



TOWN of
THOMPSON

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

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Jinda Paradise
TOWN CLERK ASST

Economic Development Commission

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

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

MINUTES

I. The Call to Order was by Chairman Brian Yacino at 6:48 PM (delayed access).

Present: Chairman Brian Yacino

H. Charles Obert

Robert Larkin

JoAnn Hall

Brian Santos

Also present: Ken Beausoleil, First Selectman

Dorothy Durst, Recording Secretary

Absent:

Tyra Penn-Gesek

John Sharpe

II. Approval of Minutes from May 16, 2018

(**M/S/C Obert/Larkin**). Note was made that the letter "a" was dropped from the name of Angela Newell. **Motion carried unanimously**

III. Reports

1. Chairman: B. Yacino:

- distributed a list of zoning modifications by location which had been created some years ago, Status of implementation to be determined.

- upcoming FOIA training, July 10: always good to be up to date

- the EDC Branding Committee June minutes were emailed out to EDC members, in order that they be kept informed.

2. Treasurer: J. Hall - \$48,149 remains with some commitments pending. K.

Beausoleil - purchase orders have been encumbered but not yet paid out for activities voted upon by EDC. Virtual Town Hall funding is ready.

3. Business of the Year nomination forms will be posted on the website by Town Clerk/EDC Branding Committee Chair Renee Waldron; they will be available on the town hall table.

IV. Update on Businesses in Town:

- 3 applications for a Trade Name have come in

- ANYA may open in mid-June. B. Santos has been inside. C. Obert met Ryan, the manager (also related to the ownership). They are planning to be competitive with the local market but have a very up-scale appearance. It will both be a restaurant and event venue.

-the mini-golf at Riverside may be open by July 4. There was a delay awaiting a DOT permit. They may be planning electronic, moving artifacts.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

815 RIVERSIDE DRIVE • NO. GROSVENORDALE, CONNECTICUT 06255

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

- Quaddick Corner Pizza is asking for the new directional signs.

V. Citizen's Comments Pertaining to Agenda Items – none

VI. Old Business

1. Progress from Branding Implementation Committee

- C. Obert, who is a member of the Branding Implementation Committee, reported on progress that has been made.
- Johnston Realty is marketing the Mill lease apace. Some signage recently has been confusing; those signs were related to property of former tenants.
- Branding Committee members B. Santos, T. Penn-Gesek, C. Langlois and R. Waldron are consolidating the work done to create an action plan and timeline/priority list. It will be available soon and will impact actions moving forward.
- the Historical Society is interested in combing efforts with the Trails sign imitative to welcome people to Thompson; grant funds might be available through The Last Green Valley. This could create a cohesive look throughout town.
- C. Obert has drafted a map demonstrating the Trails which both circle and cross town. Permission to upload it to the new website will be requested.

2. 929 Riverside Drive update –is a “GO” with the developer seeking funding from various sources. The BAR Grant is pending with a decision due soon. Collier's Realty is doing the marketing.

3. Website update: Virtual Town Hall was no sooner selected and notified but that Civic Plus, another candidate for Thompson's website upgrade, purchased them. All seems stable, though, with the same people involved and the same plans.

4. Zoning Regulations revision – the process is underway. Planning and Zoning is discussing how to simplify the Regulations and, making them more user-friendly.

VII. New Business

1. Planner Mary Ann Chinatti will work in Thompson on Fridays, despite having accepted a full-time position in Plainfield. Applications for a new Planner are in; a panel of five to conduct the interview process is being created and will move ahead. There is an excellent job description for Thompson's Planner.

2. Other: none

VIII. Correspondence – a card of thanks from Mary Ann Chinatti was read aloud. She appreciated the sentiment and the gift.

IX. Comments by Commission Members:

-K. Beausoleil: the Transfer Station will require an increase in fees, beginning November 1 (the increase will be \$15 annually for either a Regular Household or a Senior Household). Note: all other fees are being reviewed as the costs of running the Transfer Station are only about 50% covered by fees.

- B. Santos: can a sign be installed at the entrance to the Transfer Station to advise people?

- C. Obert: the gravel trucks are tearing up some roads. K. Beausoleil- GPS is directing traffic onto roads never used much before.
- B. Santos: The Tighe and Bond report regarding the solar project should be available soon
- B. Yacino: note that Charlies Paquette has passed away; he was active in town boards and commissions for many years.

X. Next Meeting: July 18, 2018: 6:30 pm, Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall B. Yacino will be away as will B. Santos. J. Hall would act as chair; it needs to be confirmed that a quorum will be present. T. Penn-Gesek and J. Sharpe have to be informed as they are not present today. The Branding subcommittee has been moved to July 11, only one week earlier than the EDC rather than the usual 2 weeks.

XI. Adjournment was at 7:58 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.