

**TOWN OF THOMASTON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES-AUGUST 11, 2025**

Present: Lissa Jennings, Chair; Sue Holway, Secretary; Amanda Burch, Alissa Monteleone, Mike Sweeney

Absent: Jeff Dunn, Mike Madow, Matt Stancavage

Also Present: Tony Adili, Land Use Administrator-EDC Liaison; Sara Walker, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER: 7:01PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
July 14, 2025 Regular Meeting

MOTION made by A. Burch, Seconded by A. Monteleone to APPROVE the July 14, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes with the following AMENDMENT. Under “B. CT Main Street #1.” change (job openings within the restaurant businesses) to (job openings throughout the state). Motion passed with one ABSTAINED (M. Sweeney)

OLD BUSINESS

- A. EDC Budget Review-Discussion ensued.
- B. Tax Incentive Applications: Garret and Justin Hayes 4 Seasons Fire and Hearth, 82 South Main Street, Thomaston, CT. Commission members reviewed the application and criteria. It was determined 4 Seasons qualifies under the \$250,000+, 5 year at 25% Tax Abatement. It was also noted they many qualify for an additional 10% subject to Thomaston Historical Society Approval.

MOTION made by M. Sweeney, Seconded by A. Burch to RECOMMEND EDC Liaison, Tony Adili contact Thomaston Historical Society for review and comment on 4 Seasons Fire and Hearth application for an additional 10% tax abatement in addition to 25%, 5 year abatement they would qualify for based on the criteria; before presenting application and recommendation to the Board of Selectmen for Final Approval. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Chamber Updates

Member Appreciation Picnic-Wednesday, August 14th from 5-7PM Register online
Startup Panel-Thursday, August 14th 5-7PM. For *aspiring entrepreneurs*. Present ideas to a panel of experienced professionals and gain advice, insight and connections to get started. A. Monteleone reports attending and finding the event a great resource for startup businesses but particularly new businesses in the planning stages for networking, marketing and advice.
PYVOT Board Night-Young Professionals; Thursday, August 14th 5:30-7:30PM.

A unique networking event to connect local nonprofits with you professionals interested in board or committee service.

Morning Jolt-Networking Hour at Doubletree by Hilton, Bristol, CT. Tuesday, August 19th 8-9 AM.

PYVOT After Hours- Young Professionals Networking; Thursday, August 28th 5:30-7PM. Bristol Health Trax. Tour, Networking and Training Session.

Brewfest Weekend-Friday and Saturday September 5 & 6, 5-11PM at Muzzy Field, Bristol.

Morning Jolt-Networking Hour Tuesday September 16th 8-9AM at the Doubletree by Hilton, Bristol.

\$10K Reverse Raffle-Thursday September 18, 5:30-8:30PM at the Bristol Event Center. Attendance is Not required to win!

Business After Hours-Networking; Wednesday September 24, 5-7PM at Clocktown Brewing, Thomaston.

B. CT Main Street

Thomaston Main Street Assessment-review and discussion of Connecticut Main Street Center, Main Street Management Assessment of Downtown Thomaston 7/28/2025. Commission members expressed a desire to implement a Facade Improvement Program which has been successful in Torrington's Downtown area. L. Jennings encouraged commission members to review the report and come back with suggestions at the next regular (EDC) meeting.

Powering Up Main Street-webinar, Thursday August 14, 11AM-12PM.

Spotlight on Main: Thomaston-September 4, 2025, 3-6PM (Time Change)

Need group tour guides for event.

STAFF REPORT

A. EDC Liaison Report

Update: 219 Elm Street-Contamination Restriction Removal by State. Potential developers discussed.

Review of Draft Zoning Regulations-Smoke Shops and Short Term Rentals.

Commission members were asked to review the regulation and come back with comments at the next regular meeting.

B. Grant Opportunities: None

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Business Relations

Business Recognition Event-Updated form is online and fillable. Due September 8.

It was noted there are three new businesses in town.

Lunch and Learn-skip

B. Downtown Development & Parking-skip

C. Marketing and Promotion-skip

D. By-Laws-Tabled

ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Thomaston Greenway Committee- Meeting Re: Elm Street portion Thursday August 14 in the Lena Morton Gallery with Board of Selectmen and Thigh and Bond.

November 8th Gala Event: Tickets on Sale

B. 150th Anniversary Committee-Gala November 8th at the Grand Oak Villa tickets on sale soon.

Need Guides/Actors for Haunted Tour in October. Also looking for tractors/hay wagons to transport guests back to town hall.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION made by A. Burch, Seconded by S. Holway to ADJOURN the meeting at 9:15PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Walker
Recording Secretary