

Town of Thomaston Economic Development Commission (EDC)

Regular Meeting Agenda • September 14, 2026 • 7:00 PM
Town Hall • 158 Main Street • Selectman's Conference Room

1) CALL TO ORDER

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- A. July 13, 2026; regular meeting
- B. September 9, 2026; special meeting

3) OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Tour of Thomaston event (completion)
- B. Banner and Façade Improvement programs
- C. EDC 2025-2026 budget (final) and 2026-2027 budget review
- D. Subcommittee Goals

4) NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Alissa Monteleone EDC resignation
- B. CT Main Street – Assessment completed August 26; report attached
- C. Railroad Museum 30th Anniversary event, Sept. 25 from 10:30am – 1:30pm
- D. Business Recognition event (date TBD)

5) STAFF REPORT

- A. Updates (Historic District, UCONN/school project, P&Z actions, grant opportunities, POCD implementation, Sustainable CT)

6) SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Business Relations
 - (1) Lunch & Learn opportunities (town website, CBIA presentation, Chamber, etc.)
 - (2) **Chamber Updates**
 - (a) **Morning Jolt:** networking: Tues., Sept. 15, 8-9am. Chamber Office, 440 N. Main St., Bristol.
 - (b) **Business After Hours: networking.** Wed., Sept. 16; 5:00-7:00pm. Torrington Savings Bank – Bristol, 888 Farmington Avenue, Bristol. Light fare & beverages. Free.
 - (c) **PYVOT** young professionals networking (ages 21-40): Thursday, Sept. 24; 5:30-7:00pm. **Eros Archery**, 135 South Main Street, Suite 14, Thomaston. \$25 for members; \$40 others.
 - (d) **Chamber Tune-up:** Tuesday, September 29, 8:30-9:30am, Chamber Office, 440 N. Main Street, Bristol. Learn how to get the most out of your membership.
 - (e) **Workforce Wednesday lunch & learn:** Wed., Sept. 30, 11:30am-1:00pm; Chamber Office, 440 N. Main St., Bristol. \$15 members; \$30 others; lunch included
 - (f) **Startup Panel:** Thursday, October 8, 5-7pm. Present your idea to a panel of experienced professionals to gain advice, insight & connections. Chamber office, 440 N. Main St., Bristol.
 - (g) **PowHERful Connections (Women's networking series):** Tuesday, Oct. 13; 4:30-7:30pm. Workplace Negotiation. Max Pizza IV, 454 Middle Street, Bristol. \$150 includes dinner, drink.
 - (h) **2027 Legislative Agenda Roundtables:** Virtual; noon-1:00pm; discussions facilitated by Kozak & Salina to identify areas of focus for the next legislative session. Dates as follows:
 - Tuesday, Sept. 15 Manufacturing/Construction/Real Estate/Trades
 - Wednesday, Sept. 16 Financial Services & Insurance/Business & Professional Services
 - Tuesday, Sept. 22 Retail/Restaurants/Hospitality
 - (i) **Bowling Tournament:** Thu., Oct. 15; 4:30-8:30pm. Spare Time Bristol, 177 Farmington Ave., Bristol, \$60 includes 3 games, food, drinks, prizes & more.

(3) CT Main Street (CMSC)

- (a) **Economic Development Partners Summit.** Wednesday, Sept. 23; 10am–1pm. Mercantile Building, 5th Floor, 55 Main Street, Norwich. Join CMSC, AdvanceCT, and CMDA to learn how they can support your municipality's growth, business attraction, workforce initiatives, and community development. Free.
- (b) **Webinar: Showtime on Main.** Thursday, September 24; 11am–12pm. Most Downtown indicators measure success the old way: transactions completed, sales per square foot, attendees at events. This session reframes the downtown as the theater and every business as the stage. A shift from a transactional economy to a gathering economy and the downtown to become a destination. See before-and-after transformations and discuss strategies. Leave with a clearer mindset for turning commodity or service businesses into anchors for vitality and foot traffic, and learn feasible actions that strengthen the individual business and the entire downtown. Free.
- (4) **Other: CTDOT Seeks Public Feedback on 2027-2030 State Rail Plan.** Submit comments by October 13th online or attend an open house which CTDOT is holding in four communities from September 15th – 29th. The rail plan establishes a vision for passenger and freight transportation throughout the state and identifies strategies, policies, and potential investments to support Connecticut's rail network. Submit your comments online, leave a voicemail at 860-594-2020 or email them to CTDOT at StateRailPlan@ct.gov.

B. Marketing & Promotion

- (1) Solar workshop – Energy Resources (business solar & energy improvements)
- (2) Arts & Culture District
- (3) Website (ribbon cuttings, events, etc.)
- (4) EDC newsletter (quarterly)

C. Downtown Development (parking)

5) ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Thomaston Greenway Committee
- B. 150th Anniversary Committee

6) ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

7) ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,
Lissa Jennings, EDC Chair