

TBA 12/14/2022

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00:00

Share in the large and All right, I'll call this meeting to order at 530. Yeah



00:12

okay, so the same thing with the minutes that we had last month we're recording the minutes with my phone. We have they were they were sent out in the email there. There is a transcribe that's like 35 pages long. And then there's audio file too. So there's no minutes because we don't have anybody to take them for us to read and approve. So sir, any objection to that? All right, cool.



00:41

If you'd like I'll make a motion to accept. Oh, yeah. All the favor? Post. Meeting adjourned. Perfect. Okay.



00:56

Has everybody signed in? And there's a sign in sheet going around here somewhere. And then everybody has their business card and you carry you. I know but you can't win again because you get six months so I just six months. Yeah. You've been on there like a couple times twice. Yeah. With all the electricity on the site. We have to let everybody have an opportunity. That's your card in there oh Oh



01:53

Hi, Stephanie. We already have your card. I'm gonna put it back in there. Hi, Joanne. Good, how are you? Yeah.



02:11

Because she doesn't have one I think it was up there for six months he was



02:50

alright, let's do our business pitches.



02:58

Don't have a timer.



02:59

Jody Erickson owner of your your neighborhood resident learn. I hold the seat here for well, actually, we don't hold seats. I do the website design and development. I actually did the website development for the TV, TV a website. So if anybody ever has any question about that website, let me know. So I know we do custom website design and development. I do maintenance on the blog or in logo design. Ecommerce, you name it, I do it. It's something I want to mention is that between now and two years, I'm having a flash sale and it still gets 50% off if anybody buys you've ever been interested in their website or if you buy it you to get between now and midnight. So if anybody wants that URL, let me know and I'll send you a link your page today.com We're always on the same page Yes, sir. Sarah James I own flowers cleaning and Painting Services LLC. We clean the paint me. Doc said don't don't help. Don't come with some highlights. Up Dog sitting I don't even know how.



04:19

What about cleaning dogs.



04:23

Painting dogs. Oh lord.



04:29

Liability there too. Hopefully post construction preconstruction, bi weekly, weekly and monthly. Try weekly, and all that good stuff.



04:42

This one not that one.



04:45

Category tech service I'm gonna start to get crazy. So I'm going to start. Thank you. If anybody wants to pitch for me, I'm just on myself right now. So is it amazing?



05:07

The businesses of the Year Award for?



05:23

SP digital services



05:27

team. Everything from



05:30

websites SEO Google ads, services so please. biggest the biggest struggle anyone has attracted



06:00

to Google



06:01

ads, Instagram, Facebook, SEO, websites social media



06:10

management, marketing.



06:13

Engagement boosting What's your domain? Your website is being digital services. I'm going to call you because I'm interested in your Google services.



06:31

Read Shawna



06:34

Thompson first gave me Thompson to do doing a bit during bicycling events that I wrote about getting around cycling last year and I got an event in Providence and got up making about a \$10 million economic impact. Budget have a pretty big budget. And then I dealing with the city of Providence. I realized I could count and I only had one kidney left because they had taken the other one. Yeah, everybody had a cousin that needed a job. So I came to Thompson Speedway it was a different type of an event. And while I changed what I did in driving around here, I started just going to the Walmart or Home Depot. Y'all have some really nice roads. dirt roads are the biggest thing right now in cycling. blows away all the growth and all this sort of cycling. Cycling it's people don't realize it but it's a bigger user group in America and then tennis it's bigger. User Group in ski. It's a bigger group golf golf skiing and cycling here we're, you've ever heard the term signal to noise ratio? It's a very crowded calendar. I wanted to go for the last Sunday in March because it's no competition for that weekend. It's darkest. If you look at our website, I will say to this event is tomorrow. The weather's too bad. Don't come. It's just too hard. And then registration opens tomorrow and we'll probably sell out. We started with 150 riders were racing for classes this year. The economic impact will be about 1.2 5 million overall if we can get them to stay because we're moving into more one day drive and drive out to the top speed which now we're adding a little Saturday event to a couple of things with some of the businesses and putting them to a restaurant or a nightclub. So we're trying to go into a weekend and bleakest worst weekend to do any business. But I wanted a because it makes me more welcomed by you guys. Consider that time of year all you're doing if you're in business and cleaning your revolver and waiting for tourism to pick back. On top so we come in and we hopefully the reason I'm here is that this is sort of low impact high reward return on investment comes from New York City. So it's a pretty big demo that comes in and they look ridiculous and they were coated sunglasses and they look like they're in a bathing suit but they're really thin. And we really believe that the echo the impact of this is that they'll come up to this region, and instead of driving five hours to go to football and why don't we just go to Oh, it's up to the client corner and do some free riding up there. So that's what I'm here to make as good of a guest as I can be to your community. So I'm here to drive on. I've talked a lot the white border and I think you guys have a great place. I want to see what I can do to help so the weekend



10:31

app is probably close to 100 What the loop is between Rhode Island Connecticut.



