

**TOWN OF THOMASTON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES-JULY 14, 2025**

Present: Lissa Jennings, Chair; Sue Holway, Secretary; Mike Maddow, Jeff Dunn, Amanda Burch, Alissa Monteleone,

Absent: Mike Sweeney, Matt Stancavage

Also Present: Tony Adili, Land Use Administrator-EDC Liaison; Sara Walker, Recording Secretary; Barbara Cowan, Lions Club; Debbie Gaudiosi, Lions Club; Melanie Dobos

CALL TO ORDER: 7:02PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

June 9, 2025, Regular Meeting

June 26, 2025, Special Meeting

MOTION made by A. Burch, Seconded by M. Maddow to APPROVE the minutes of the June 9, 2025, Regular Meeting and the June 26, 2025, Special Meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION made by J. Dunn, Seconded by A. Burch to ADD Lions Club presentation to the Agenda. And allow them time before OLD BUSINESS. Motion passed unanimously.

Barbara Cowen and Debbie Gaudiosi of the Thomaston Lions Club came in to ask about the “Welcome to Thomaston” sign located at Seth Thomas Park. Originally donated by the Lions Club to the Town, the Lions recently accessed the sign and noted some deterioration of the decals noting various civic organizations in town, flaking of paint and wood rot on the posts. The Lions inquired if there were any known grants or funding options for repair or replacement. After some discussion it was determined first the Seth Thomas Park Committee needed to be brought in as they oversee the park. Also, Main Street Accelerator could possibly add some insight and ideas. Lissa Jennings said she would connect all interested parties so they can explore ideas for sign replacement together.

OLD BUSINESS

A. EDC Budget Review: Tabled.

L. Jennings passed around a page with three printed samples of pens and notebooks.

The group selected one pen and notebook with Thomaston EDC printed.

B. Tax Incentive Applications: T. Adili and L. Jennings met with Christine Hayes of 4 Seasons and gave her the full packet to fill out.

C. Available Property Listings:

Drawn Metal Tube, 219 Elm Street

Our Savior Lutheran Church, 505 South Main Street

The commission asked that the Available Property Listings be updated on the town website monthly for the public to view.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Chamber Updates:

1. State of the Region: No representation from Thomaston.
2. Morning Jolt: Free Business Networking Hour, Tuesday July 15, 8-9AM
3. Business After Hours: Special Business Networking Event, Wednesday July 16, 5-7PM Lake Compounce, Bristol.
4. PYVOT: Young Professionals Networking Thursday July 17, 4:30-7PM at Main Stream Canoes & Kayaks, 170 Main Street, New Hartford. \$40 (Rain Date July 29)
5. Business After Hours: Free Networking Event Wednesday July 23, 5-7PM Main Stream Canoes & Kayaks, 170 Main Street New Hartford.
6. Chamber Tune-Up : July 29, 8:30-9:30AM Executive Suites at 440 North Main Street, Bristol
7. PYVOT After Hours: July 31, 5:30-7:00PM, The New Cambridge Project Brewery, 139 Center Street, Bristol
8. Annual Golf Tournament: Monday August 4, 10:30-6PM, Tunxis Country Club, 87 Town Farm Road, Farmington Register online
9. PowHERful Connections: Women's Business Networking Tuesday August 12, 4:30-7:30PM Register online
10. Member Appreciation Picnic: Wednesday, August 13, 5-7. Register online

B. CT Main Street

1. State of Main: 72,000 job openings within the restaurant businesses throughout the state.
Visitors to CT up 177%., for every dollar spent on the arts returns \$7 to the economy.
2. Main Street Management 101 webinar, Thursday July 17, 11-12PM
3. Thomaston Main Street Assessment, Wednesday July 30, 2PM
4. DEEP & Downtown Part 2 webinar: Thursday August 7, 11-12PM. Deep Programs update for Main Street Sustainability and Open Space.
5. Spotlight on Main THOMASTON: September 4, 3-7PM
Planning a walking path starting at the Opera House with stops at points of interest throughout town. Ending at Clock Town Brewing.

STAFF REPORT:

- A. EDC Liaison Report: Drawn Metal Tube: Discussion of the closure, Sale Listing and potential future of the property were discussed
- B. Grant Opportunities: Discussion of grant writing process within town, complete packets with town board and commission approvals. Commission members are seeking more grant opportunities as well as how the town can more successfully apply for grants.
Amanda Burch reports RAISE grants for Greenway may be released.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Business Relations

1. Business Recognition Nomination form review: Nothing New
2. Lunch & Learn (website session for business, civic groups, etc) Nothing New

B. Downtown Development and Parking: J. Dunn reports Black Rock Tavern has new ownership. Discussion ensued.

C. Marketing and Promotion

1. Website Review: Nothing New
2. Quarterly EDC Newsletter: Nothing New

D. By-Laws: Nothing New

ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A.. Thomaston Greenway Committee: Nothing New

B. 150th Anniversary Committee: A. Burch reports the Parade was a great success! Family Fun Day was also a success, turnout was great, the event was completely funded and supported by Thomaston Savings Bank. Thank You Volunteers!

Upcoming Events: Patron Page for books still available.

October Ghost Tours: Run through the September 10, Meeting. Looking for Volunteers.

More information is forthcoming.

150th Gala: tickets for sale soon.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION made by A. Burch, Seconded by J. Dunn to ADJOURN the meeting at 8:53PM.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Walker
Recording Secretary