



**TOWN OF
THOMPSON**
Economic Development
Commission

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**Economic Development Commission Minutes
Wednesday, November 15, 2023
Via Zoom 6:30pm**

View the Zoom Recording

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/tCSbvrTFqm0Fo7ABYGDRn1DljsguWA6A19OCIS8MP4AH5Xh4VhsTNcsbvHHn5Emw.xGHJOMMphSQ7q6ez?startTime=1700091018000>

Passcode: !1U0wUc3

Members attending: B. Yacino – Chair, J. Hall, B. Loffredo, C. Obert

Others attending: Tyra Penn-Gesek (Director of Planning & Development), Lynn Looby (Recording Secretary)

- I. Call to Order 6:30pm by B. Yacino. The recording was started by T. Penn-Gesek.
- II. Approval of Minutes from September 20, 2023
B. Loffredo motioned to approve the minutes as presented, J. Hall seconded the motion Motion passes unanimously. (at time stamp :52)
- III. Reports
 1. Chairman – B. Yacino
No official report – items covered in the agenda
 2. Treasurer – J. Hall
 - Available budget \$23,656.28 (4.2%)
 - T. Penn-Gesek requested funds for the December 20 Workshop food - \$250.00
 - **B. Yacino motioned to approve the request up to \$250; B. Loffredo seconded the motion Motion passes unanimously. (At time stamp 5:15)**
- IV. Updated on businesses in Thompson – at time stamp 7:18
 1. New business Adoption of Trade Name
 - 2023-25 Pantograph (publisher)
 - 2023-26 Sacred Heart Journeys (spiritual business: education, meditation, merchandise, books, crystals, etc.)
 2. TBA Membership – There are 77 businesses in membership.
- V. Citizen’s comments pertaining to agenda items – no citizens comments
- VI. Old Business
 1. Approve 2024 meeting schedule
 - The 2024 meeting schedule was discussed and approved
 2. Address expiring EEC terms
 - The following member terms will be reviewed/renewed at the December Board of Selectmen meeting
Joann Hall
Brian Loffredo

Charlie Obert
Renee Waldron
Dan Bennett – outstanding

3. RFP – Marketing Main Street (entire corridor)
 - Sent copy of former Sullivan & O’Shane RFP previously
 - Requesting feedback on items (goals of the project) to be included in the RFP before drafting
 - Will need to discuss at the January meeting so RFP can be drafted

VII. New Business – no new business; items covered in agenda

VIII. Progress Reports – at time stamp 20:58

1. Grant applications / updates – Tyra
 - Sidewalk Project – Complete
 - Blaine Road Intersection – Complete
 - Train Wreck Park (2) – J&D working on construction bid documents; acquisition of Butler’s property (1/2 acre) is a 3-part approval and 2 out of 3 approvals have been signed; Historical Society will be marking the stones for proper turntable assembly
 - 65 Main Grants (2) – HazMat is done for now; roof is in process; will need to search for more renovation funding
 - Planning Grant – 2 sessions have gone well; Wayne Wiseman will be presenting at the December meeting (permaculture); feedback on the last session was very positive; great brainstorming sessions
 - STEEP Grant (2) – Library will be complete by the end of the month; high school track has been approved and will go out to bid
 - Brownfield Grant – paperwork is with their attorney for signature
 - ConnDOT Community Connectivity Grant – Wayfinding Program – not approved; advised to reapply; requested executive summary
 - CIF Grant – not approved; positive feedback received in executive summary; will work on submitting by December 15 with notification in March 2024
2. Website notes – at time stamp 43:50
 - no new comments
3. Train Wreck Park progress – discussed previously under Progress Reports – at time stamp 22:25
4. Upcoming events – at time stamp 48:15
 - Turkey Trot – participants from CT RI MA NY GA; 168 runners, 58 walkers, 40 kids for the Fun Run; comments were positive; sponsorship totaled \$16,275 (\$2,000 increase from last year)
 - Winter Market, Bonfire & Tree Festival (December 8) – outside vendors; inside tree auction; Santa Claus for pictures; Horse drawn wagon; rain date is Saturday, December 9
5. Marketing / revitalization of downtown core: (including 65 Main) – public workshop meetings – discussed previously at time stamp 26:23
 - Feedback on the last session very positive
 - Diverse group allowing for exceptional brainstorming sessions
 - T. Penn-Gesek working on an outreach to the school – abbreviated version with students
 - Lots of positive energy growing for the project

IX. Comments by Commission members / next agenda – at time stamp 1:00:15

- Discussed researching the possibility of adding a QR code (learn more) to current bumper sticker with the new logo; consider VMap Matching Grant – regional marketing partnership – opening again for bids (up to \$10,000)
- Research potential spaces for public art throughout the community (marketing initiative)

- Marketing initiative - planting trees – money is available through private, state, federal funding
- Natchaug Epic Event – March 2024 – get businesses and members of the Town involved; program is expanding; C. Obert will put something together to share with TBA
- Thompson Together – gate installed at Jacobs Cemetery; possible Spring dedication
- Research possibility of decorative lighting installed for Main Street sidewalks; is it part of the project?

X. Next meeting: January 17, 2024 6:30pm

XI. Adjourn – 7:55pm by B. Yacino

Also available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fx8kjlInwkTw>

Submitted 11/21/23

Lynn S. Looby

Recording Secretary

**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.