10:38

Well the airline is what it is finally connected. Just a real quick story. Yes, I'm a bike hippies nut job I wrote this summer from Pittsburgh where I grew up to Washington DC. I've never touched a road. There's a bike path on the Great Allegheny Passage and connects to the C and O Canal. So it's not that I did it. But what amazed me was how many people lined up to do that thing. Every song there are just legions of people wanting to do that. Right. But what impressed me about it and for new folks, they should develop the airline. I did it with my 73 year old sister. And she was on an evening and she had a blast. We had no Papa but it was us trying to try to keep up with her. I guess I'm telling you that this is an emerging Travel and Tourism asset that

you guys win that connection apples and Putnam. Be ready it's gonna really generate a lot of smiling happy people. Well, thanks for coming. Sure. You guys. We can make mostly over here. Yeah, come on. We gotta you gotta business card

 11:57

everyone, Nicole, you've done your lawn care. We are a full service landscaping lawn care and slate service company. committed it here we serve as far south and east west from probably server to dock with Oxford. Like I said, we're just finishing up our fall to winter season so far cleanups fertilization. We're now in our prime, commercial, industrial and residential snow salmon calming. There's not much that we don't do. A lot of community outreach. We just started a subsidiary company going to transport company. What that's going to be specializing in is specialty and will transport and cargo transport right now we're pretty much locked in eastern Midwest and east coast. So no one Florida, anywhere in between. But we have a lot of resources at our fingertips as far as hopefully that grows because I think it's important to diversify in the upcoming years. And I also will echo so anyone needs any help with winter workers spring

 13:15

which will be here.

 13:18

Would you do automotive transport?

 13:21

I have the capability.

 13:22

Absolutely. Especially

 13:28

horses so probably cattle

 13:31

show cattle or



13:33

proper expensive rabbits and dogs but a lot of people that go from Big Cats originally, my children are employed from this area. And every time we need animal transport, there's no one around and there's very few services and so I've started need and that's where that came from. I've developed that need and hopefully there's a Woodstock



14:24

area with us to do stuff



14:30

close to a year ago Yeah, so in trouble get together yeah but yeah, that's kind of where that's going. So anyone needs anything referrals?



14:51

Can you do east coast? For now



14:56

Yeah. Yeah. Have a couple of bits out there for Missouri. Ohio, stuck back up to New England. But yeah, pretty popular this time of year people in New England. Cayman Islands to South Carolina in Ocala, Florida.



15:17

Her daughter Lucia.



15:19

What's happening now? You know, I'm not a huge fan of these third party sites, whether it be from Uber, Uber or you ship or even like, you know from a contractor. I always get on Angie's list but they have a sister



15:35

company called home



15:38

advisor. Leads I have plenty of business. Yeah. I don't. I don't really believe

 15:46

in that business model. Yeah, those people are sketchy

 15:48

as an as an owner. Like if you're pushing that, yeah, they're making money. It's probably a good idea. They're marketing. You know? They're washing

 15:57

their hands. They keep

 15:58

they've organized. They failed a few times. They've keep changing names. They were service magic. 20 years ago. I have

 16:05

no

 16:07

businesses like her and I optimized websites. Yes.

 16:11

Yes. So that's another work in progress to take advantage of soon. Yeah, so we'll see what the future holds. Dave, Dave Adelphi I work here and basically if you need any personal or business checking accounts, credit cards, anything like come see me there to help

 16:41

small community bank so you can call us and email me and I get back to you fairly quickly as long as I'm working to get back to you within an

 16:51

11 16:51
hour or so.

16:54
I can't say I can't say enough about

16:57
this branch. You know, it's hometown Bay, you can go to this brand or you can go to Woodstock. You go this branch, things get processed by venture. Woodstock. It's 15 to 20 minutes. I can't understand why. Yeah, they just cut the Thompson

17:20
I have to tell you the story so my son's debit card but jammed in the machine it Saturday night. Like I just purchased I emailed I emailed the bank. Maria got back to me, they was on the phone, meeting him down there to get his card out on a Saturday and

17:43
try that with Bank of America. So

17:52
try to help out. Sort of expanding a little bit. Yeah.

