

Town of Thornton - Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes 7-17-2023

Location: Thornton Town Hall

Time: 5 – 6 pm

Members Present: Joe Peznola, Jeannine Robbins-Murphy, Joe Monti, Bob Hatcher

On Zoom: None

Absent: N/A

Others Present: Erin Duggan, Tim Duggan, Landon Gryczkowski

- **Chair J. Peznola opened the meeting at 5:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Approval of Meeting Minutes from 5/25/23**
 - o Upon review of the meeting minutes the members took the following action.
 - o **Motion:** J Monti
 - o **Second:** B. Hatcher
 - o **Discussion:** N/A
 - o **Vote:** 4 Yes – 0 No
 - o **Motion Passes**
 - o Minutes approved
- **Public Meeting** - Discussion of the ultimate use of the land at the intersection of Cross Street and Route 3, adjacent to the Town Hall.
 - o Community Center/Rec Center that possibly doubles as a Senior Center.
 - o Community Fields – There are approx. 300 students in Thornton and the lack of sports facilities may be limiting opportunities for students to participate in sports.
 - o Playground/park
 - o Dog Park
 - o Tennis/Pickleball courts
 - o Pavilion for gatherings with picnic tables
 - o Interior space for cyclists and snowmobilers (warming, drinks, snacks)
 - o Upgrade Fire Station – can we rehab the building to a community center with bathrooms?
 - o B. Hatcher recommended that the committee create Ph 1-3 scenarios
 - o The committee should investigate grant writing opportunities to fund some of these initiatives
 - o Action: J.Peznola to sketch out scenarios that could be implemented in phases.
- **Update Landfill Solar**
 - o Eversource owns the power lines.
 - o Both companies (Encore & Revision) are interested in building solar panels if they can be built under the power lines.

- If solar can't be built, due to land size, then only Revision is interested in a solar project.
 - Encore came up with an alternate proposal to lease the land and use it for energy storage (batteries).
 - B. Hatcher will work with Eversource to determine the easement and size of land available for solar project.
- **Update Full-Time Home-Owners Tax Savings**
 - B. Hatcher presented several property tax relief scenarios using Town Administrator, Master Planning Committee and Assessment Department data.
 - These scenarios were for discussion purposes only and generated several questions from the committee in which J. Monti volunteered to research three of the questions (5-7)
- **Review Title VI Section 91-A regarding Committee communication outside of meetings.**
 - EDC is not a decision-making authority (evaluates economic alternatives and presents to the Board of Selectmen) therefore can have discussions outside of meetings.
- **Meeting adjourned 6:00pm**
- **Next meeting – Aug 21 5pm**