

**THOMASTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2012 at 7:00 pm
SELECTMAN'S CONFERENCE ROOM**

Members Present: Jeff Dunn, Rich Sileo, Mike Madow, Cesare "Skip" DelVaglio, Matt Stancavage, Luke Freimuth

P&Z Liaison Present: Ralph Celone

Others Present: First Selectman - Ed Mone, Planning and Zoning Chairman -Bill Guerrero, Doreen Breen, Christine Yoos, Paul Yoos, Tony Dorso, Robby Piazzaroli, Town Times

J Dunn called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

A motion was made by M Madow and seconded by R Sileo to move item 5 New Business ahead of approving the minutes to allow Mr. Bill Guerrero Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission to address EDC about the State of CT required 10 year plan of Development. Motion unanimously passed.

- Mr. Guerrero explained in detail what the Plan of Development is to the members of EDC and requested our assistance in developing the plan. Mr. Guerrero pointed out that EDC input will be a critical piece in putting this plan together.
- First Selectman – Ed Mone pointed out the importance of EDC members to reach out to the community for input.

Minutes:

A motion was made by M Madow and seconded by R Sileo to accept the minutes from the meeting of November 28, 2011. Motion unanimously passed.

- Luke Freimuth abstained from vote.

A motion was made by M Madow and seconded by R Sileo to accept the minutes from the meeting of December 12, 2011. Motion unanimously passed.

- Luke Freimuth abstained from the vote.
- Cesare "Skip" DelVaglio pointed out that he did not attend the December meeting and abstained from the vote.

Communications:

- J Dunn noted that First Selectman – Ed Mone let him know that there is some software available to EDC members. The software is a "Self assessment tool" that can assist members with the plan of development. J Dunn will forward the link to EDC members. There will be a cost associated with this software.

- J Dunn noted that there will be a free economic development workshop that EDC members can attend on January 25, 2012. The workshop is put on by the State of CT and will be held at the State legislative Building in Hartford.

Old Business:

- Media Sub Committee
 - R Sileo gave status report to EDC members.
 - Media Sub Committee has established time line with CGI.
 - Target date for the Video shoot will be end of June.
 - Content for the videos has been narrowed down to final script form and will be submitted to CGI at the end of January.
 - R Sileo pointed out that all the information that has been gathered for the videos will be used in the development of a new Economic Development website for Thomaston.
 - J Dunn asked what are the next steps to be taken.
 - R Sileo stated that final comments are needed then send off to CGI.
 - Cesare "Skip" DelVaglio asked anything is still happening with the proposed Zip line park on Reynolds Bridge Road.
 - R Celone pointed out that at this time they have withdrawn there application with P&Z.
 - J Dunn suggested that a sub committee be formed to work on the towns plan of development. Discussion ensued on prospective subcommittee members. Subcommittee was formed. Sub committee members will be M Stancavage, L Freimuth and J Dunn.
 - J Dunn noted to First Selectman - Ed Mone that EDC could use another active member. Asking for Mr. Mone to consider replacing inactive member Sal Santa Maria.

Welcoming New Business:

- Dawns Desserts will be opening on East Main Street adjacent to Holly's Place.
- M Stancavage noted that there is a new auto body shop in town. Jay's Auto Body is located in the rear of South Main Street Smiley's Plaza.

Subcommittee Reports:

- J Dunn suggested setting a date for the Business Meet and Greet in the near future.
- M Stancavage suggested setting a date prior to the video shoot to possibly get input from interested business owners.

Public Comment:

Paul Yoos

- Stated that two Thomaston based manufacturing businesses are moving there operations out of town.
- Suggested that when putting together the plan of Development, that there are no provisions put in place that mandate architectural requirements. Because local businesses cannot afford to make these types of changes.

Tony Dorso

- Asked the commission whether they know if the Plumb & Atwood property or Maslak property on River Street is going to be further developed.
- Selectman – Ed Mone responded to question stating that Mr. Maslak is pursuing moving forward and is actively seeking possible tenants
- Mr. Dorso then asked how the plan of development is put into place.
- Commission let him know that it is done by a public hearing.

Doreen Breen

- Inquired if any EDC members had read the article in the past Sundays Waterbury newspaper. Noting that the new Connecticut Office of the Arts will be having a forum at the Thomaston Opera House on February 1, 2012 from 9:30 - 11:30 am. This Forum is being hosted by Northwest Connecticut Arts Counsel.

New Business

- J Dunn Welcomed new EDC member Luke Freimuth. Luke shared with the commission that he is a Northfield native and moved to Thomaston 2 years ago with his wife. He loves the town and the people of Thomaston. He is employed as a Corporate Tax Manager with a large firm in Bristol.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by M Madow and seconded by R Sileo to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 PM. Motion unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Matthew Stancavage, EDC