



TOWN OF THOMPSON

Planning & Development

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REGULAR MEETING- MSRAC
Mill Sites Redevelopment Advisory Committee (MSRAC)
Friday, January 14, 2022 – 9:00 AM
In Person – Merrill Seney Community Room
Minutes

Attending: J. Blanchette – Chair, J. Hall, S. Lewis, N. O’Leary, R. Waldron. T. Penn-Gesek - Director of Planning & Development, A. St Onge – First Selectman

1. CALL TO ORDER – 9:07 a.m.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 10, 2021 Regular Meeting
R. Waldron/S. Lewis seconds approval of the minutes. Passes unanimously
3. CORRESPONDENCE – FOI flyer info
There are two dates for a 1-hour workshop on the requirements of FOIA. Town staff and volunteers are invited to attend. 10 Feb @ 6-7 p.m. will be on zoom. 22 Mar @ 6-7 p.m. will be in-person.
4. CITIZEN COMMENTS – none
5. COMMITTEE BUSINESS
 - a. Eastern CT Land Bank – support letter
Chair Blanchette has not yet had the chance to write the Los for the ECLB’s planned fundraising presentation at NECCOG, but is still planning on composing one. Funding support for ECLB is on the agenda for the 19 Jan EDC meeting. R. Waldron suggests adding the ECLB powerpoint presentation to the MSRAC & EDC pages, to make them available to the public. It is also suggested that EDC should use that ppt to support their intention to use funds to assist ECLB in hiring an executive director, when presenting to BoS and BoF during budget season.
 - b. Development of 630 Riverside Drive
T. Penn had an inquiry regarding the parcel during the week, and referred the interested party to Peter Lange as the representing broker. No further updates.
 - c. DECD CT Communities Challenge Grant – update
The grant application was submitted on 13 Jan. The request was for roughly \$1-million, matched by the Town’s ARPA funds, for a series of placemaking & revitalization projects in the North Grosvenordale Mill District. The program will be highly competitive, with 88 applicants estimated for the first round, which has an approximate pool of \$50-million (grants have a \$1-million floor). Notification is expected March-April, per the NOFA. A second round will also be opened. T. Penn is loosely planning on submitting a second application to support the renovation of the Thompson Congregational Church, in partnership with the church’s foundation. If the first round application is unsuccessful, she may also re-submit that, depending on scoring and feedback received.
 - d. River Mill update – liason report, DECD Brownfield remediation grant obtained
DECD formally confirmed a \$2-million award for Thompson in Round 14 of the Brownfield Municipal grant program. The funds are for environmental cleanup, expected to start in Spring of 2022.
 - e. Other Committee business - none
6. MEMBER COMMENTS
R. Waldron thanks J. Blanchette for all the effort she puts in as Committee Chair and generally volunteering for the Town.
7. ADJOURNMENT – 9:37 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tyra Penn-Gesek, Director of Planning & Development