18:00
I don't see us going and

18:04
I'd see us more going towards what's there

18:11
Oh yeah. Europe

18:24

tech solutions, anything that's techie. I do everything from theater, surround sound. Wi Fi of slow spotty Wi Fi. Done a lot of church going to church video not big churches because for big churches can afford big companies that do good. But I do a lot of that and we've done some work recently in southbridge. A couple of camera jobs, some security cameras for the house, business and do that. cameras as well. Different options people go by and future strong please don't be first, but anything that's tech related. I can help with smartphone stuff. So yeah. I think I'm a techie guy. But I'm not a lot of stuff. Actually. But I think that's why I can help Tara, TV, whatever you need

 19:30

to. I don't want to ask them already picks them up, put them up everything up Saturday. We're gonna be working igloos come in I'm happy as

 19:47

easy to work with.

 20:00

You he's great.

 20:05

Terrapin, Director of Planning and Development for the town of Thompson. I'm really here to be a liaison between you guys and the town answer questions as I can. Gary I'm sure will attest that I will give you an answer. And people sound credible

 20:23

it's amazing. I was like oh woke up and she took the wind right out of my sails. What she always does, I thought Gary, stomping on growing stumps. We also have a second business Wilsonville herb farm which is shut down for the season. Opening up back in April, back in a great year a great community response. But I'm still grinding stuff such as snow snow on the ground

 21:11

I was just gonna ask if you do it all winter and everybody says walk the grass grounders giveaway Yeah. I really don't prefer to work Monday

 21:34

direct to consumers



21:36

or consumers. That was mostly we sell plants but we're were evolving. This is our second year. So I bought a 22 year old barn. Last week I was last year I started stuff a little bit earlier. I own the we bought a freeze dryer. So we're gonna freeze dried herbs with the beautiful bottom herbs is that there's no waste so, so I'm excited about that, but unfortunately, it's like



22:13

so I'm real busy on the staff side. So I'm trying to put more time my wife doesn't. We're open. Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. So she's always here but



22:29

ya know, it's, it's really taken off. What why we came to it was that my wife was to grow some herbs and she couldn't find the plants. And everybody, basil or whatever, say whatever. So we really expanded quite a following just two years



22:49

ago. But we have we were two years in a row were invited to the Woodstock to just be a president Tom what we do and that was tremendous to be invited to the Woodstock fairground.



23:19

Oh, yeah, Arafat speaking about herbs. I don't know if anybody tried it but I had about chocolate stuff so let's try to have chocolate chocolate well the Bailey's around



23:51

him rentos. Good. Join



23:59

a service agent. Service provide services to folks and we also provide services to those three



24:14

programs for folks to death and everything okay, cool. Brian,



24:27

Brian, the tech services looking at retirement until you work outside to wait to open and chair Economic Development Commission the council of economic development needs. That's it. Bob



24:59

pivot center which is what crematory recently expanded my playing field. Dirty brothers. I also the city really excited to buy? Cool.



25:34

All right. And I'm Dan Bennett, the owner of dBc solutions where we transform the space you live into a place you'll love to be in. And Jody just finished making some pretty big improvements to my website. So we have a full Resource Center now. Where so there's blogs and frequently asked questions and all that good stuff. And it's all searchable. So if you're looking for kitchen answers, about kitchens, you can type in kitchen and articles will pop up about that. But then, even more importantly than that is on the pricing pages. We have the kitchen and bathroom window now. There's a remodeling bid or a bathroom transformation calculator and a kitchen transformation calculator. So you can input the value market value of your home, the quality of the remodel and the size of the room, and it'll spit out an approximate price that you could expect to spend on a remodel. So lots of information there. If you have questions, we can answer them



26:39

Yes, visit dBc dot solutions to learn more.



26:42

Thanks Yeah Okay, moving on my urine wrap up report. So, we've had a great year. I have a list of accomplishments here that we'll talk about in a second. But I wanted to start out a little bit by just saying you know how we got here. So Brian, how long ago did you start this 1011 2011 2011 years. And then you did it How long before Charlene took over.



27:20

We had a precedent for a short time, and I had it for five or six years. Charlie came in with the neutral.



27:30

Okay. I thought I thought Charlene had done it for six years. But regardless, we it's been 11 years.

, 2015.

