

Untitled Note

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00:00

Okay okay I'm going to call this meeting to order at 530. Thanks for Thanks for coming everybody. How's everybody doing tonight? Did everybody sign in and put your business card in the basket?



00:15

Okay



00:20

our meeting minutes are on I say this every month we don't have a secretary so our meeting minutes are recorded, and we put them on the website so if anybody ever wants to review them, they're there and text and audio. You can you can listen to the whole meeting again if



00:33

you want new members here for



00:40

for the first time, Zack. So we're going to swear you in. This is exactly what Barney everybody from Superior superior storage. We also have a guest tonight, Karen from southbridge credit union indivisible right



01:18

Okay, so if everybody would would stand and do the Code of Ethics with me, so swear Zack in as a new member tonight. I I will be fair honest, impartial, respectful and professional enact in good faith in all my business relationships with my clients, trade partners, suppliers, the public

and other members of this association. I will I will provide my services and or products as I have advertised or presented for the prices I have quoted, I will I will establish goodwill and trust among other members and the referrals I received from this association. I will I will follow up with the referrals I received from other members and through this association in general. I will I will maintain a positive and supportive attitude with this association and its members. I will I will uphold the ethical standards of my profession. I thank you. All right. So, now we'll go around the room Brian you got a timer. Here, start with you. Tonight.



02:27

Brian tells me about the time



02:32

everybody's gonna take to tell us about their business and why they're here.



02:36

Tear cannon as I'm sure you all know, the Director of Planning and Development for the town of Thompson. I come to TVA meetings to be a resource for you guys and give you guys an opportunity to ask questions you might have around town business. I don't know everything about everything but I know some stuff about a lot of things. And I was just happy to be here for you guys.



03:01

Thank you.



03:05

Hi, everybody. I'm Vicki Julian Hughes. My husband bought is and I work together with primerica financial services. primerica is the largest financial services company in North America. Our focus is helping families and individuals to learn more about finance to education. We do complimentary plans that also help people to get out of debt ever qualify for qualified candidates. We also offer various income opportunities which could result in business ownership that you can sell or pass on to your family and Bob diamond from his part time for quite a few years now. And last night we received a certificate from our home office because we reached the goal of having \$4 million on Derek acid. So I'm super proud of that. achieving them. Awesome. Thank you. Very nice. Sorry. And I'm on the agenda later, right? Yeah. And okay, could you Hi, Megan, how are you? Yeah, how are you? Good.



04:11

My name is Dana. I'm the assistant manager of bank hometown in Thompson right down the

road. I usually am here to just talk about the main specials or see if anyone needs anything. I figured I would let you guys know about our new CD rates that we have. As of last week. We're offering 4.75 Or a seven one everyone CD and 5% for 11. C. So identifiers if anyone wants

 04:34

to take it, but as Gary Yeah, I guess I am the Senior Vice President of retail operations at the southbridge credit union. I've been working there for 30 years, but I live in Thompson and I just want to try and come out this week so we have a lot of membership that live in Thompson and do make some prospecting.

 05:01

Thanks for coming carry.

 05:03

Greg. Greg, from our graph, though, keep local arborist and tree farm and you'll hear a little bit more from me in a few minutes.

 05:10

You got a presentation tonight. Cool, Zach. All

 05:14

right. My name is Zach Labonte. I'm the owner of spear storage. Just down the road here. 72 Main Street. Yeah, there we are, right. Somewhere around here. But anyways, yeah, I'm happy to be here. been a member for a couple of months plus, two young boys. We've been actively involved with baseball coaches. I'm so happy to be here, I guess. Yeah, so there's a there's a house on the property as well, which I'm currently fixing up. If you're looking at the storage facility to the left, there's 2700 square foot house. It's got six rooms you know, we just painted it inside of our refinishing hardwood floors, and it's on commercially so we're looking to lease out individual rooms and get some use of them. So one of the things we're doing but Phil,

 06:11

everybody and Phil was saying South tech solutions issues and you were all on video tech, all your needs all the techniques you want to get up you know I can help you out with that. I just recently did a job with Dan. Big homes there and the biggest one I know one of the bigger ones I've ever done before just did a system because doghouse and platinum. I put some cameras in there a couple of months ago. Oh cool. So that was happening with that and working at a church doing some audio video stuff for the Catholic church a couple. Just do all different types

of stuff. I mean, pretty much you name it. I've probably done it so call me I'm excited to help you out whenever I can. Little Canvas big cameras home theater TVs. I just go on and on and on. But uh yeah, so thank you awesome. All right, Brian. You're up.



