



Economic Development Newsletter

THOMASTON, CONNECTICUT

“Live, Work, & Play in a Town for All Time”

Fall 2019 - Volume VI

The EDC welcomes the following new businesses to town!

Heavenly Gift Child Care - 14 Park Street

SH Properties –55 South Main Street

CHH Primary Care – Business Expansion – 76 Watertown Road

Discount Convenience Store– Business Relocation - 46 Main Street



Downtown Parking Survey

The EDC has created a short survey in order to get input from owners, residents, employees, and patrons of businesses located in the Downtown Development District about their thoughts on current parking availability and options for improvements. The survey is located on the Town webpage at <http://www.thomastonct.org/>. Please take a few moments to complete the survey and feel free to forward the link to friends, family, employees, customers, and business associates. In the coming months, the EDC and the Town Center Committee will be reviewing the responses to the survey and discussing options that may arise from its results.

Town Center/Downtown Development District Expansion

At their meeting on September 11th, the Town Center Committee unanimously voted to recommend to the Planning & Zoning Commission that approximately 25 properties be added into the Downtown Development District. Six properties being considered are actually portions of larger properties that were already designated DDD; this update will ensure the entire property has a uniform zoning designation. In addition to Center School and Seth Thomas Park, other properties recommended for inclusion are located along Park Street, a portion of Electric Avenue, and further along South Main Street and East Main Street. Town Center Committee chairman Ralph Celone explained at the meeting that this recommendation is an attempt to ensure the DDD mapping better reflects what is actually occurring “on the street”. The recommendations were forwarded to the Planning & Zoning Commission at their October 2nd meeting, and P&Z voted to schedule a public hearing for a possible Zoning Map Amendment; this public hearing will likely take place in the early spring. Stop by the Land Use Office to review the proposed changes.

EDC Welcomes Michael Sweeney as a New Member

The Thomaston Economic Development Commission is pleased to welcome Michael Sweeney as a new member of the Commission. At this time, the Commission has a full slate and there are no more vacancies, but the public is always welcome to attend our meetings! We welcome anyone who is a Thomaston resident and has a passion for Thomaston’s economic health and growth. The Commission meets on the second Monday of each month, 7:00 PM, in the Selectman’s Conference Room in Town Hall.



Thomaston Working Toward Sustainable CT Certification

Spearheaded by the EDC, the Town of Thomaston will be working toward obtaining Sustainable CT Bronze level certification during the 2020 cycle. Sustainable CT is a statewide program created by CT towns to recognize thriving and resilient CT communities that are working to build community and the local economy while equitably promoting

the health and well-being of current and future residents and respecting the finite capacity of the natural environment. The program provides a wide-ranging menu of best practices; municipalities choose Sustainable CT actions, implement them, and earn points toward certification. Sustainable CT also provides grant-funding opportunities. A committee made up of members of the EDC, P&Z, and the Inland Wetlands Commission will work to compile the necessary documentation with help from Town staff.



U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration

The assistance of the U.S. Small Business Administration is available to all businesses in the Town of Thomaston. Since its founding on July 30, 1953, the U.S. Small Business Administration has delivered millions of loans, loan guarantees, contracts, counseling sessions and other forms of assistance to small businesses. The EDC has been in recent contact with the SBA and will be holding training and education sessions for Thomaston businesses in the near future. Further

information on these sessions, when scheduled, will be on the EDC web page on the Town website and in a future issue of this newsletter. You can visit <https://www.sba.gov/> for more information.

Planning Continues for the Naugatuck Valley Greenway

The Naugatuck River Greenway is a planned 44-mile multipurpose trail following the Naugatuck River from Torrington to Derby. When complete, the Greenway will link 11 municipalities, reclaim the Naugatuck River for recreation, provide an alternate mode of transportation, drive tourism and economic development, and improve the quality of life for residents. A section to be built in Thomaston is in the final planning stages. For more information on the entire greenway or the planned work on the Thomaston section, see the NVCOG website at <http://www.nvcogct.org/content/projectsstudies>.



New Staff in the Thomaston Land Use Office

In case you have not been to Town Hall recently, you may be wondering who all the new people are in the Land Use Office! Stacey Sefcik, the former Assistant ZEO, was promoted to Land Use Administrator in June 2019. She replaces former long-term employee Jeremy Leifert, whom the EDC thanks for his many years of enthusiastic assistance. In addition to her time in Thomaston as Assistant ZEO, Stacey has also worked in land use in several other Litchfield County towns.

The Land Use Office hours are 8AM-4PM Monday through Wednesday, 8:30AM-6PM Thursday, and 8:30AM-12PM on Friday. Stacey is available full-time to assist you with any projects that you may be considering. The Land Use Office recommends you contact the office prior to beginning any expansions or improvement projects, and they are happy to answer any questions you might have along the way.

Did you know? The EDC maintains an updated list of commercial/industrial properties available for lease or purchase in town. To view the list of available properties, please visit the EDC webpage at <http://www.thomastonct.org/content/163/246/366/default.aspx>

The State of Connecticut has updated their Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) website and created a new website for prospective businesses. Visit <https://portal.ct.gov/DECD> and <https://portal.ct.gov/CHOOSECT> for information.

Further information on business assistance programs can be found on the Town of Thomaston website at www.thomastonct.org. Please visit the [Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development](https://portal.ct.gov/CHOOSECT) website for additional state programs.

Thank you for reading! To see past issues of this newsletter, visit www.thomastonct.org. To submit ideas or comments, contact the EDC at the address below. This quarterly electronic newsletter will be sent via email and posted on the Town website. For questions/comments or to opt-out, contact:

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