

**THOMASTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2011 at 7:00 pm
SELECTMAN'S CONFERENCE ROOM**

Members Present: Jeff Dunn, Rich Sileo, Mike Madow, Cesare "Skip" DeIVaglio, Joe Hartz

P&Z Liaison Present: Ralph Celone

Others Present: Christine Yoos, Paul Yoos

J Dunn called the meeting to order at 7:18 PM.

Minutes:

The minutes from the November 28th meeting were not sent out. We will postpone the acceptance of the minutes until the January meeting.

Communications:

- R Celone noted that the P&Z will begin to holding special meetings on the second Wednesday of the month beginning in January to specifically discuss the Plan of Development. He indicated that an EDC member or members should plan to attend.
- R Celone posted training materials from a series of Land Use/EDC seminars. The website is as follows <http://comvec.org/uconn/landuseseminars/>.

Old Business:

- 2012 Meeting Schedule
- A discussion ensued to move the first to meetings to the 4th Monday of each month.

A motion was made by R Sileo and seconded by J Hartz to move the January and February meetings to the 4th Monday of each month. Motion unanimously passed.

- J Dunn asked if anyone had any suggests for new types of businesses in the town.
- J Hartz presented the idea of promoting a Father McGivney Day, if he becomes a saint. The EDC recognized the value of the idea, but recommended that the idea be presented to the Knights of Columbus.

- J Hartz mentioned that the Greenway received national recognition today (12/12). He recommended that we promote its existence in the town.
- R Sileo recommended that a grocery store would still be a good type of business to attract. J Dunn added that he believes that an additional grocery store would keep more business in town. J Dunn asked R Sileo to create a more detailed overview of the opportunity.
- M Madow recommended that we foster the outdoor recreation industry, as we have several existing locations and parks already existing. (paint ball, skateboard park, etc.)
- M Madow recommended hiring a professional to analyze the manufacturing capability in the town.
- J Dunn recommended that we get a conceptual drawing of what the downtown could be.
- J Dunn recommended ensuring that we continue to support the local businesses by helping local restaurants that want a liquor license to get one. This would be do through a review of the current regulations.
- J Dunn suggested that a dollar store might be a good type of business for the town.
- J Dunn suggested that a health club would be a good type of business for the town.
- J Dunn asked if there is a resource available for us to benchmark what is working in other towns that are similar to Thomaston.
- J Dunn discussed the need for a conference/meeting/banquet space in town.
- J Hartz recommended the possibility of promoting Plume & Atwood as a condo or mixed use space.

New Business:

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Welcoming New Business:

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Subcommittee Reports:

- Media Sub Committee
 - J Hartz indicated that there is a meeting scheduled for Friday December 16th.
- Incentive Sub Committee
 - No update
- Downtown and Parking Sub Committee
 - No update

Public Comment:

P Yoos

- Mentioned that he spoke with Maura about the Greenway project. She indicated that we do not have an abandon line and we would need three bridges.
- Mentioned that he knows many local businesses that are interested in leaving the town due in part to the revaluation.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by R Sileo and seconded by M Madow to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 PM. Motion unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Sileo, EDC