07:08

Right. And you say no, in between businesses as Jack noted, chair of the Economic Development Commission, founder and longtime member of TVA and that's it. We don't need a timer.



07:24

And I'm Dan Bennett. I'm the owner of GBC solutions. We transform the space you live into a place you'd love to be in. We do additions, remodeling, outdoor living, and we specialize in our design service, 3d renderings and virtual walkthroughs of your new space before you actually have to commit to to the cost and upheaval of construction. That's about it. Thank you. All right, Greg, you're up. We're gonna have to move to the side here. So we don't get blinded.



08:00

Rejected back on by I did to see if it was I recall that



08:15

it was



08:23

rubbing in one of those lights back on it's a little dark. Okay



08:34

yeah right. Hi everybody tonight. Owner of Arbor active brand new Thompson business we started three or four months ago as tree farm and farmstand and are very quickly expanding. Into arborist and plant health care company here. So what I thought I'd do is one of the biggest questions I get from folks is, what's the difference between kind of just the tree guy, right, and sort of like what you got in the mail earlier, and an arborist so I'll show you a little bit about what I do some pictures of some of the various types of things that set our active and arborists apart from kind of the run of the mill, bobbing truck and tree guy that that around and tell you a little bit more about, you know, the type of work that I'm interested in that, you know, friends and acquaintances with. Alright, so what's an arborist first Tree Service Tree guide tree cutter. An arborist is a specialist in the care and maintenance of trees. So if you want to cut a tree down, you certainly can call an arborist but what an arborist really specializes in is keeping the dream alive and the science behind making sure that plant is healthy. arborists generally hold a

voluntary certification from the International Society of Arboriculture. That's a written test and several years of experience in the field to get that certification. And specifically in Connecticut. Anyone who practices the maintenance of trees must be licensed by the DEP and the Connecticut tree protection association. So that means anybody who prunes a tree, fertilize the tree or does anything that is designed to keep a tree healthy, must be licensed by the state. You do not need a license to take a tree down. But pretty much anything else you do to a tree is something that you do have to have a credential with the statement. So that's something that I don't think a lot of people I know a lot of people know. Connecticut is the hardest arborist license in the country to get. It's a written exam that's 120 some odd questions 20 part tree identification test and then oral interview. So it a lot goes into it. And certainly a lot of knowledge that that you need to get that and it protects all of you and makes it so that you all have a way to know that. Hey, I'm having this person come out. Take a look at my trees. I want to make sure they know their stuff. You know that state kind of watching out for us. It also is a supervisory pesticide license, so it allows the arborist to make decisions about treating insects and diseases that may be impacting their trees. With that, like the most common types of work that I engage in are pruning, fertilization and soil management of trees, insect and disease control. So I've got a full list of kind of the services that I offer again, insect disease management, soil management, pruning. We do a lot of work with tree root systems. We do consulting and make recommendations especially around like construction sites where there might be a tree that someone wants to save. One of my favorite projects I was on was over a Yukon. They were doing a lot of steam. Wind works down there and they have the whole campus is an arena. So part of the requirement for doing work on the campus was to have an arborist put together a plan to save all the trees that they were going to be digging around. And that was a fun project at my alma mater and a lot of trees that that I really enjoy. But surely I could get myself involved in some more typical landscape type work. roto tilling the garden beds, soil management in gardens, we have a couple of folks we help out with lawn mowing services and then can also do invasive vegetation management and in Massachusetts to sell licenses. It allows you to take a skilled worker as well



12:47

was less than less used,



12:49

ticking the scales. Massachusetts has its own set of laws and licenses that you have to hold. So in addition to the Connecticut licenses that are a whole different set for for Massachusetts and Rhode Island does their own thing too. So Oh yeah, definitely a whole lot there. So what I've done for the rest of this is just showing off a couple of cool types of work that a lot of people don't really even know exist. So one of the most common disorders of trees that I work with and that particularly kind of impactful. You can't really see from above the ground underground is just as important as what we can see above the ground for trees. And if you look at the left here, the way that we apply mulch around trees is particularly impactful to the health of a tree and if you go to like Kimberley comments or any kind of commercial site, you'll see this kind of volcano mulching that's there where landscapers is not in this every year they're trying to sell them off. So well just mulch on top of mulch. And what we're actually doing is destroying the vascular system of the tree by holding moisture against the stem and allow it what's known as girly roots to form and its circle the stem of the tree. And this is a Eastern Redbud right here in

Thompson that we worked on last week that had that kind of volcano motion going on. And you can see there's a big root growing all the way around that all the way around the stem of that tree as that tree grows in diameter and as the roots grow in diameter. Eventually nutrients and water are going to be able to flow up and down and that tree is eventually going to start to die back and



