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Economic Development Committee

June 13, 2016

Time 12:30 p
Thomaston Town Clerk

CDR

Members present: Rich Sileo, Joe Hartz, Jeff Dunn, Mike Madow, Lissa Jennings, Sue Holway.

Others present: Robby-Town Times, Christine and Paul Yoos, Jeremy Leifert-Staff, Carol Hoebel-Secretary

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Jeff D.

A motion was made by Mike M. to accept the minutes from April 11, 2016 and seconded by Joe H. Motion passed with an abstention from Sue H. May 9th minutes will be filed as a draft because meeting was cancelled due to a lack of quorum.

Running of the meeting was taken over by Rich S.

Communications

Legislative Updates were handed out. HB5425 regarding brownfields passed through legislature but vetoed by the Governor. SB302 regarding impacts on small business's passed through legislature then vetoed by Governor. SB308 regarding Manufacturing issues passed through legislature and is on Governor's Desk. SB397 regarding Tax Abatements for business's related to Arts and Cultural passed through legislature and by the Governor. This may change how our Tax Abatements are done and will need to be revised again.

Old Business:

1. Grant Application – still waiting to hear
2. Property Listings – No major changes
3. Tax Incentive Ordinance changes tabled to maybe make changes to add Arts and Cultural.
4. Jeff D. presented a prototype for the sign. A motion was made by Jeff to move forward with the sign and that the sign should be put near Rte. 109 and Rte. 6. It was seconded by Mike M. Motion passed. EDC may have money to put towards the sign. A site walk will be done to see where sign or signs should be placed.
5. Mixed Use Mill Development – no action taken

New Business:

1. Introduction Letter for prospective businesses needs to be modified.
2. Town Commercial Center Plan Advisory Board needs to be formed with members from P&Z, EDC and property owners.

Business Happenings:

New Cumberland Farms Building is moving along quickly. Projected date to open is September 1st.

Faircrest and Parkway Pizza have closed.

A new Bus Route between Torrington, Thomaston and Waterbury has started.

New Cross-Fit Gym will be opening at Plume & Atwood and a Boxing Ring on Rte. 6.

Subcommittee Reports:

1. Video and Website Development – Joe H. said they have been meeting every 2 weeks and are moving forward with CGI. Working on the Video. Also waiting for the new budget.
2. Downtown Development – Jeff D. wants to talk to DOT and get answers about downtown parking and the meters that are not in use. He will also ask about putting Banners around town.
3. Business Relations – No decisions on property on Pine Hill Rd. Mike is talking to a company from Waterbury.

There was a discussion if the Town Logo should be updated.

Public Comment:

Paul Yoos mentioned about Non-Conforming uses in town and with the new changes and 10% expansion that not many places could do it. Also because of the new regulations small businesses will move out of Thomaston. Christine Yoos said we need to try to keep small manufacturing in Town because they pay more taxes and better wages, but these new regulations may drive them out.

Motion to adjourn by Jeff D. at 8:52pm. Seconded by Lissa J. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Hoebel – Recording Secretary