



TOWN of  
**THOMPSON**

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2018 APR 20 P 9 10

*Jrinda Paradise*  
TOWN CLERK, ASST

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

**Economic Development Commission**

**Wednesday, April 18, 2018**

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

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Chairman Brian Yacino

H. Charles Obert

JoAnn Hall

Tyra Penn-Gesek

Robert Larkin

Also present: Ken Beausoleil, First Selectman; M. A. Chinatti, Town Planner

Dorothy Durst, Recording Secretary

**Absent:**

Brian Santos

John Sharpe

I. Call to Order by Chairman Brian Yacino was at 6:31PM

II. Approval of Minutes from March 21, 2018

(M/S/C Larkin /Hall). Note was made that the caterer/restaurant name is spelled *Mack's*. (III Reports, 2) **Motion carried unanimously**

III. Reports

a. Treasurer: J. Hall reported the balance remains at \$48,694

b. Update on Businesses in Town:

- There was discussion of the unfortunate flooding over the septic system at ANYA, which is still under construction, caused by culvert failure nearby. K. Beausoleil – DEEP is addressing the matter. A cross-culvert is needed at the Airline Trail access point.
- At the intersection of RT 12 and near the highway exchange, a business has just put up a sign after an extended period of time. It appears to be involved with something auto-related.
- Work is underway at the mini-golf course
- Quinn's is under rehab
- M. A. Chinatti – met someone considering opening a bakery at a location previously housing the same use

**MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

815 RIVERSIDE DRIVE • NO. GROSVENORDALE, CONNECTICUT 06255

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

IV. Citizen's Comments Pertaining to Agenda Items; none

V. Old Business

Progress by Branding Implementation Committee:

- The Plan is being examined for both typos and content that needs to be addressed
- R. Waldron and B. Santos are working to make the Plan more accessible, in order to make the corrections/modifications.
- C. Obert – the 3 final applicants for website upgrade are all currently working with municipal websites. Soon all 3 will be scheduled to provide a demonstration of their skills.
- M. A. Chinatti – today R. Waldron, Chair of the Branding Implementation subcommittee sent a memo, asking for feedback by April 30 regarding the website upgrade. What are your expectations for the new website? What do you think the public's expectations will be?

VI. New Business

a. Funding Requests

- At the Board of Selectmen's meeting last night, we requested successfully that the BOF be asked to transfer up to \$30,000 of EDC funds which are intended for use by the Branding subcommittee. This will primarily address hiring a consultant to represent the interests of the town in 929 Riverside Dr. negotiation (up to \$8,000), to upgrade the website and other social media (up to \$16,000), and to facilitate re-writing of the Zoning Regulations (\$3,000: see note below).
- :
- UCONN SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING: Presentation to professors will be this week on campus. Their streetscape materials will be of particular interest as it could impact economic development. \$3,000 has been requested.
- Zoning Regulations re-write: M.A. Chinatti – the Planning and Zoning Commission is contributing \$1,000 to the expense of the Zoning Regulation update, as planned. NECCOG has increased their requirement by \$1,000 so EDC will need to contribute \$3,000 for a total of \$4,000.

b. 929 Riverside Dr – Public Information Hearing: scheduled for May 23 and is being promoted extensively. How to create a walkable neighborhood will be a component. The Committee requests visuals which will assist the public in grasping the concepts. Perhaps the UCONN students have some that could be utilized. Maybe the billboard across from Hometown Bank could be utilized for visuals and/or promotion of the Hearing.

c. Update: Thompson EDC Business Directory: B. Yacino brought samples of the upgrades already done, changing the names such as Selectman and Planner. Suggestions and ideas for improvement as well as appearance should be sent to him. If a town logo or slogan is going to be selected, it should be inserted.

d. Additional item: B. Yacine distributed copies of the Nomination Form for Thompson Business of the Year, which will be awarded September 30. He inserted both logos (Town and EDC), creating a balanced look. Modifications were discussed for ease of use by someone making a nomination. The forms will be distributed at Community Day, on the Website (although it is not a fill-able form, it can be printed and completed) and in various other ways, with submission required by August, in order to allow enough lead time for the award to be prepared. A question arose as to the viability of the website listed at the bottom.

VII. Comments by Commission Members: Flooding across RT 12 near Dunkin Donuts was observed

VIII. Next Meeting: May 16, 2018: 6:30 pm, Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall

IX. Adjournment was at 7:32 PM by Chairman B. Yacino

Respectfully Submitted; Dorothy Durst, Recording Secretary

*Dorothy Durst*

*These minutes have not yet been approved by the Economic Development Commission. Please refer to next month's meeting minutes for approval of and/or amendments to these minutes.*