14:30

how did they know that that was a problem and we're able to call you and I was



14:33

there for something else completely different. And one of the services I offer is anybody that's got three questions, call me up. I'll come take a look at it. And we'll just talk about your landscape, the trees that are there, and this is something that I can pick out really quickly. I've seen it a million times. And as we were walking around, hey, let's take a look at what's going on under there. And this was about an inch and a half a roof that we went with about six inches down to the correct depth that a tree shouldn't be at and actually this route we removed completely and free that tree up to live a long healthy life. We did six trees like that on that property and that was the worst of my far. But it's almost a given but we want to see it you can see in the picture here. We don't want the tree look like a telephone pole like it does on the left bone in the ground. You want to see that bell shape on the bottom and that's a tree that's planted in the proper depth. And so many times we had to plant the tree too deep or we cut them in too much mulch and wind up with a situation like that. One of the other types of services we offer in second disease control. Really Gone are the days of big tree sprays and caterpillars coming and having to spray 60 feet up in the air with Methyl Ethyl bad stuff to take care of on the farm. You know now even for things like spongy moth which was usually the Gypsy Moth we can control with very targeted treatments. This is actually a tree injection system that allows you to actually inject products directly into the stem of the tree and let the trees vascular system carry insecticides, pesticides, various tree nutrients all the way up to the tree so we don't compact the area around it. Much more friendly for our pollinators and beneficial insects and puts all of the product that we need to use it we need to save the tree right on target. And we don't have to break out the big spray gum cover everything and all sorts of stuff. So pretty much any large tree pest whether it be a disease or insect has 95% and you can treat me this way rather than victory sprays, which is kind of interesting. Laundry on the left there Dutch elm disease which was pretty impactful to all of our alums here. This is a white ash that's on the right which is currently getting beaten up by emerald ash borer. Both of those are things that if you want that tree to be around in 10 years, you pretty much must be treated because invasive insects and diseases are always on our doorstep, that you hope that



17:13

system up and in the tree drinks Yep, pretty



17:16

much you pressurize a bottle in the trees naturally moving water off into the leaves. So there's

when you pressurize a bottle in the trees naturally moving water on into the leaves. So there's positive pressure there is actually a vacuum. So between the pressure that you put on the system and the trees, nature set up the route all the way up. When we're training for caterpillars within hours, you can see him falling out of the tree.



17:41

There's something that's been eating the jet the maples this year. It's a small caterpillar. I think



17:47

there's been a lot of different Sawflies and caterpillars early in the season. We've mostly we've passed on I haven't



17:54

seen yet. It seems like they're leaving us now.



17:56

So if you think about what their life cycle is, they've eaten everything that they need to do and now they're turning in the moths. So they'll lay their eggs again and we might see them next year. And as that happens year after year, it gets worse and worse and worse. So next year we'll want to keep an eye on for Caterpillar pests because we noticed that this year we didn't really see trees get completely defoliated. But that population has built up we've noticed that next year is a good time to be keeping an eye on and lastly talk a little bit about pruning here. The most important time to prune is actually not when trees are big. It's within the first five to 10 years of their life. Structural pruning allows us to actually determine how a tree is going to grow for the rest of its the rest of its life. So the graphic here kind of shows up on the top a tree that just kind of allowed to grow naturally it can form multiple different stems that compete with each other. For most trees. Young tree pruning is particularly important because we want to encourage a single stem. On the right here we can see a tree that was allowed the form of codominant leaf that's when two stems come together in a tight V like this. That area is particularly weak and allows that tree to split like we see during storms. So we can actually catch that and correct that early in the trees life and rather than have that straggly mess on the top promote more than single stem strong form that you see at the bottom. And that carries root and trees rest of their life. For the most part, we don't need to prune big trees unless they're in the way of your house or getting in the way of your landscape and there's something like that most of the pruning can be done while the tree is small and that sets it up or isn't higher 100 200 300 year life in addition to arborist work kind of where we started earlier this year was with forest products that come off of our 30 acre tree farm here in Thompson. We offer bundles, campfire, wood and various small quantities of wood for cooking the grilling. We also have mushroom logs that are logs are inoculated with culinary and sometimes medicinal mushrooms that you can take and grow things like Shikakai or oyster or various other types of fungus out there and the last five or six years and if something new to add to the garden we

have a website if you scan the QR code, it will get you to us we're in the middle of making business cards or what have you. So don't have an hand out here about harbor active that fo and that QR code will get you right to us. Awesome.



