



# TOWN OF THOMPSON

Mill Sites Redevelopment  
Advisory Committee (MSRAC)

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**Regular MEETING- MSRAC**  
**Mill Sites Redevelopment Advisory Committee (MSRAC)**  
**Friday – September 8, 2023 – 9:00 AM**  
**Hybrid – Merrill Seney Community Room and Zoom**

## MINUTES

### Zoom Recording:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/LDFLSMfakOaF9dpeukRedKIRXlhCqkbCbPAP9F0zHvNJ8NfJChkh0JNctc6qh5Yl.G2BgLfSdOelIvmhJ?startTime=1694178059000>

**Passcode:** 6aw#yAWg

**YouTube Recording:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ASQBch8eHRA>

**Members Attending:** J. Blanchette – Chair, K. Beausoleil, R. Cournoyer, J. Hall, N. O'Leary

**Staff Attending:** A. St Onge – First Selectman, T. Penn-Gesek – Director of Planning & Development

**1. CALL TO ORDER** – 9:02 a.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 11, 2023 Regular Meetings**

**J. Hall** moves/**N. O'Leary** seconds approval of the minutes. Passes unanimously.

**3. CORRESPONDENCE** - none

**4. CITIZEN COMMENTS** – no citizens in attendance

**5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**a. CT DEDC Community Investment Fund grant application**

The application was submitted and is pending notification (expected around 30 September). DECD did follow up with further questions, which were all cleared. **T. Penn-Gesek** reminds the members that there are 3 grants pending notification at that time: the CIF grant (\$3.88-million for improvements to the Main Street loop); a grant through CT DOT for the fabrication and installation of the wayfinding system (\$180k); and a STEAP grant to offset part of the cost of the high school track (\$500k).

**b. River Mill – 25 year tax assessment VAD ordinance**

The VAD Ordinance passed with overwhelming support. The Ordinance will be effective 30 days from adoption, and then the abatement agreement for River Mill can be put in place. **T. Penn-Gesek** has a call with the project partners and DECD on 12 September for a status update on the \$2-million clean-up grant. **J. Blanchette** asks which part of the cleanup will be covered by the grant. **T. Penn** believes that it will cover the water and soils, and that the total clean up costs are around \$5-million.

**c. Swanson Park** – no updates until notification is received from the CIF grant

**d. Ongoing Committee business**

**a. Blain Road Intersection**

The project timeline keeps pushing back due to the delays in receiving the mountable granite curb. Currently projected for late September/early October.

**b. River Mill** – no additional updates other than under the VAD Ordinance

### **c. 630 Riverside Dr**

ECLB has contacted the Town to confirm their interest in being the beneficiary of an area-wide assessment grant in partnership with Putnam. The deliverables will be similar to the BAR grant, rather than an environmental assessment. Multiple sites in Putnam and the Belding-Corticelli site in Thompson will be the subject parcels.

### **d. 65 Main Street**

There is significant progress on both the renovation and the planning projects. The roof and abatement work will both start shortly. The two problem trees in front of the building were removed. The water will be turned on for use in the abatement on Monday 11 Sept. More funding for the renovation was requested in the CIF grant.

The planning grant activities are also getting underway. The permaculture design contract will be awarded by the BoS at their next meeting. The year-long public workshop to develop the master plan will kick off on the evening of Weds 4 Oct. Oct 3-4 is also when the permaculture consultant will be on-site to do on-the-ground assessments. **T. Penn** mentions to **N. O'Leary** that she thinks it would be of interest to the Conservation Commission to attend one or both days of the site visit with the permaculture consultant. 4 of the project partners will be on the WINY Talk Show on Fri 15 Sept at 9 to discuss the project and solicit interest in the workshop.

**e. Main Street Reconstruction** – no updates until CIF grant is announced.

### **e. Other/New Committee Business**

**R. Cournoyer** mentions that the new patio area at Mill Town Grill looks good. The business owner contacted **T. Penn** to ask about organizing a ribbon-cutting, to celebrate the addition of the outdoor seasonal furniture. The date is Saturday 23 Sept from 11 – 11:30 a.m. State Senator Flexer will be in attendance. The MSRAC members are encouraged to attend.

There is further discussion about the weeds that have grown up in the new landscaping associated with the sidewalk project. Various options for ongoing maintenance are discussed, including organizing community service hours through Thompson Together or getting quotes from local landscapers.

**6. MEMBER COMMENTS** – none additional

**7. ADJOURNMENT** – 9:47 a.m.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Tyra Penn-Gesek, Director of Planning & Development**