

**Town of Thomaston
Economic Development Commission (EDC)
Regular Meeting Minutes-September 8, 2025**

Present: Lissa Jennings, Chair; Sue Holway, Secretary; Mike Madow, Jeff Dunn, Amanda Burch

Absent: Alissa Monteleone, Mike Sweeney, Matt Stancavage

Also Present: Tony Adili, Land Use Administrator-EDC Liaison; Rich Sileo, Board of Finance Chairman/First Selectman Candidate; Sara Walker, Recording Secretary

Call to Order: 7:02PM

Approval of Minutes: August 11, 2025, Regular Meeting

MOTION made by S. Holway, Seconded by A. Burch to APPROVE the August 11, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion passed with one abstained (M. Madow)

OLD BUSINESS:

EDC Budget Review: 2 expenses noted \$500 to Join Connecticut Main Street, \$200 for Recording Secretary Services

Lissa Jennings introduces an invitation from the Northwest Connecticut Arts Council for a meeting Thursday, September 18, 2025, entitled Creative Economy Summit. Cost \$25. Chair Jennings states she is interested in attending.

MOTION made by M. Madow, Seconded by S. Holway to APPROVE the \$25.00 Expense from the Meetings and Functions Budget Line Item for Chair Jennings to attend. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chamber Update

Morning Jolt: Tuesday September 16, 8-9am networking hour

10K Reverse Raffle: Thursday September 18, see Chamber website for details.

Business After Hours: Thursday September 25, 5-7pm at **CLOCKTOWN BREWING Thomaston**. No charge for local non-member businesses.

PYVOT Business After Hours: Thursday September 25, 5:30-7:00pm, New Cambridge Project Brewery, Bristol

PYVOT Legislative Panel: Tuesday September 30, 5:30-7:00pm, Wolcott Grill and Deli, Wolcott

Reworld Facility Tour: Tuesday October 7, 9-10am, Thermomechanical Treatment Facility, Bristol.

Startup Panel: Thursday, October 9, 5-7pm

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PowHerful Connections: Tuesday, October 14, 4:30-7:30

See Central Connecticut Chamber of Commerce website for details on events.

CT Main Street

Thomaston Main Street Assessment: L. Jennings asked Commission Members to review the assessment and present any comments at the next regular meeting.

Placemaking: Essentials of Public Murals (Part 1) webinar: Tuesday September 23, 10:00-11:00am.

Placemaking: Essentials of Public Murals (Part 2) webinar: Tuesday September 30, 10:00-11:00am.

The Power of Place: Placemaking, Wednesday October 8th, 8:00-1:00pm Shubert Theater: Elm City Cabaret, New Haven.

MOTION made by M. Madow, Seconded by A. Burch to APPROVE \$75 for Chair Jennings to attend The Power of Place event October 8th, 2025, at the Shubert Theater in New Haven. Motion passed unanimously.

M. Madow inquired about Thomaston's Spotlight on Main Street Event September 4th, as he was unable to attend. L. Jennings reported it was well attended by between 50-60 people and that Thomaston was well represented by local businesses.

STAFF REPORT

EDC Liaison Report: T. Adili presented the commission with a draft smoke shop and a short-term rental regulation modeled after surrounding towns and the state guidelines. Discussion ensued.

Grant Opportunities: CT Main Street-Streetscapes=Thomaston not eligible T. Adili reports Thomaston is not currently on the list as eligible.

T. Adili mentioned Connecticut Municipal Development Authority (CMDA). Nicole Sullivan of NVDORG suggested Thomaston join for potential grant opportunities. L. Jennings then mentioned it was more transit-based opportunities. No fee to join. J. Dunn suggests presenting it to the Board of Selectmen; call Deb and get it on the agenda.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Business Relations

A. Business Recognition Event: Sponsor Form almost ready. J. Dunn suggested registering with a marketing email such as Constant Contact/Mailchimp etc.

L. Jennings states additionally the EDC NEEDS an email address.

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B. Lunch and Learn: Skip

Downtown Development and Parking-Nothing new

Marketing & Promotion

Town Promotional Cards were discussed. "A Tour of Thomaston". Promoting town businesses. Commissioners agreed to explore further before making a decision.

J. Dunn inquired whether "A Taste of Thomaston" restaurant week again next year. Discussion ensued.

Website Review: Discussion of town emails and websites and how they can be more derivative to departments, boards and commissions for a more user-friendly experience. The commission will look to Tracy Decker for further guidance on current email policies and possibilities.

EDC Newsletter: Nothing new

By-Laws: A. Burch reports she is updating, T. Adili offered to help guide the process.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

Thomaston Greenway Committee: A. Burch said the Committee had a meeting with the Board of Selectmen at their regular meeting and that the Board is presenting the Elm Street redesign project at a Town Meeting for a vote on which design option to go with.

150th Anniversary Committee: Ghost Tours Saturday November 1st, 5:30-7pm. \$5 donation. Looking for volunteers. Tour guides as well as actors.

J. Dunn reports 150th s also planning a showing of the 100th Anniversary Film tied in with a talk on the Thomaston Dam with the Army Corp of Engineers in late October or early November.

150th Gala at the Grand Oak Villa in Oakville, Friday November 8th 6-11 pm \$60pp.
Silent Auction and Raffles.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rich Sileo, Board of Finance mentioned the School Feasibility Study and whether EDC had the ability to share the Survey for it with local businesses. As the BOF was looking for input from Students, Parents and local businesses. L. Jennings said she would share the information with him.

ADJOURNMENT

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**MOTION made by J. Dunn, Seconded by A. Burch to ADJOURN the meeting at 8:34PM.
Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Walker, Recording Secretary