20:44

Any questions for Greg? And we had in our heads what states



20:51

so Connecticut requires an arborist license. Massachusetts does not require a supervisory pesticide license to treat trees. And then I hold most states differ the International Society of Arboriculture don't have their own specific license, but do have specific pesticide license can



21:10

you work in Rhode Island?



21:12

I can work on trees but I cannot apply pesticides. It's very interesting. Happy to answer any questions if anybody hasn't either later or anytime.



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You covered it pretty well.



21:32

Yeah. Thank you good presentation. Thank you



21:48

all right now that we know about Greg's business, give him some business. Yeah. Okay. Well, Jody, is not a member of the board anymore. She stepped down.



22:11

Yeah. And Sandy is on vacation, right.





22:19

So Brian, your



22:22

spam. I don't get any real calls. Okay, membership. Right now. We are as far as the official roster, we're at 73. We lost a few. For 13 Fitness was full Lakers Wellness Center. DCs cleanouts flawless cleaning perfect stitch and RMF properties. We lost a few who just didn't rejoin. They've been they've been on the roster for the year getting reminders and then a few we haven't been able to contact and a few still promised to pay you Yeah, we had we had a good mixer on on April 30. Is may 30. May 30. I don't know. When did we have it was April 30. wasn't okay. We had a New England. Realtors commercial realtors. That's why I'm confused with Oh yeah. In June. Commercial Realtors meet every month and a couple of times a year we host them and they come in here. And the realtor is talking about real estate and they want to know what buildings are available and they present ones that they have to sell which may benefit some of our businesses.



24:11

And I've gone to a few sometimes actually results in sales of properties in the town that's hosting because in this time we Zach was there, Zach came, we took a walk along Main Street, and Zach actually gets to show the house that he told you about the 2700 square foot. So an amazing place Wow, I did notice. I don't know if anybody has any information drafters is for sale. Oh, really? Yeah, we've been they've been promising to join the TBA. That's kind of how it relates. To us. Interesting. Yeah, I don't know if they're going to set up shop somewhere else because they came from Dudley and move the business here. I thought they were doing well, but I don't I don't know. Just selling



25:07

the whole thing and yeah, we'll continue to run drafters and



25:12

i don't know i don't i don't know for sure if they own the building. Which was the old Knights of Columbus. Yeah.



25:26

Well, the whole building, but drafters is underneath Yeah. Well, but they only have like the hall upstairs but it's not typically open.



25:38

In the last thing for businesses, we've been having meetings about our winter festival, which is December 7. Last year. We had 16 businesses set up. You can set up online go to Thompson recreation. We're hoping to expand it this year. So anybody who has a business they want to especially if they have seasonal items or whatever. The businesses were pretty happy last year, but we also have a tree auction where TPA sponsored one bunch of businesses sponsored some the senior sponsored one I also want to bring up We're looking now at possibly renting a big tent and EDC may be able to support that economic development. And I wouldn't I was going to ask the TBA if it comes down to it would we be okay spotting half the attempt at half the cost of the Tegra what's the whatever it will be for outside at the Winter Festival for the for the businesses. There's going to be the nonprofit is going to be inside. We're going to have a tent outside with sides and heaters so people aren't going to last year the businesses were outside was a little chilly but everybody actually was happy. So this tent I think the minimum is something like \$700 for a big like a 20 by 40 and

 27:17

then the businesses will set up inside the tent. Yeah. So

 27:21

if it comes down to it, that's okay. We're going to talk we may have some money left over from the EDC budget. Fiscal Year is ending at the end of the month. And if it came down to it, I just wanted to see if TBA would be okay. Sponsoring say half the tent if we had no commitment tonight. And it Sandy was at the meeting. Oh, by the treasurer so she doesn't see a problem. At least we know we covered one way or the other. Yeah. And for the businesses. It's it seemed worthwhile for the ones that set up last year. So again, register right with Thompson rec right online done.

 28:09

That you and I should plan on meeting that last week of the month. Yeah,

 28:14

we'll see what we had Monday. I

 28:15

don't remember what I Oh, actually. It's one of those months where I'm off site a lot. So I just want I don't want to tell you to show up. I'm not going to be in the office. Yeah, Monday, the 24th. I'll be in the office all day. So yeah, we can pull the budget report and finance and see what's remaining in the fiscal year budget and reallocate any of the funds that didn't go to what we speculated here. We're gonna go to the beginning of the year.



