



TOWN of  
**THOMPSON**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

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*Linda Paradise*

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**Economic Development Commission**

**Wednesday, September 19, 2018**

**UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM Town Hall 6:30 P.M**

**MINUTES**

I. The Call to Order was by Chairman Brian Yacino at 6:36 PM

Present: Chairman Brian Yacino

Absent:

Tyra Penn-Gesek

JoAnn Hall

Brian Santos

H. Charles Obert

Robert Larkin

John Sharpe

Also present: First Selectman Ken Beausoleil; Brian Loffredo

Dorothy Durst, Recording Secretary

II. **Motion R. Larkin seconded by C. Obert to approve the Minutes from August 15, 2018 carried unanimously.**

(There was no July meeting)

III. Reports

1. Chairman: B. Yacino- update on Community Day on Saturday, October 6 from 12-4 and the Business of the Year award at noon. The \$25 for the plaque will appear on next month's financial statement.

2. Treasurer; data not available- no action until next month when the new budget numbers are entered.

3. Other reports: none

IV. Update on Businesses in Town: 5 new applications for Trade Name came into the town Hall since June

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

VI. Old Business:

1. Review of Branding Implementation Plan/Strategy as approved by the Branding Subcommittee: C. Obert reviewed the status of the Flowchart/Timeline prepared and authorized for distribution to the EDC by the Branding Subcommittee. T. Penn-Gesek has sequenced the activities and goals to reflect those already underway appearing first, and then those which lie further in the future; the timeline was developed by B. Santos. The document was reviewed carefully. Thanks were sent to the Branding Subcommittee. The Branding Plan/Strategy together with the Timeline/Flowchart was

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- accepted by consensus as the EDC's working document. T. Penn-Gesek- now we should develop a short marketing "elevator pitch" to move the goals ahead. B. Santos- his firm can provide some staff time in marketing expertise and some materials.
2. Business of the Year: The design for the plaque was reviewed. The announcement of the award winner will be at Community Day at around noon; all EDC members are encouraged to be present. Nominees were reviewed; all were meritorious. **The decision of the EDC was to award the Business of the Year plaque to The Milltown Grill.** A press release will be created for the week of the award.
  3. BAR Grant report (Brownfields): CME has been retained to continue with the development of the streetscape/lighting /sidewalks, as part of the improvement of the RT 12 corridor.
  4. Status of Town Planner position: no suitable applicant has been identified. The position is posted in the places where professionals in the field will see it.
  5. 929 Riverside Drive Update: moving forward. The Planner and First Selectman were in Hartford recently to address possible pollution solutions. The approval process alone is anticipated to require two years.
  6. Website Status: K. Beausoleil – the draft for the homepage is almost ready. The committee is targeting the site being active by January 2019. Facebook is also being utilized more by the town.
  7. Zoning Regulations revision status: the process continues, with some of sections revised by J. Filchak now in the hands of Planning and Zoning for consideration. K. Beausoleil - The Business Corridor draft regulations should be ready soon.
  8. Other: K. Beausoleil- the status of 630 Riverside Drive, listed by Peter Lange of Collier's Real Estate, was the subject at the Mill Revitalization Committee meeting. He reviewed his marketing plan for the active listing. The idea of a motel was floated. A brochure will be created for the property and the EDC should receive a copy.

#### VII. New Business

1. Discussion per the recommendation of the Branding Sub-committee to reduce the number of Sub-committee members: after reviewing the make-up of the subcommittee, which includes representatives from several Boards and Commissions, the EDC agreed that eleven members plus 1 from the community-at-large is too many. If the subcommittee is made up of 7 members, then 4 constitute a quorum. **Motion C. Obert seconded by J. Hall to establish the number of full members of the EDC Branding subcommittee at 7, with the number of alternate members as many as 5, carried unanimously.** Subcommittee Chair Renee Waldron will implement the change.

2. Content for the Economic Development page of the newly-revised town website: with the creation and launch of the new website moving ahead briskly, K. Beausoleil explained that whatever is on the current website will automatically be moved to the new one. **Action Item:** Determine very soon what should be eliminated, and what should be modified, so when the transfer date arrives, EDC has modified the page to meet the current goals. EDC should work with Marie Mongeau in the town hall on this.

VIII. Correspondence: documentation was prepared and distributed by Chair B. Yacino of the 5 new businesses which applied for Trade Names

- IX. Comments by Commission Members: C. Obert noted the new IWC commissioner; B. Santos - the solar project at the public schools has been voted down; electricity rates have had an impact. C. Obert – consider combining the Brownfields schematics for the RT 12 corridor with the EDC Branding Plan- this adds visuals and shows momentum to the public. K. Beausoleil – submission of an application to CCM for recognition of the achievement of the EDC in Thompson has gone in. CERC (Connecticut Economic Resource Center) has previously honored Thompson and the EDC for work at 1020 Riverside Drive.
- X. Next Meeting:  
October 17, 2018: 6:30 pm, Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall
- XI. Adjournment was at 8:02 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.*