 27:38

Okay, so and then you know, Charlene got sick of doing it. She's got other things going on that she's focused on her her energy on and and then she asked me to do it and I said no, and she asked me again and I said no again

 28:05

so we

 28:07

did well, she started talking about like we were going to we're going to switch to a quarterly format and, you know, I just saw that it was you know if that's the direction it was going to go and it was it wasn't going to happen anymore. I felt like so I had a meeting with Jody, she agreed to jump on his vice president and help and create the website. So

 28:27

he's a membership, right?

 28:31

So I said, you know, alright, let's do it. See where you know what happens here?

 28:36

It's been an interesting year.

 28:39

I last year. Well, we'll go over the purpose and overview again, real quick. The purpose of the Thompson Business Association is to promote and publicize the Thompson Business Association members as a whole. This purpose is to be achieved by unified advertising public relations and promotion campaigns to encourage the growth and success of all member businesses. My my goals as President, when I started out, were to create a culture that will encourage other members to want to be on the leadership team, so that we can keep this thing growing and moving on but I'm so and we have to we have to create that system. Like you know, I've started talking to Gary Gary Oh, from when he radio obviously everybody knows Gary, and he's the he's he's just stepping down now. From being president of the PBA for two years. And, you know, they have a nominating committee, right. So they have 212 members. So it's definitely

different at this point, but then we were up to 54 members, and and I feel like we have to create it, or it's never going to happen. So even though right now, we're not that big of a group, we we just have to do it. Think big, you know, and then it'll happen if we, if that's the way we do it, but if we don't, we're just going to keep doing the same thing over and over again. In you know, in five years from now, it's not going to take that long. But I'm going to be going I'm done with this and then you know, hopefully somebody else takes over but, but I feel like we have all the potential in the world to create something similar to what they do in Putnam. And it's just a matter of us say it, okay, this is what we do every two years. We have a shift in, in the leadership. And you know, honestly, when you're if you're on leadership, then you advance your position in the community because you're you're more visible for that period. of time. So that that should that alone should be the motivation. That's what all of the the business associations do is that's that's the motivation to to be on leadership. So and you know, that like I said, they in Putnam, they do it with a nominating committee. So I mean, we, as a leadership team, just have to say, create that, you know, this is going to be our nominating committee and they, they there's a nominating committee that meets they have their separate meetings and they nominate people to be pres the upcoming president and stuff like that.



31:29

So when it comes to becoming president, they already have the Vice President and Treasurer, Secretary.



31:38

You're in the chairs for wild learning. All



31:41

right. President pretty much



31:45

right? Yeah. I thought I'm not positive. I think I thought platinum was just a goes up, start at the bottom and you work your way up through the leadership, right, every two years and then your president. Yeah. So, um, and then create written processes so that the TVA can be passed on to the next leadership team and everybody will know what to do and it's a work in progress. We've we've made some progress on it. This year, but it still needs still needs to be worked on. establish some regular networking events that will bring benefit to our members and will continue to be successful and grow with the TVA. We've done that we have at least one solid one on the books that we're going to continue to do every year and to Yeah, well, wait, so the expo, right? Oh, yeah. Right. Right. So the spring mixer is definitely the one that I was we're gonna continue to do but and then we add more to and we also do have the business expo so so yeah, again, it's a work in progress. But yeah, we we, we got to work and



33:04



33:31

I'm a big guy as always, I'm always on Kerber pizza and I take one of the reasons why we don't do as well. This is just my opinion, as far as the expo or whatever it is, because you got that ugly chain link fence that goes right along the tracks, is not inviting, not inviting at all. So I would think that if we could try to find a place in town, that's more curb appeal friendly, private. We talked about we talked about



33:42

100% on board, sending your last meeting. More not pending, but from our last meeting I 100% abroad that



33:51

I've been working over there



33:57

elected me to their vice presidents Association really working together.



34:04

What's the parking situation like that?



34:09

I'm sure we could use



34:10

an apples to apples so you got behind the Congregational Church



34:16

and I'm sure behind Vernon styles. That's probably a 20 in our lawsuit. Very bad.



34:28

As far as I mean, even people coming in for directions



34:34

 34:34

if we really are forced to stop and take a look.

 34:39

We've talked about this in economic development, not just the fact that you can't see the field. Yeah, it can happen to be driving by and saying oh forget all of our, the monthly concerts that community gay people in town so something that we would be willing to talk

 35:12

about. Well, that's awesome. I'm glad you brought that up. And I'm glad that we that Nick was here to say that because that's now that we know that we can think about that for sure. That's beautiful up there. For sure.

