

Town of Thomaston Economic Development Commission (EDC)

Regular Meeting Agenda • October 5, 2026 • 7:00 PM

Town Hall • 158 Main Street • Lena Morton Gallery

1) CALL TO ORDER

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- A. September 14, 2026; regular meeting
- B. September 9, 2026; special meeting

3) OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Business Recognition January 26, 2027
- B. Banner and Façade Improvement programs
- C. EDC 2025-2026 budget (final) and 2026-2027 budget review
- D. Subcommittee Goals

4) NEW BUSINESS:

- A. CT Main Street Assessment; review Recommendations
- B. EDC Strategic Plan

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) **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.
- (b) **PowHERful Connections (Women's networking series):** Tuesday, October 13; 4:30-7:30pm. Workplace Negotiation. Max Pizza IV, 454 Middle Street, Bristol. \$150 includes dinner, drink.
- (c) **Bowling Tournament:** Thu., October 15; 4:30-8:30pm. Spare Time Bristol, 177 Farmington Ave., Bristol, \$60 includes 3 games, food, drinks, prizes & more.
- (d) **PYVOT** young professionals networking (ages 21-40): Saturday, Oct. 17; 9am-1:30pm. [Walk to End Alzheimer's](#), Rockwell Park, 238 Jacobs St, Bristol. Suggested donation \$10-\$50.
- (e) **Morning Jolt:** networking: Tues., October 20, 8-9am. Chamber Office, 440 N. Main St., Bristol.
- (f) **Webinar: Building Confidence using AI.** Wed., October 22; 1-2pm. Write better requests, better context, and build something. Virtual; free.
- (g) **Chamber Tune-up:** Tuesday, October 27, 8:30-9:30am, Chamber Office, 440 N. Main Street, Bristol. Learn how to get the most out of your membership.
- (h) **Member-to-Member Business Expo & Business After Hours:** Tuesday, October 27; 5pm-7pm; connection, collaboration, and showcase of businesses that make up the Chamber community. DoubleTree by Hilton, 42 Century Dr., Bristol. Free to attend
- (i) **Workforce Wednesday lunch & learn – Wellness in the Workplace:** Wed., Oct. 28, 11:30am-1:00pm; Chamber Office, 440 N. Main St., Bristol. \$15 members lunch included.
- (j) **PYVOT After Hours** young professionals networking (ages 21-40): Thursday, Oct. 29; 6:30pm-8:45pm. Escape From Reality, 56 West Main St. Rear, Plainville. \$30 members.

(3) CT Main Street (CMSC)

(a) Assessment; review

(b) **Webinar: The Founder's View from Inside Government.** Thursday, October 15; 11am–12pm. Yvonne Zhao brings a rare dual lens to this webinar, blending her experience as a municipal and state economic development leader with her hands-on journey as a small business founder. Through practical insights, real examples, and lessons from both sides of the ecosystem, Yvonne will offer a grounded, candid look at how to bridge these gaps and build stronger, more accessible support systems. Free.

(4) Other: CTDOT Seeks Public Feedback on 2027-2030 State Rail Plan. Submit comments online by October 13th. 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)

(1) Map & QR code

5) ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Thomaston Greenway Committee

(1) November 7th event

B. 150th Anniversary Committee

6) ANNOUNCEMENTS/PUBLIC COMMENT

7) ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Lissa Jennings, EDC Chair