

**Town of Thomaston Economic Development Commission (EDC)
Regular Meeting Minutes-September 14, 2026**

Present: Lissa Jennings, Chair; Amanda Burch, Vice-Chair; Jeff Dunn, Sue Holway, Mike Sweeney (7:14PM)

Absent: Alissa Monteleone, Matt Stancavage, Danial Osorio

Also Present: Tony Adili, Land Use Administrator/EDC Liaison; Sara Walker, Recording Secretary, Patrick Hyres, Prospective Member

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

July 13, 2026, Regular Meeting

MOTION made by J. Dunn, Seconded by A. Burch to AMEND the Minutes of the July 13, 2026, Regular Meeting correct the spelling of Dinning to DINING under slogan 2-Dining Destination and to APPROVE the minutes as Amended. Motion passed with 1 abstained (S. Holway)

September 9, 2026, Special Meeting- Tabled

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Tour of Thomaston-Winners to be announced.
 - 1st Prize \$150 Plume House, \$50 Restaurant Gift Card, \$50 Opera House Gift Card, 150th Anniversary T-Shirt
 - 2nd Railroad Museum/Train Station \$50, 150th Anniversary T-Shirt, 2 x \$50 Restaurant Gift Cards
 - 3rd Railroad Museum/Train Station Gift card \$50, \$50 Restaurant Gift Card and 150th Anniversary T-Shirt
 - 4th x3-150th Anniversary T-Shirt, EDC Notepad and Pen

Discussion ensued. Commissioners agreed to promote the event more next year, display signage for the event, and post on the town calendar as well as the Chamber Newsletter.

- B. Banner and Facade Improvement Programs -Nothing New
- C. EDC 2025-2026 Budget Review-T. Adili reports the budget went over year by \$92, due to open PO's putting EDC over budget. Chair Jennings asked for a detailed list of all expenses and will go down to Land Use Office to review. She believes they should have been under budget.
- D. Subcommittee Goals-A Discussion of bylaws ensued. Decision to add Bylaws to the website.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Alissa Monteleone resigned from the Commission after the July meeting. Chair

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- Jennings mentions possibly posting openings on Thomaston People Speak.
- B. Connecticut Main Street -Assessment review. Discussion ensued. L. Jennings will work on a strategic plan.
- J. Dunn brings up the Trash Cans purchased with the Nips Funds are in rough shape. Dented, and rusting. Discussion of placing some of the rougher shaped being placed slightly more out of view. What is the plan for those? Asked T. Adili to reach out to Selectman and find out about maintenance etc.
- S. Holway asks about having a mural done on Patties Place Wall. J. Dunn will inquire. Discussion ensued.
- C. Railroad Museum of New England 30th Anniversary Event-Friday September 25, 10:30-1:30. Discussion ensued. M. Sweeney brought up the react Train trips to Torrington and potential outings in Thomaston. Discussion ensued.
- D. Business Recognition Event-Chair Jennings wants commissioners to think about potential recipients. Send around form to businesses to see who they would like to nominate. Discussion ensued. Event date January 26, 2027. Possible locations discussed.

STAFF REPORT: T. Adili provided commissioners with a copy of his July-August EDC Report for their review.

- A. Updates (Historic District, UCONN/School Project, P & Z actions, grant opportunities, POCD Implementation, Sustainable CT)
- Historic Designation-T. Adili reports he will meet with Mary Dunne, Municipal Preservation and Grants Coordinator to discuss the next steps.
 - UConn School Project-looking for a spot in town that can be used for agriculture. Farm to table project locations. Ongoing search and discussions.
 - P and Z are working on ADU regulations. Will be on the agenda for September 2, 2026, Regular Meeting.
 - Grant Opportunities-nothing new
 - Regional POCD Survey sent to commissioners due October 8th.
 - Grumpy's Deli is open. Ribbon cutting September 23rd at 11am.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Business Relations
1. Lunch and Learn opportunities - skip
 2. Chamber *Updates*: 440 North Main Street, Bristol. For information and to register for all events go to centralctchambers.org
PYVOT-Young Professionals Networking (ages 21-40) Thursday
September 24; 5:30-7:00PM at Eros Archery, 135 South Main Street,
Thomaston.
Chamber Tune Up: Tuesday, September 29th, 8:30-9:30am. Chamber Office
Workforce Wednesday-lunch and learn, September 30, 1:30-1:00PM,
Chamber Office
Startup Panel-Thursday, October 8, 5-7pm. Chamber Office.

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PowHERful Connections-Women's networking series. Tuesday, October 13, 4:30-7:30. Workplace Negotiation. Max Pizza IV, Bristol. \$150 includes dinner and a drink.

2027 Legislative Agenda Roundtables-Virtual.12-1:00PM

Bowling Tournament-Thursday October 15, 4:30-8:30PM, Spare Time, Bristol. \$60 includes 3 games, food, drinks and prizes.

5. CT Main Street:

a. Economic Development Partners Summit. Wednesday, September 23, 10:00 AM-1:00PM. Mercantile Building, 5th floor, 55 Main Street Norwich.

b. Webinar: Showtime on Main-Thursday September 24, 11:00AM-12:00PM.

B. Marketing and Promotion.

1. Solar Workshop- Energy Resources. Skip
2. Arts and Culture District-skip
3. Website update-Grumpy's Ribbon Cutting, September 23, 11:00AM
4. EDC Newsletter-skip

C. Downtown Development (Parking): T. Adili asked to check with First Selectman Sileo and Public Services Superintendent Galpin about parking signs. Discussion of Town Map.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Thomaston Greenway Committee: Bicycle Safety event tentatively scheduled for November 7, 10-11am. More information forthcoming.
- B. 150th Anniversary Committee- 150th Anniversary Book needs to be distributed.

ANNOUNCEMENT/PUBLIC COMMENTS: Patrick Hyres states he came to observe because EDC is adjacent to Planning and Zoning. He states he is interested in joining EDC. He was advised to go to his committee for endorsement as the commission has a retiring member.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION made by M. Sweeney, Seconded by S. Holway to ADJOURN the Meeting at 8:27PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sara Walker
Recording Secretary