

Town of Thornton - Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes 8-21-2023

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: N/A

- **Chair J. Peznola opened the meeting at 5:00 with the Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Approval of Meeting Minutes from 7/17/23**
 - 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
- **Review Town Hall “Green” Land use Ideas and Draft Plan**
 - o J Peznola presented a concept plan based on the input of ideas from the public meeting
 - o B Hatcher suggested that one multi-use court (pickleball/basketball) be considered rather than two separate courts
 - o B Hatcher recommended that the next step is to create a phased implementation plan
 - The committee agreed on recommending the following:
 - 1a. gazebo
 - 1b. pavilion
 - 2. playground
 - 3. multi-use court
 - o Recognizing that the budget season for the town starts in October and runs through the first week of February (warrant articles), the committee will research approximate costs for the above ideas
 - o J. Peznola discussed maintenance of the Green
 - The grass is already mowed
 - Recommend carry in carry out for trash
 - o J. Monti suggested we consider adding power to the concept plan
 - o Action: J. Peznola will obtain estimates for the ideas listed above
- **Update Landfill Solar**

- J. Monti stated that Town Map 237 shows the easement under the powerlines and upon review the committee recognizes that there is not enough available land at the transfer station for solar panels
- Discussion ensued of other properties that the town owns
- J. Monti stated that p. 55 of the Thornton Annual Report shows the land owned by the town. We would need approx. 2 acres for the battery project.
 - Adams Farm Road – 4 acres
 - Transfer Station – 13 acres, 7 acres, 4.5 acres
 - Covered Bridge Road – 9 acres
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- **Discussion Full-Time Homeowners Tax Savings**
 - B. Hatcher presented three scenarios of a homestead-style tax exemptions
 - J. Monti reported that the town legal counsel suggested seeking a determination by the Dept of Revenue Administration
 - Action: B. Hatcher to reach out to Benoit
- **Discuss the formation of a 501 C3 Organization**
 - Defer to the September meeting
- **Open Discussion**
 - Blake Mountain Glamping
 - Parking lots to access public lands is not addressed in Zoning
 - Bob Hatcher to contact Jeb Boyd to join an EDC meeting
- **Motion to Adjourn**
 - **Motion:** B. Hatcher
 - **Second:** J. Monti
 - **Discussion:** N/A
 - **Vote:** 4 Yes – 0 No
 - **Motion Passes**
 - Meeting Adjourned
- **Next meeting – Sep 18th at 5pm**