 35:26

Such a waste of space that they have. They're funny is to maintain that stuff out there is very limited. Nice. But why don't they do something like you know, like that and then

 35:42

so that's, that's fine. That's what the whole last meeting was about was really to reinvent that association that common to make it sustainable. Because right now through that association, which is about 120 members, it's just not the contract. Maybe I have been I've been doing a lot of pro bono work for free, cleaning it up, getting other landscapers and tree companies and stock removal companies and everything to really take it to the next level. And we're now at that point where we're at that next level. So in the spring, it's gonna go up for bid for contracts. But we're working on fundraising opportunities right now. They do. But um, even though it's privately held land, I think the church is in agreeance. Now, that it's, it's, it's a staple of this community and it should be used as such. And they're totally on board with that, you know, last week sort of historical society in conjunction with Thornfield Hall had like a winter bazaar thing, which was great. I don't know if anybody went by but they had the whole column filled with vendors and stuff, and that's a better thing. But it was spread out and look well, what you should expect to see. And hopefully in the future, we're going to really take that landscaping at the common that's been here and bring it should be kind of working on that now. We did a community cleanup a couple of weeks ago I want to say after day and have like six landscape companies there.

 37:34

I saw your I saw your post on Facebook stuff

 37:38

11 37:30

it's ever gone. And it's probably the best

37:41

alive knife.

37:42

Nice. So, you know in conjunction with historical Historical Society in the village of Provence signing in, I mentioned us in our involvement in our willingness to work with them. They were very interested in that. You should all see that. So anything you want to see, you know, whether it be for craft fairs or for spring or whatever. That's 100% on the table. This power up there. I think eventually will expand the power is a pretty good supply of power but I think it may be some form of marking things you're gonna need

38:29

to be prepared or

38:32

I've already tried. They're well aware. I'm just trying to bridge the gap between everybody. Rick is realistically everybody asked them, the townspeople live on the common, you know, because my business is more or less right on or off the comments. You know, it's only an eighth of a mile on Thompson roads. Yeah, so it's very transparent or very in your face. So that's what I explained to them.

39:03

All right, we got to keep moving.

39:07

And the last one was to create an engaging meeting format that's efficient and timely, so more people are encouraged to participate and find value in the TBI so I think we've been pretty good at that. We've been more people come in here. We definitely stick to the time and get out of here at seven o'clock. So everybody's coming back. So and then. So, you know, basically the same goals moving forward. And you know, I'm if we're like, if, if all this is working and we're making progress, then I'll probably be convinced to do it for another year. You know, but, but if next year if we get to the end of my second year, and we're still just doing the same thing, and we haven't advanced any than, you know, it's gonna be gonna be a different story. So, and I want to see it work. So, and I, you know, I had an interesting conversation with George Demopolis of Woodstock, the manager of of dank hometown in Woodstock. He's the president

of the Woodstock building, association, Business Association. And he said the same thing. He's like, you know, man, he's like, I'm not ashamed to say I've been doing this for six years. And I'm over it. Like nobody will take it from me. I am he's like, where he goes, it's on autopilot. We're doing the same thing that we've done because I just got no more energy for it. So like, I don't want to be there in five or six years from now I want to see this thing. Succeed.



40:34

Written processes like you were talking about before these membership, leadership roles is gonna be really important.



40:41

Yeah, absolutely. And, and Jack and I. So the other thing I was gonna say about that is I think we need to start as the leadership team, and I know we're all busy, but I think we need to start having a separate meeting every month to talk about what we're going to do and how we're going to do it and then come here and then have our public meeting too. And so, to to wrap this up, I just want to go through this list.



41:08

Sure. This common topic that comes up every few months whenever I can come here, how are we going to grow how we're going to do this to get bigger and better and stuff. I'm not saying we can't or we shouldn't but we are a small town and we're not Boston, we're not Western. We're not. Then I asked women here of course, I don't remember the answer. I suppose. So I said, Well, why can't we come together with what stop Thompson



41:56

quietpoint Business Association you know, this is something why are we alone on this? See?



42:05

We just finished this Yeah, sorry. For my business I was at boss gets appliance couple days. Where I said hey, you know if you guys have new TVs, whatever. He says nobody does this stuff anymore. And I'm like, okay, yeah, nobody does that stuff. But there's a business association and every time and why we Thompson which I love, which has great nature. Why are we striving so hard to work to bring moisture out of dry ice not not that Thompson's dry, but you know, I'd love this little video, I think is great, but we should have set our sights. So high because I think we're doing good so I don't want to be the one that rains on the parade here.