28:49

Yeah. gives us plenty of time. I can bring this back second week in July we're meeting because it's not until December 7. So So Okay. Thank you. Sandy Senate Treasurer's report she did not



29:08

know so I know she left for vacation yesterday and she was busy. So we do not have a Treasurer's Report. T. and Europe.



29:19

Not sure what everybody wants to hear about a few things. That I'd like to share. Metallo scanning us so I'm Ian Miller. I'm the Executive Director of tea. I've been with tea for about nine years. Got some new faces in the in the room tonight. So we are a nonprofit. We are the social service agency for the towns of Thompson Woodstock Pomfret. And we are the youth service bureau for those three towns and the town of Putnam we do a lot of youth work. We really increasingly I've been able to explain t using the term wraparound services we really like to help the whole person whole family, the whole household with a variety of different supports in order to bring them to the best life that they can live. So we're not just a food pantry. We call our food pantries, food markets. We have three of them one in Pomfret one and Thompson that are both standalone and then a mobile pantry that goes out to Woodstock. We do deliveries we do. We do in home services when people can't get out. We do a lot of what's called case management and that's trying to figure out how we can support people in the best ways stretching our dollar as far as we can. We can't do everything. We certainly can't pay someone you know, we will have someone call occasionally saying well, you can pay my mortgage right? We'll say well, we can pay part of your mortgage this month, but not for a year. We can't do that. So you know it's always trying to leverage what we know and what we can do. An example of my day I was going to talk about youth services, but I think I shared with Dan coming in. We have about 14 people who work at Teague full and part time we're really busy. It's pretty crazy. This morning, I sent two of my folks off to Hartford to the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness annual conference so that they could kind of connect that way. I sit on the executive committee of the Eastern camp for homelessness. So the whole eastern part of the state. We help with making financial decisions or small agency, we don't have a shelter. We don't have the ability to use Rapid Rehousing or any of the other supports to help someone right away. But we work very closely with other agencies in the eastern part of the state families we tend to send down to always home which is on the shoreline and have them work with them. And we tend to work more with individuals now. So the story of today was I get to the office and we have two phone calls. We have one that the family is desperate that they need a temp and the split story came through was this as a family of six that the that a tree fell on their tent, which didn't make a lot of sense to us. So it takes a while to sort of sort through what that answer is. So I had because we didn't have the two people who most often deal with homelessness. I had two people in the office get on that one who were connected to youth and community programs. And then I got a call from the state marshal's office that they were moving a person in Pomfret from her home of 20 years that had been taken by the bank and the new owner was coming in. And she had just realized that there was nowhere else to go that this was this was the end of the road state Marshall called me and I went over and worked all day with her. The miracle of today the wonderful miracle we're the kind people at access, who

made rope for her and her dog. And although this woman had worked and lived in her house, her own home all of her life. She will spend tonight and probably the next six months or so in the shelter as they work to rehouse her. She's a great candidate for rapid rehousing and if I can keep her there, she will do very well and I will keep checking in on her so to speak then becomes the given and the support base but I can tell you that three people came out into the parking lot to gently pull her into that space and keep her safe and keep her taken care of they understood kind of what what she was facing tonight. It's heartbreaking. And I am seeing more and more and more of this this woman is in her 70s None of us should be facing in our 70s So I guess I would continue to say that the lift is hard. But there are human beings out there and we know how to navigate these things. If you know someone who's struggling please get them to contact us thoroughly. We can do so much more when we're contacted early. I would have liked to have seen her never spent a night in shelter. She's she's going to have a lot to deal with there. But we'll stay with her and will will will comfort her. I went from there over to now which is northeast opportunities to wellness and top five middle schoolers have so it was really fun to go back to my office so one of my colleagues brought me all the sewing stuff that I had in the office and I taught these kids that so so that's kind of what the day in the life looks like antique that we're just we're able to do these things. And then I got to come here tonight. We are grateful for all you do for us, all of you folks, and we're grateful to the community. We're gonna keep working with you through the summer. We've got a lot of new stuff going on. Our juvenile review board will continue to meet the schools gave us a bunch of kids at the end of the end of the year. But that's that's something that we'll be looking for members if you'd ever interested in sitting on a juvenile Review Board. It's a restorative justice system. It's very interesting system and it's something that often works very well for the youth and their families. That's just a little touch. Thank you for asking me to speak tonight.



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Thanks, Dan.



35:32

How does he this is some of the heavier issuers as you said hours to work and connect and utilize a book together with separation of church and state asking you're wide open.



