



**TOWN OF  
THOMPSON**  
Economic Development  
Commission

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**Economic Development Commission Minutes  
Wednesday, January 17, 2024  
Via Zoom 6:30pm**

**View the Zoom Recording**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/643MX2qIldzMZOansLWToc3tqOkySHm6KaKnNYWseaLAXSZn5Av6ZlIKjwGleUE.bQLdbjs-a8xJYGx8?startTime=1705534215000>

Passcode: eD+g4=bC

**Members attending: B. Yacino – Chair, D. Bennett, J. Hall, B. Loffredo, C. Obert, B. Santos, A. St. Onge**  
**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 November 15, 2023  
Correction – Page 2, Section VI, #2 – JoAnn Hall’s name was spelled incorrectly.  
**B. Loffredo motioned to approve the minutes as amended. C. Obert seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously. at time stamp 2:47**  
**B. Yacino motioned to add an item to the agenda under New Business – 2024-2025 budget. C. Obert seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously. at time stamp 13:29**
- III. Reports
  1. Chairman – B. Yacino
    - Winter Market Update – Successful event; 16 vendors outside; Mack’s Food Truck at the Bonfire; tree raffle went well; horse-drawn wagon was popular; Event will take place next year; there will be some changes to the event
  2. Treasurer – J. Hall
    - Available budget \$23,224.36 (5.9%)
- IV. Updated on businesses in Thompson – at time stamp 8:14
  1. New business Adoption of Trade Name
    - 2023-27 Sweet Jane’s – Thrift Store
    - 2023-28 Polly Burlingame’s MAP Trainings – online business dispensing medical instructions
    - 2023-29 Pine Constructors, Inc. – roofing/siding
    - Commission members discussed the recent fire at Thompson Auto Care; everything that the community is doing to help is appreciated
    - New Brewery across from St. Joseph’s received the federal liquor license; waiting on the state license
  2. TBA Membership – There are 85 businesses in membership.
- V. Citizen’s comments pertaining to agenda items – no citizens comments

- VI. Old Business
1. Report on renewed EDC members at time Stamp 16:14
    - Dan Bennett – Needs to be sworn in
    - B. Santos – Needs to be sworn in (refrain from voting at this meeting)
  2. Open slot for EDC alternate
    - Any suggestions let B. Yacino know
- VII. New Business at time stamp 18:28
1. Hosting Commercial Real Estate group February 6
    - Held at the Library in one of the Community Rooms
    - **C. Obert motioned to approve the request for breakfast items up to \$200; J. Hall seconded the motion; Motion passes unanimously. at time Stamp 21:30**
  2. 2024-2025 Budget
    - T. Penn-Gesek needs to send in the preliminary budget by January 19
    - Priorities for next year - several items were discussed - establishing an Arts Council; additional marketing opportunities (matching grant funds) – Ag Commission; grant opportunities
    - Commission members are to get ideas to T. Penn-Gesek by January 18; B. Yacino and C. Obert will meet with T. Penn-Gesek to discuss submitted ideas.
- VIII. Progress Reports – at time stamp 50:18
1. Grant applications / updates – Tyra
    - CIF Grant – submitted on December 15 with notification in March 2024 - \$3.88 Million
    - Train Wreck Park (2) – Butlers approved sale; Approved at December 2023 Town meeting; attorneys are finalizing; bid documents being worked on
    - Not actively working on any new grants at this time.
  2. Website notes – at time stamp 51:58
    - phone numbers on EDC page are not an active link
  3. Train Wreck Park progress – discussed previously under Progress Reports – at time stamp 51:13
  4. Upcoming events – at time stamp 54:5
    - Natchaug Epic – March 24 – Conference Call with Richard Fries, Co-founder – Pre-registration should grow (expecting approximately 1000 riders); T. Penn-Gesek brought together several interested parties at the Raceway to discuss the event; incorporate business, civic, and community entities; canteen offering quick pick-up items; possibility of setting up a bike wash area; put together a hospitality package to encourage riders to come back to the area
    -
  5. Marketing / revitalization of downtown core: (including 65 Main) – discussed previously at time stamp 1:10:45
    - Next Public Workshop is scheduled for January 24, 2024
    - RFP Discussion – very inclusive draft; delete the request for resumes for each individual on the project; open for a month (review in March meeting); proposals are not to exceed \$10,000 to allow receipt by email; should there be phases to the project (what could be done in future years); T. Penn-Gesek will send to Marie for publishing on January 22

- IX. Comments by Commission members / next agenda – at time stamp 1:28:06
- The June meeting falls on a holiday – Juneteenth; possibly change the meeting date
  - Brian Santos reported the track project at the high school is moving forward; contractor hired; project should start in May
  - J. Hall – 65 Main Planning Workshop #4 on January 24, 2024 at 6pm
- X. Next meeting: February 21, 2024 6:30pm
- XI. Adjourn – 8:01pm by B. Yacino

Also available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nkzLk1DASLY>

Submitted 01/22/24

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.