42:52

I guess. So we can get we're not platinum. Platinum has actual storefronts. They have things

like peer pressure if my neighbor is in the PBA geez, I better be in the PBN. Gotta miss something. Thompson is not as little as you think we have 500 businesses and the problem people have with any club group organization, as they look and say What can Dan do for me? That that is not we have to get people out of that. What can you do for yourself? We're providing a venue. We're providing a place to meet we're providing a place to interact and get business from each other and tell everybody else about back home town. Everybody's raving about back home town that that's part of what we do. We're giving you a venue, place to have a business expo. We can set up at the food at the food truck, Expo, things like that where you may not have an opportunity to just go out and set up your business. We do it as a group. But there's like I said 500 businesses, we lowered the dues to make it easier for somebody as a small group working out of their garage. You know, little little jewelry franchises and things that we used to have. But combining with something like platinum it's a whole it's apples and oranges. Well yeah,



44:26

I mean, I don't think we I mean I I don't think we're gonna be platinum. I'm not I'm not saying that but we're you know I think there's more potential here for sure. I think we can definitely grow this and and I you know we know we all know that but we've also



44:54

I'm gonna stop.



44:56

No, no.



45:00

Yeah, but we we have to we have to



45:09

and you're you're bringing up the teaming up with I don't know about I never thought about like joining forces and becoming one business association. But I have started the wheels in motion for having a meeting with the other presidents of all the business associations. In the area to exchange some ideas and so on actually right.



45:39

Okay, that's fine. once every couple of months.



45:46

I'm good. It's a great idea



46:06

it was. It was some other organizations.



46:12

Well, that was EDC.



46:17

What it is to me, it's



46:22

on an upswing right now. Enjoy the growth that we have right now. But that's relative and continuing to move forward but have both members know either I didn't set that goal. I said 100. Thanks



46:52

chamber, a lot of different events. Nobody wants to buy



47:07

Thanks, I appreciate that. And yeah, we



47:13

thank you and I was just getting to that, you know, we have accomplished a lot already this year. We started out. I mean, I guess it's been a little over a year now since we've got a website, but we had no website. Now. We have an amazing website. Thanks to Jody. She donated that completely. 100% we just I think we just have to pay for hosting right. Thank you. we more than doubled our membership in the past year. We were in the low 20s. When we started we're at 54 down. We held our first annual spring barbecue mixer a bank hometown in April, was an amazing event. We had a ton of door prizes. We had Gary from winning radio as our emcee, we had g7 catering. The weather was perfect. It couldn't we couldn't have asked for much better. The beer was cold. Yeah. We also took a stab at our first business expo in Riverside Park. We teamed up with the recreation department summer concert series for that. We learned a lot. We didn't have a great turnout, but we learned a lot and we've even got some

more ideas floating about that tonight. So we're gonna do it again next year and make it better. We continued our tradition of setting up at the Thompson community yeah this year and it was fantastic. Jody Decker, Jodi Sandy sorry Jack decorated the booth like Halloween and it was it was spooky and cool. We had a lot of people stop by and talk to us. We had another fantastic year of the golf tournament we raised upwards of \$15,000 again for the weekend warrior program. And that's that's that talking about? Oh, yeah. We have one more than the Thanksgiving dinner which is continue you know, continue to go on how many years is that happen now?



49:06

Easily since her arm was young, so at least it's well over 15 years.



49:11

Oh, wow. That long. I didn't even realize that. And how many people did we feed this year?



49:18

Most largest turnout



49:21

right? And now this year, we've we've got a crew of people that have said please we want to volunteer every year just call us and we'll do the work. We have. We have a restaurant. We have a restaurant that provides the food a lot of the food



49:40

you pay for the turkeys which like more than doubled in price this year, which was so sad. And we paid for an advertisement and shopper said every other thing we think about it every other thing was donated if people give us money, like it was crazy



49:55

yeah. So



49:57

it's like self sufficient thing. It just takes care of itself. We don't have to put any money into it and it's it's great.



50:09

Everybody turns out, you have such a great response like that. But that doesn't get out to the community was such an awesome turnout. You know,



50:22

it does a little bit Gary. Oh stopped up there. So it went on windy radio. Yep, yep. Yep. And put it on their Facebook page. Yep.



