEMBER COMMENTS – none additional

7. ADJOURNMENT – 9:59 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tyra Penn-Gesek, Director of Planning & Development