



TOWN of
THOMPSON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

MINUTES: Economic Development Commission
Wednesday, January 21st, 2015, Merrill Seney Conference Room, Town Hall

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Members Present: JoAnn Hall, John Sharpe, and Brian Yacino.

Staff Present: Andrew Richardson, Recording Secretary

Others Present: Kerstin Forrester, Second Selectman

Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion made by Brian Yacino to accept the minutes from the December 17th, 2014 meeting of the Economic Development Commission. This motion was seconded by JoAnn Hall.

Brian Yacino – Yes, JoAnn Hall – Yes, John Sharpe – Yes

Reports:

1. Treasurer:
There is \$1,812.98 in the Commission's account as of January 21st, 2014.
2. Business Street Signs:
 - a. No new inquiries or complaints.
3. Belding Corticelli Improvement Committee:
 - a. JoAnn Hall stated that they had been on hiatus and that the next Belding Corticelli Improvement Committee meeting would be in February, 2015.
4. Update on businesses in Town:
 - a. "Metropolitan Life Insurance Company" is conducting business in town as "Baystate Financial."
 - b. "The Movement Mill" officially opened for business on Riverside Drive in N. Grosvenordale yesterday on Tuesday, January 20th, 2015.

Citizens' comments pertaining to Agenda Items:

Second Selectman Kerstin Forrester stated that she came to the meeting to speak about how Ryan Lajoie's letter of resignation was brought up at the Board of Selectmen's meeting on January 6th, 2015; it was stressed that the other Board members both understood and agreed with Mr. Lajoie's concerns. Mrs. Forrester read from the minutes of that meeting and then stated that the Board of Selectmen has put out, or is about to put out, an advertisement in the Shopper's Guide regarding the town of Thompson looking for volunteers to join the Thompson Economic Development Commission. Mrs. Forrester then stated that she was also attending the meeting this evening to give a charge to the EDC from the Board of Selectmen. Mrs. Forrester asked the Commission if they have a charter and John Sharpe responded that they only have bylaws. Mrs. Forrester stated that she could lead a brainstorming session if needed. Mrs. Forrester then read her suggestion, which was covered at a previous meeting, regarding the need for the town of Thompson to have an economic identity. A motion was made with the Board of Selectmen at the January 6th, 2015 meeting to give the EDC a formal charge to create a Thompson Economic Identity – which would take focus off of the 10 individual villages and, for more economic progress, would rally the town and its businesses around a common Thompson identity. A lengthy discussion took place between Mrs.

Forrester and the Commission members. John Sharpe read the EDC mission statement from the by-laws. Mrs. Forrester made the suggestion that the Commission members visit other EDC's in the surrounding area.

Old Business:

1. Information Packet:

No Update

2. Thompson Business Association (TBA):

Brian Yacino stated they met last week and discussed the next business expo which will go forward and will be held at the Knights of Columbus on March 20th, 2015

3. Economic Development Commission Web Site:

Mrs. Forrester, earlier in the meeting, had updated the EDC on the state of the town website which is currently in the process of being reworked slightly and updated by Jim Stratos of Stratos Studios. Mrs. Forrester said this process would take about 3 or 4 weeks before the website will be completely functional once again.

Correspondence:

1. The EDC received correspondence regarding a Public Hearing in Woodstock which had been rescheduled.
2. The EDC received a business postcard from the CBRC – Connecticut Business Response Center.

Commission Comments:

1. John Sharpe commented that it was good to see representation from the Board of Selectmen at the meeting and that hopefully they will be able to find more members to join the EDC soon.
2. Brian Yacino agreed with John Sharpe's thoughts and briefly touched on the idea that many people don't like to volunteer because they are busy nowadays.

Next meeting:

1. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 18th, 2015 at 6:30 PM in the Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall.

Adjourn:

1. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Andrew Richardson
Recording Secretary