

**THOMASTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2011 at 7:00 pm  
SELECTMAN'S CONFERENCE ROOM**

**Members Present:** Jeff Dunn, Matt Stancavage, Mike Madow, Joe Hartz, Cesare "Skip" DelVaglio

**Others Present:** Joe Seacrist, Doreen Breen, Pat Piscopo, Christine Yoos,  
Robby Piazzaroli, Town Times

**Jeff Dunn called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.**

**New Business:**

Joe Hartz introduced guest speaker Joe Seacrist of Watertown EDC. Mr. Seacrist presented to the commission his (Watertown's) experience with CGI Communications Inc. of Rochester, NY.

Brief Summary of presentation:

- CGI owner is Thomaston native Robert Bartosiewicz.
- CGI is an online marketing company that specializes in the promotion of communities and businesses.
- CGI specializes in video showcasing communities on the town's website.
- Watertown contracted with CGI in June 2009
- Mr. Seacrist expressed that the relationship has been very positive.
- The program works well for Watertown and has been a good public relations tool.
- The video quality is high and delivers a tasteful message.
- Mr. Seacrist feels that the program offers opportunities to businesses for growth.
- Planning is very essential to insure that the videos will deliver how the town will be represented.
- Requires minimum 3 yr contract with no cost to the town.
- Mr. Seacrist handed out information about CGI's program and contract requirements.
- Mr Seacrist fielded questions and had open discussion on program.
- Mr Seacrist offered his assistance and advice if Thomaston chooses to contract with CGI.
- EDC commissioners enjoyed the presentation and will investigate its feasibility and if this opportunity is the right fit for Thomaston.

**Minutes:**

**A motion was made by Joe Hartz and seconded by Matt Stancavage to accept the minutes from the meeting of February 28, 2011. Motion unanimously passed.**

**New Business:**

Skip Del Vaglio introduced himself to the EDC as a newly appointed commissioner.

**Communications:**

Jeff Dunn reported that he forwarded the Thomaston business after hours invitation to the Board of Selectman.

Jeff Dunn reported that he discussed the downtown parking issues with First Selectman Ed Mone. Ed recommended EDC move forward with Park Street property opportunity.

### **Old Business:**

Jeff Dunn opened discussion on the annual report for review and comments by EDC commissioners. Copies of the drafted report were offer for review.

Mike Madow requested a change in the wording regarding who was having discussions with Quality Rolling and Deburring to reflect that Sal Santa Maria and Mike Madow both have been working with Quality Rolling and Deburring.

**A motion was made by Mike Madow and seconded by Matt Stancavage to submit the 2010 Annual Report with the change in wording to reflect that both Sal Santa Maria and Mike Madow have been working with Quality Rolling and Deburring. Joe Hartz and Skip Del Vaglio both abstained from voting. Jeff Dunn voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.**

Jeff Dunn noted that the Thomaston business after hours invitation was sent to the media for press release. The date of the event is April 6, 2011 from 5:00-7:00 pm at Black Rock Tavern.

Jeff Dunn noted that EDC has a new email address edc@thomaston.org. The email address was included in the Thomaston business after hours invitation. Email responses sent to the new address will be forwarded to EDC commissioners.

Jeff Dunn noted that name badges should be made up for the event and will look into it.

Jeff Dunn requested if any changes should be made to the questionnaire for the event prior to being printed. No changes were suggested and questionnaires will be printed and handed out at event.

Jeff Dunn noted the importance of getting the all the business owners notified of the event and suggested having EDC commissioners call as many businesses as possible. Jeff will work on a call list prior to event.

### **Welcoming New Business:**

The new Mexican restaurant mentioned in last months minutes now officially has a name. The Acapulco Madrid Restaurant will be opening soon.

Doreen Breen and Pat Piscopo informed the Commission that they will be opening a new collaboration for the arts business in Thomaston called Phoenix Rising Center. They presented a business plan and requested some suggestions in finding a suitable facility to start up their operation in which they hope to create a cultural hub. They chose Thomaston after researching several surrounding towns.

### **Subcommittee Reports:**

Jeff Dunn, Matt Stancavage and Mike Madow met this past Tuesday to discuss the Thomaston business after hours invitation and questionnaire. They also discussed parking in the downtown area and toured parking areas behind main street buildings.

Jeff Dunn read a report he drafted regarding the Park Street parking lot.

Skip Del Vaglio noted that the parking area has great potential and would help greatly with special event parking.

Jeff Dunn and Mike Madow noted that several private parking lots are currently being used for public parking.

**A motion was made by Mike Madow and seconded by Joe Hartz to submit EDC's recommendation on parking opportunities on Park Street. Motion unanimously passed.**

**Public Comment:**

Christine Yoos

- Thanked the commission for positive work efforts and for positive input compared to past EDC efforts.
- Thanked Jeff Dunn for his leadership with EDC's wonderful and healthy pro- business growth.
- Suggested a possible lease option with the Park Street property owner as an alternative to the town purchasing the property. This may help to achieve the parking goal with a less expensive route for the town.
- Noted that the removal of downtown parking meters has been discussed at recent Board of Selectman Meetings.

Robby Piazzaroli

- Noted that he worked in West Hartford and remembers how the parking arrangements were before improvements compared to how much better it is now.

**Adjournment:**

**A motion was made by Skip Del Vaglio and seconded by Matt Stancavage to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 PM. Motion unanimously passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Stancavage, EDC