35:54

Yeah, so a lot of churches give us a lot of support. A great deal. Of support some of the smaller churches, like I can't believe what they can do even though they may have like 20 parishioners manual Lutheran so it's been really great. You know, they'll do a milk drive and we'll get money for milk, no milk, money drive. So churches are very, are very supportive in many ways. Not all churches, but we have our ecumenical is in our name. And the reason that it's in our name is is that we were founded 38 years ago by a group of churches in Thompson that wanted to do something for the folks who lived in what they called three rows at the time now River Mill Village, and they got together with a diocesan grant all these churches and decided that they were going to build a place area, and they were going to teach people how to parent, a hub and people kind of came in and said, You're not going to teach us to parent that's not your business. So they they said well what do you want to do and we can teach you how to do this,

this this and they said we want to learn how to quilt. So they put together this quilt that represents the three rows and they sat around in hand quilted it and while they were quilting, they talked about budgeting nutrition, and guess what? child rearing, so we kind of get around in that way in a very organic way. And we still are really grateful to our churches so we've left those T is a weird acronym right like people like what's T but we feel like the church has helped found us and and we want to really honor that part of our background. We have I mean, you name a church, I could probably tell you they are they're helping us they're in there at Christmas time and we the church out in East Woodstock does a cooler drive. And so they all bring coolers and they come to church on a Sunday in the spring and we go over with our truck and pick up a truckload of fresh food, frozen meats, fresh vegetables, milks and so forth. So people have different ideas as to how to help the church in Pomfret and the Christ Church and Pomfret and evangelical Covenant Church and Woodstock. You're the other owners of the two food programs that we established there. And that's worked really well because the churches really work with the two schools that are running. So, you know, that's been a long standing friendship. Also, we are the hosts for the business association mixer next month. Yes,

 38:35

we're going to talk about that too. We will

 38:36

ask friends to come come join us bring your family bring your spouse, your significant other. We're gonna tour you through the pantry and show you what we do. We have a playgroup that meets Outback 30 families, and we have a garden that we just put back together if you're on its back. Using kids in this area is a really great Thompson and Putnam kids have put this back together and and the families are going up and kind of, you know, pedaling around in the garden. So there's some really good stuff happening. And if you could make it to our mixer, we'd love to tour you around. Yeah.

 39:11

Thank you. Thanks, Dan. All right. terior up

 39:16

yeah. So actually the transition because fatigue is one of the organizational partners on the big project that we've been working on now. Well, I've been personally working on for about five years, which is the 65 main project. We are eight months through a 12 month public workshop process which is ran funded by USDA urban agricultural and innovative agriculture, an innovative production program. That's what is allowing us to create the master plan for the future of that facility. And at the June meeting, which I hope you will all attend on Wednesday, the 26th from six to eight in this room. We're having three guest speakers, one from the Willimantic food Co Op one from a sort of similar programs what we have in mind called COVID name, they're based out of warm Rhode Island, and also a not new anymore but a relatively young farmer, someone who has recent experiences starting a professional farm because the

focus of that facility has always been at least partially positive as supporting agriculture and food system businesses. That is because of the particular nature of the community of Thompson and community priorities. That as I've said before, we're going to try to map that future facility to whatever the needs of the small business community and the public school needs that we can so your continued input, or your new input, if you haven't been a part of it yet, are definitely valuable in that process. Dan's been to most of the meetings Brian spends most of the meeting



41:04

I'll be at the next one. By the way. I wanted to make sure to tell you that tonight.



41:09

But that was going to be really cool. For those of you to whom the project is entirely new,



41:17

there's a building just down the street. Number 65 Main Street townhomes that used to be the team building until they relocated up the hill via school about 1213 years ago and it's been vacant ever since. The conditions of the deed and the will under which it was given to the town. Can't sell it can't knock it down. If lightning strikes it and it burns to the ground the town is obliged to build rebuild it in kind but small dependent on residential property taxes was created what for a long time seen as an unsolvable problem. So from an initial grant of \$2,500 from The Last Green Valley to put a community garden in the backyard, we've leveraged it into, I don't know, like almost \$400,000 in grants from the state the Fed private organizations. I have four more grant applications either already submitted or soon to be submitted. One of which we already kind of know is funded. So it's going to be from that initial \$2,500 investment. well over a million dollars invested in this property, none of it being local property taxes, except that first \$2,500 etc. And in the end, that facility will do a couple of things. It will have a connection to the public school system with some kind of new career path based in agriculture. could connect to the existing culinary program could connect to the existing business and marketing program. We're going to kick off a little pilot senior project probably in spring of 25, where the marketing students actually promote the ongoing progress of the of the master project through you know, video production and website



43:44

So more intensive on actually teaching business skills to not just high school students, but to people who are at that point where they want to be entrepreneurs, get out into the world, but maybe not by pursuing college programming by pursuing something in the community. So the whole soup to nuts is still, you know, years completion away. But starting in spring and 25, we hope to really be getting some activity associated with the space so



44:15

well, I mean, there's been a lot of activity already.

