



TOWN of
THOMPSON

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Minutes: Economic Development Commission

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall, 6:30 P.M.

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- I. Call to Order
 1. Brian Yacino called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
 2. Members Present: JoAnn Hall, Brian Santos, and Brian Yacino
 3. Staff Present: Tina Fox, Recording Secretary
 4. Also Present: Steve Herbert, Selectman

- II. Approval of Minutes
 1. November 18, 2015
 - a. **JoAnn Hall moved and Brian Yacino seconded the motion to approve the November 18, 2015 minutes.**
JoAnn Hall- Yes Brian Santos- Yes Brian Yacino- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.

- III. Reports
 1. Treasurer
 - a. There was discussion about the previous Treasurer Report, which was believed to be incorrect in the previous minutes. The Treasurer reported that there is \$2,300.84 in the account.
 2. Update on Businesses in Town
 - a. There were no new Trade Names to report. Brian Yacino stated that Dollar General is moving along and won't open until spring, and that no work is being done yet at the new Dunkin Donuts site.

- IV. Citizen's Comments Pertaining to Agenda Items
 1. Steve Herbert brought up a concern about the Dollar General Planning and Zoning Commission application. He stated that at the PZC meeting, the Dollar General applicant was told to change the color of the building to a reddish color and that they were not allowed to have signs in the windows of the building. He stated that it seemed the requirements were onerous, especially given that other stores in the same neighborhood have many signs advertising sales, and signage helps customers.
 2. The Commission briefly discussed the signage requirement, and agreed that there are many businesses in the area that have many signs out front. Brian Santos stated that if PZC places these limitations on some businesses, they should treat all businesses the same.
 3. Brian Santos asked Tina Fox if she could access the PZC minutes where the application was discussed. Tina Fox read aloud from the PZC minutes, and agreed to send the minutes to EDC members.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

815 RIVERSIDE DRIVE · NO. GROSVENORDALE, CONNECTICUT 06255

TELEPHONE (860) 923-9475 · FAX (860) 923-9897

V. Old Business

1. Welcome Letter/Brochure Discussion

- a. The Commission read through the Welcome Letter and made some changes. The phrase "...now home to major employers" will be changed to "...now home to many employers."
- b. The last paragraph regarding the Business Directional Signs will be omitted.
- c. EDC's meeting dates will be attached to the letter.
- d. An appropriate comma will be added in the second to last paragraph, after "Let's do business..."
- e. Ryan Lajoie's name will be omitted from the closing, so that the letter is signed "Very Sincerely, Thompson Economic Development Commission."
- f. The Commission decided to mail the letters to the owners indicated on the Trade Name applications that were presented as correspondence at the previous meeting. Brian Santos agreed to print and mail the letters.

VI. New Business

1. New Website Update- List of Businesses in Town

- a. Brian Yacino suggested that the list of businesses on the website should be the Thompson Business Association Business Directory, and the Commission agreed.
- b. Steve Herbert suggested having something on the website that says "If your business is not on the list, contact the Webmaster." The Commission decided to have the Thompson Business Association's contact information on the site instead.

2. Revision of By-Laws

- a. Tina Fox pointed out a spelling mistake on the By-Laws (Article VII was written as 'Artucke VII). Tina Fox stated that Mary Ann Chinatti asked her to point out the spelling mistake to the Commission, and to remind the Commission that her absence at the meeting is because the By-Laws indicate that the Director of Planning and Development must attend only every other meeting.
- b. Brian Yacino stated that he did remember that the Director only has to attend every other meeting, and that the Commission greatly appreciates her attendance. JoAnn Hall stated that having Mary Ann at the meetings is a delight, and that she is a great help.
- c. **Brian Santos moved and Brian Yacino seconded the motion to accept the By-Laws as amended, with "Artucke VII" being corrected.**

JoAnn Hall- Yes Brian Santos- Yes Brian Yacino- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

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VII. Correspondence

1. Budget Review

VIII. Comments by Commission Members

1. Brian Santos asked if he had to go before the Board of Selectmen to be reappointed. JoAnn Hall stated that he can just forward a letter to Mary Ann Chinatti to indicate that he wants to be reappointed, and Mary Ann will then forward the letter to the BOS.

IX. Next Meeting

1. January 20, 2016: 6:30 pm, Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall

X. Adjourn

1. **Brian Yacino moved and Brian Santos seconded the motion to adjourn.**

JoAnn Hall- Yes Brian Santos- Yes Brian Yacino- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

2. The motion adjourned at 7:31 PM.

Tina Fox
Recording Secretary