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By Amanda Burch
gao or

Thomaston Greenway Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: October 7, 2025

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Thomaston Town Hall – Meeting Room One

Attendance

Members Present: Amanda Burch (Chair), Erin Boccardi (Vice Chair), Kelly Quinn, Patrick Quinn, Cassie Gorman (Secretary)

Members Absent: Lori Stevens, Michael Sweeney

Guests

Mary Beth Johnson; Susan Holloway; Tony Adili (Thomaston Land Use Administrator)

Call to Order

Chair Amanda Burch called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Kelly Quinn, seconded by Patrick Quinn to approve the July and August minutes as read. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Grant Updates:

- Amanda Burch and Tony Adili met with First Selectman Ed Mone and NVCOG representatives Aaron Budris, Mark Neilsen and Rich Donovan to discuss Greenway and Elm Street Project funding.
- NVCOG expressed optimism that funding originally lost with the RAISE Grant can be restored through alternate sources.
- The Elm Street Project continues to cover Thomaston’s portion of the Transportation Alternatives Grant (approximately \$4.5 million), with \$450,000 already bonded by the town.
- Discussion noted that, because the scope of the project remains unchanged, a reallocation vote of the bonded amount should not be required.
- The State of Connecticut continues to fund design for Thomaston’s portion. While some other municipal sections may be delayed, Watertown’s and Thomaston’s work will proceed.

New Business

Endorsement Letters:

- Ongoing outreach to local businesses and organizations for letters endorsing the Greenway.
- Anticipated letter from Elite Strength and Performance; additional letters received from

George Lacapra, Town Recreation Department, and Stevens Company.
- Supporters will be encouraged to attend the upcoming Town Meeting (attendance eligibility per town rules).

Easement and Tax Abatement:

- Brief discussion of the Easement Tax Abatement Program; noted as unrelated to the Elm Street section but kept on the agenda for future review.

Site Walk:

- Fall site walk coordination with Waterbury representatives deferred due to daylight and weather

“Light Up the Town” Parade Planning:

- Planning for the November 29, 2025 parade; concepts discussed (igloo/winter theme, safe flame alternatives).
- Work session scheduled for Sunday, November 23 at 11:00 a.m. to design and prepare the float.

Town Meeting Preparation:

- Town Meeting confirmed for October 22, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.; vote to include Greenway vs. no Greenway.
- Key clarifications for the public were reviewed:
 - Elm Street safety/roadway improvements proceed regardless of the Greenway.
 - The Greenway addition is fully funded without additional local match.
 - Elm Street is the only feasible and previously approved route (routing studies 2010 & 2020).
 - The river and River Road would be cost-prohibitive (cantilevered structure along steep terrain for the river).
 - Without the Greenway, approximately \$500,000 in LOTCIP funding would be forfeited.
- POCD references supporting the Greenway were highlighted as part of the town’s 10-year implementation plan.

Public Education & Outreach:

- Update on communication with the Clock Town Chronicle; committee to prepare a concise fact sheet addressing project funding, scope, and common misconceptions.

Public Comment

Guests Mary Beth Johnson and Susan Holloway offered supportive comments and assistance with outreach.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Gorman

Secretary, Thomaston Greenway Committee