50:42

I've been here seven years in town and this is the first year I've heard about it only probably because of as part of this. Right. So President of promotions I can tell you that if you get yourself in the habit of sending actual press releases on TVA letterhead to primarily the villager when you say your real local outlets. They are generally hungry for content they have a very limited number of staff writers. I mean, I can tell you what I sent a press release from the town. They don't even edit it. Right. They print it because they've only got one or two stringers and they are doing a couple of articles a week in but they want to share local news. You might not get it in every time but if you make the point when you have the shred event or the next day of sending a real press release, right so not something that looks like an ad or something with you know what the real information is. Chances are very valuable. And that is three promotion. Can you send me a confirmation? Okay, cool. So you you got to talk about her afterwards to get Yeah,



52:14

we've talked about we've



52:16

that's something we need to improve on for sure. We've talked about it before we need to do it. More is getting photographs of everything and then putting them up



52:25

Yeah. Nobody's good at after the fact. etc all the time. But after the



52:37

value letting people know before obviously it's how you get people there. But the after that is where you sort of burnish your credentials. I say look at these good works. I still remember those images.



52:50

Oh, you also get them fired up for next year. I'm sorry, I missed it can't wait for next year. And we have to do better same thing with EDC IT community day and everything we don't publicize enough afterwards.



53:04

Alright, let's get on to this stuff and buzz through this quickly please because we still have some stuff. It's it's definitely getting late tonight. So Jody, you already said you don't have



53:16

a no but um, just a couple of notes that I've taken during the meetings. I'm going to create a VP of Marketing working process. question I had is should I put the leadership team on the website? Just so it's there? Yeah, we never did. So. Okay. And then press releases Monday. We'll definitely do that. So yeah, I look forward to seeing that information. I mean, it's really it's just contacts, just to have examples of ones that don't they don't even bother to look at them to edit it. I'm sure I can collab with Dan or someone. Exactly, yes.



53:57

You're up quickly is covered. Much. As I said, we're up to 54 members we haven't increased in three or four months. So it's it's been stable at the end of the year. The other stuff I wanted to bring up is the fact that we actually had to give you opportunities to show ourselves the business business expo the the networking events and we're talking about setting up the next food truck. That may be an annual thing. It went well last year even though it was last minute. But it gives us an opportunity to set up as many as we want right now in the field. And you know, it's another topic to talk about making the field more visible or maybe a business expo and Thompson common is in the works. But it's going to be up to us to say yes, I want to set up I want to support myself in the TVA yeah that, that mixer that we did at the bank and never saw somebody's business cards handed out and transfer. That's what we're trying to do. We're trying to give you the opportunity to promote yourself. Right. And we'll do we have more stuff planned. For next year.



55:18

We'll keep talking so we can work. So you know, I just wanted to say like I think your your what you're saying is when we do something like a business expo, we need everybody to come and set up a booth because then that way when people show up, we have some presents last year we tried to do it and like nine people showed up and then four or nine people signed up and four actually showed us



55:42

11 55:40

15 That set up I think we had eight or nine it was very disappointing that enough people didn't show up promote their business. I mean we use we're supplying the venue and doing all the legwork. But on the other side of the coin. The public didn't show up either. Well, we didn't know they weren't gonna show up, see. So it's, it's like we're chasing our tails. If we're there, at least we can say hey, we had 25 businesses, where was the public, but we can't even say

56:18

that but I have to I have to say it again. If you're if you're if you want to get people to come in, if you have a four way stop sign and people are forced to stop and say, hey, I want to know what's going on with

56:32

air. Yeah, like I said, that's another

56:35

term. It makes sense. Right, no sign a job. No, nothing.

56:43

Yeah, it makes it makes sense.

56:51

It's there is an entire process that we go through for months for Maker Faire press releases, social media posts stuff on the side. You know, it's it's it's a lot and a lot of people have to take pieces of that in order to be successful in everything start small before it

57:16

is. And what we did with this Gary, was we've been working a lot more TVA ECT tests, and so we combined this with the summer concerts. That's why

57:28

that particular one has to be down on the field. Like I said, visibility is an issue not only before we

57:34

 57:34

stop sending another thing,

 57:37

but if we want to do an expo say just TBA Expo. Yeah, I'd love to put it in a more visible spot. So we will be talking more we're right now we're recapping.

 57:52

Ever go to Woodstock? What they have is they have science construction tight scientists say. Today we'll get people thinking about what I want to know what the event is.

 58:13

Right. And that's one of the ideas that can help us when we're using that. field with restriction restricted vision. Right. Everybody TBA ignored. They're telling you we don't have enough of that. All right.

 58:35

Okay, yep. Good. Sandy. You're up.