44:19

There's been activity but there hasn't been programming. That's what I mean. Oh, I

44:22

got you Okay, well, yeah, there's tons of activity. Yeah, the building is coming along nicely already. It's great to see. So

44:29

we've got a little more work to do on the first federal renovation grant. Trying to pin Dave Edie down to get out there and do some siding repair so don't go out to bid on exterior painting. That will expand my first federal grant. But, you know, without going too much into it, we probably have another \$730,000 coming from the Fed to be confirmed sometime between September of this year in March of next year. That's part of the congressional appropriations process, which is a volatile process. So the timing of it is fluid, and they do have the option of reducing my overall request, but in practice, those appropriations requests do tend to get approved and next week I'll be submitting a grant request for a little over 4 million to two. All of the Main Street road surface and sidewalks. Finished renovating that and redoing a couple of the little veterans parks. Swanson Park and then this little unnamed Island thing out here in front of mill and that's where I'm at happy to take any questions about that or any other thing.

45:43

Anybody All right, we're moving on. Thank you, Jerry. Brian, back to you. EDC report

45:53

in DC. leave out anything that Tara said. Because she covers the grants and the 65 main project. last meeting we we we do update on 65 the monthly meetings that we have, as well as we update on what TVA is doing, including the mixer that we had April 30 new businesses that looked for adopted trade names. We had JL home improvement in Thompson home remodeling and we had atomic pest control on Blaine Roode doing pest control we had Todd Callan back who's heading up our our marketing project covering main and the main main street and the main corridor. He's attended the last two northeast Connecticut commercial real estate meetings to get a feel for what's going on in the whole area, because he's from the western part of the state. He came in and spent additional time with Tierra and our town clerk Renee he's looking for curb appeal suggestions. What do you see when you come into town? What would you like to see what you vision so he's looking for suggestions. He's also doing interviews with successful businesses in town. How did you start how? What kind of hurdles there were How did how are you functioning in Thompson? Again to get a better feel of how he can help.

STRS said the next marketing and revitalization meeting of the downtown core including 65 main is June 26, Wednesday. In this room. EDC does have an open slot for an alternate doesn't take a lot of effort. Alternates get treated like members but they they come in the voting if we don't have enough members for a quorum. It's only one meeting a month, the Wednesday following the TBA meeting.



48:25

This month because it's up.



48:26

Yeah, and I was gonna say that and I'm sorry I stole your thunder. You did and I'm extremely hurt no, now you have a lot of good stuff to say. Yeah, the next one follows a new federal holiday in June. And so the townhall is an open and we're not allowed to have meetings. So our next meeting will be in July and I think I'm good



49:00

questions, etc questions. You're gonna think Brian's just



49:06

like to add something though, and it just occurred to me. Man was saying earlier, and it has relationships. It does have a relationship to EDC. Most certainly has relationships with planning and zoning. We're going to be coming out on our annual update to the zoning regulations which is something to be committed to doing when we did the major overhaul in 2021. One of the things that we did, which was super super important in terms of being able to properly develop this downtown area and the other areas in town that are supported by public water and sewer, either both public water and sewer or either award and number 10. Two through 12 is is we we very drastically reduced minimum lot sizes, where there's utility support. It went from 20,000 square feet, which is about roughly half acre to 4500 square feet. Which by the way, it was not random. If you take a walk up to floral Avenue, those are historic footprints of the houses in this neighborhood. Right? So because status quo bias is real. There has been a lot of verbal resistance, insisting that we're trying to make Thompson like Western, like you know, you vomit out whatever you want to say about that. Because we come up on his annual update inevitably somebody comes out of the woodwork to try to get us to increase those minimum lot sizes again, but as business owners in particular, you should really want those minimum lot sizes to be small, because the density that supports customers and the density that supports smaller housing units into which our seniors or young families or singles can move only becomes necessary. If the cost to develop those locks is lower. That is what small lot sizes get you. So you will probably see over the next couple of months some public hearings coming up because regulatory updates to the zoning regulations require them. If you are interested in the economic development of Thompson, I would request that you try to mentally mark time to come out and speak in support of that, particularly if you start to hear people taking that

opposite position. I don't think they're doing it to be malicious. I think they do it because they don't understand how things work, but they can be very loud and ultimately that is a counterproductive measure. All right.

