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Linda Paradise
TOWN CLERK ASST



TOWN of
THOMPSON

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Economic Development Commission
Wednesday, May 16, 2018
Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall 6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

I. The Call to Order was by Chairman Brian Yacino at 6:32 PM.

Present: Chairman Brian Yacino

H. Charles Obert

JoAnn Hall

Tyra Penn-Gesek

John Sharpe

Brian Santos

Absent:

Robert Larkin

Also present: Brian Loffredo; Angel Newell, Recreation Director
Dorothy Durst, Recording Secretary

II. Approval of Minutes from April 18, 2018
(M/S/C Obert/Sharpe). **Motion carried unanimously**

III. Reports

1. Chairman: B. Yacino

– B. Santos did an informative presentation about Solar to a joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the Building Committee, as well as to the BOE. He itemized things to watch for if a project is moved forward. B. Santos noted that an engineering firm will be using his study to determine what would be an effective alternative energy system for Thompson. We will want to take advantage where we can in this changing environment. C. Obert pointed out that the concept has been on the table with EDC for a very long time.

-The Business of the Year form revision is complete. Chairman Yacino will use his own email for responses/nominations or if possible, that of the town planner. A copy will go soon to the Business Association

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2. Treasurer: J. Hall - \$48,649 remains with some commitments pending.
- IV. Update on Businesses in Town: ANYA may open in mid-June. It will both be a restaurant and event venue. Out of state owners selected this location as a companion to their current location. The Bakery and Breakfast restaurant will open soon in the same location as a similar business in the past. A business "Auto-tek" does not seem to be registered with the town yet.
- V. Citizen's Comments Pertaining to Agenda Items – A. Newell reviewed that status of the well-established Thompson event, the Turkey Trot, which usually attracts 300 people, scheduled for the second week of November each year. With the change in available leadership, the program is in danger for 2018. The Commission considered alternative ways to recruit a Chairman and a person/people to work with the Park Rangers to get the preliminary work done and to contact the sponsors to confirm 2018 participation. Staff to mark the trails and to help on race day are less difficult to identify. T. Penn-Gesek asked for a written job description for each position, so it can be reviewed with potential candidates. A. Newell herself can assist with preliminary tasks but will not be available in November.
- VI. Old Business
1. Progress from Branding Implementation Committee – C. Obert, who was present at the recent Branding Implementation Committee meeting, reported that the draft of the Plan has been approved, with minor modifications for consistency in terminology, pagination and similar minor work. It was voted unanimously to bring it to the EDC for approval. **(M/S/C Obert/Penn-Gesek to accept and move toward implementation the Thompson Branding Plan/Strategy as a working document). Motion carried unanimously.** B. Santos was thanking for working on a user-friendly version of the Plan, as the format that NECCOG presented did not permit adjustments. Thanks to R. Waldon who worked on this as well. B. Santos also created a timeline/priority document, as did T. Penn-Gesek and R. Waldron.
-note was made of the Planning and Zoning Commission subcommittee meeting on May 21 to discuss the revision of the

Zoning Regulations, in order to make them more business-friendly. C. Obert reviewed that all of the \$4,000 that NECCOG needs to do the project has been voted upon favorably. EDC members are encouraged to be present to support this aspect of the Branding Plan, as well as at the next regular PnZ meeting on May 29, a Tuesday.

2. 929 Riverside Drive update – Information session Wednesday 6 PM at the Library.
- 3.
4. Other: none

VII. New Business

1. Funding Requests: none
2. “Sustainable CT” meeting comments: Chairman B. Yacino attended the forum and compiled a document demonstrating ways Thompson could readily participate. Several of the indicatives are already being considered or are underway. The program includes incentives for projects such as Brownfield remediation, Retail Opportunity development; a total of 14 categories. Other towns in the region are expressing interest as well.
3. Update: At the May 21 Planning and Zoning Meeting, 7 PM, discussion of Zoning Regulations Revisions will take place

VIII. Correspondence – a letter of resignation from Mary Ann Chinatti, effective June 10 was received. The Commission expressed regret at M.A.’s departure. The Commission will send a card and a gift basket to her home. B Santos offered to handle this for the Commission.

IX. Comments by Commission Members:

- looking back in time, some members recalled that in the past rezoning for Commercial/Mixed Use was brought forward, but it appears to still be stalled.
- The question was raised about the location of the streetscape plan. Most members have not yet seen it. Posting it and maybe even placing it on a billboard for community review can’t move ahead until the plan is located –Question: what is the authorizing body for the Solar Project? Is it action by the Board of Finance if recommended by the Building Committee?

- Clarification was requested regarding the adequacy of funding for the website update. Answer: the P.O. has been written and the process is underway; the funding is in place.

X. Next Meeting: June 20, 2018: 6:30 pm, Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall

XI. Adjournment was at 8:09 PM by Chairman B. Yacino

Reminder: Plan on attending the Public Informational Meeting 929 Riverside Drive Scheduled for May 23, 2018, 6:00PM at the Library

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.