 51:56

I have a question. To remain No, I don't think we have the signs up saying route 12 is closed. June 17. bridge

 52:05

right? Route 12 is probably the length of this route.

 52:09

And that's what I think but the sign says route 12 closed from

 52:13

and it's not close really right? It's isn't yet well, it's gotta be because they're gonna take that whole thing right out and start over.

 52:21

You don't even think that that's a bridge right? But that is in fact a bridge and that's what they're doing. So once that community way,

 52:29

I believe

 52:30

it leave that where it is located. There is no house that can't get in or out. Right but there are some abutting houses that are going to be a little inconvenience but which which bridge so it's it's really a culvert. So it doesn't really look like a bridge but it is yeah, it is a bridge in your head going over. But it's next to Valerie Martino's house I think

 52:56

right right before us and JJ that's



52:59

what I figured it was that one



53:01

yeah. What it's gonna mean for people coming through though, that left that simple, stale and correct. The left eggs that he'd been on to 14 to 12 that stay open, and you'll have to go the damn road to blame road come around that. There's gonna be a lot more traffic on the rear road over to 93 up as cut across, particularly from Thompson to Putnams 200 is unaffected it'll probably be some more traffic up to 100 to get to the other three they're gonna



53:36

set up a specific detour right I mean, obviously they're not gonna just right so it's



53:41

not the town doing it on their plan, they could assume I mean, that the detour signs out there and covered now, right? Yeah, yeah. That goes behind



54:00

to brochures. Oh, right. Yeah, that's right. That's right. There is a little Rachel drive as



54:09

well, that would be nice. If that works for sure.



54:11

Yeah, I was gonna say it doesn't really affect southbridge Savings Bank, but she lives in town so it's good to bring it up. Okay, yeah, thank you. All



54:21

right. So when he radio this month, we're all set. We have Chris cognac from Red beards date and Fat Boys welds, and then Eric Boucher. Is that how you pronounce that? Yeah. I would have definitely I probably butchered the other one too. Well, it's spelled brochure so okay. brochure.

Oh, yeah. Thanks. I'm sorry. But anyway, that's but after that we don't have anybody for winning radio. So sign up to another calm perk of being a member of the TBA. You get to go on the radio with Gary, it's always a good time talking about your business. So sign up,



55:04

please, even if you've been on before,



55:07

we're going to have to get back to social media stats next month. So we're skipping that summer mixer. You got that thing like and pointed out that there is a typo in this one. So as you will get this fixed right away and there'll be online just t here and is spelled wrong and one of two spots. So But anyway, this is going to be great mixer, we're teaming up. It's already been said tonight, but we're teaming up with the WD ba the Webster Dudley Business Alliance. Car mixers typically get 2530 people show up. I've been to plenty of their mixers, same thing. So we're both working together to market it. I think it's going to be a great night. Tea is an awesome facility. They're providing the barbecue bars. iati group is going to provide beer and wine from Taylor Brook brewery and winery. So I think it's gonna be a great night Summer Picnic come as cheese burgers and hotdogs and more importantly help us promote this. We're gonna do it already on Facebook and our website but take one of these, make copies of it, share it put it up. If you have a space a window, you can put it in, please do that. Just help share it on social media when it starts to show up. That's a huge help if if you share it, so anything else about that?



56:27

I suppose so something else on



56:29

here. But we can be rain or shine. We've got indoor and outdoor space so should accommodate everyone.



56:35

Cool. We're hoping for SHINE summer barbecue. No,



56:39

you want to use it. If I can meet it right. Great. That'd be great. You know how to get in touch with me. Yeah, ultimately



56:53

cool music at a summer barbecue is kind of important. Okay, good. And then that's That's it. Let me be okay, that's about it for tonight. I just want to remind is a little early still it's only June but an October October meeting this year. We are going to open up for people that want to take over leadership positions, people that want to be considered for leadership for next year. And then at our January meeting, we're also gonna give the board the current board an opportunity to to say whether they want to remain on the board next year and have an opportunity to do that or whether they don't want to do that anymore. And then at our January annual meeting, we will that we haven't been having but we will start having this January this coming January. We will vote on that. And I think there's gonna be some changes next year. Cool. Is there any announcements that anybody would like to make before we wrap up? Any special announcements? No.



57:58

Okay.



57:59

And now I'm gonna adjourn this meeting at 628. Thanks, everybody, for coming.



58:04

And now the business character.



58:06

Oh yeah, let's draw a business card and put one end. Any members members business cards should be in here. If you haven't met anyone. One has the last month because that's my love. Okay, well we'll see if your women well



58:32

so well




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so well





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