 58:37

All right. So Treasurer's Report. We have \$3,320.29 in our main account with an outstanding check to who the weekend warrior account, the main reason where your account we have \$2,307.10 that means let's give you guys a little update. So maybe you can skip the Weekend Warrior Update, please. Yeah, let's do that. We have expanded our our program to be also the elderly we started with a main database attorney sent out letters to send me a residence, letting them know that we want to help them exclude during the winter months where we thought they may need it the most. We receive 77 responses positive response, especially a lot of responses but a lot of people opted out. So we have 77 senior citizens signed up for the program. A lot has happened over the past over the past month we ended up getting this fabulous deal with Bob from Bob's Ida Windham. He's offering us meets at nearly his cost. So we bought a package from him and bought a freezer so now we're gonna be able to give them meat we have even though we have quite a few people on the program. Like we can give them a little bit every month to he wanted to start before the end of November didn't work out. It was too busy. There were too many names were coming in and didn't work out. We got nutmeg containers donated heavy duty boxes for us. We got labeled in conjunction with II see ministries. And so we got it all set up delivery is supposed to first delivery supposed to go up tomorrow and Friday. I honestly cleared this as a part of what happened we're running into some headaches with the group that helps us I cleared my schedule tomorrow and Friday for deliveries got people signed up to help deliver tomorrow on Friday. And I just heard that they're

not going to have the people that are helping us the LFC ministries it's not going to have the food ready till three o'clock in the afternoon. That was happen to be tomorrow, Friday, so So they said that they will have 40 of the boxes ready for delivery tomorrow.



1:01:22

I gotta go use the restroom. anymore.



1:01:27

And then Natalie gives us too



1:01:58

so embrace we started this started this great program. And we expanded it because we have additional funds from the everybody being so generous the golf tournament and it's honestly has until a half an hour before this meeting started. I was like on cloud nine about how well it didn't start right on time, but we had great turnout. And then I the group that helps us out now wants to charge us for helping out at \$7.60 a person that might charge him. He he said this he called he sent me a message first of all tell me the schedule changed, which upset me because now I've got to juggle, you know, I just struggled my day and then he said and you owe me. I don't know 560 \$2 A month starting in the he's just demanded money from us. Charging did he tell you exactly what it was for? He said charging \$500 for 75 new onboarding 200 a month in 2020 23. I don't know what WWE is he wants that 200 a month for doing that. Whatever that is. And then so he wants 500 we can worry. Oh yeah, we weren't programmed to find it. And then 500 and 100 \$500 plus \$100.20 23. January and February \$800. For for \$1,400. Deb will come by to get a check. I'm like what are you talking about? What was the agreement for him?



1:03:59

It's held its He already said he said he's I don't even know how this is gonna work tomorrow. So somebody definitely has to come with me. I'm not gonna be able to go by myself, but because I just don't want to deal with him. But he says he doesn't want to do it. We can't pay him. He doesn't want to do it anymore. Which leads now we're back to two weeks storage space for freezer and shelving and we have to start from scratch. We like starting from scratch again. Charlene had started this program that when she knew she was going to be part of it anymore. She passed it. Patients Out that was part of bourbon is like a part of creation. They have the space they want to take it which is fine and it ran great for a whole year and when it was just the school kids. This is now expanding and He's slipping out. I don't I don't even know what it is but I'm sorry I don't



1:04:58

So is it the is it what's the weak point that picking



1:05:01

up all the deliveries like being that delivery that they had to do is they go to the traveling part is going to pick once a month we have employment at the food bank in the Midwest where we get pallets and pallets probably they take a truck and a trailer



1:05:31

they got a 14 foot trailer



1:05:35

with a pickup truck. Yeah, something that we could fill up box



1:05:39

from easy place to put it right because we have to organize this shoot groups of things that we we fill up bags for kids and they get delivered to the school once once a week. So we need to coordinate that now because they were doing we need to coordinate the school we need to coordinate shopping for what to supplement what we don't get from the Food Bank, which is fine. We have the funds to do it all. We just need the people and then since filling up the bathroom once a week, filling up the boxes for those seniors once a month, and then coordinating the deliveries to school is easy. It's one strip off to school back to seniors.



1:06:24

The seniors have you tried like I know some probably don't drive but you put a window like a two hour window on one night we put them to come.



1:06:34

This was our personal tomorrow is our first time that might be something that we can do. We can see your



1:06:42

drone or for the town too many irons in the fire and we have pickup times and we have a delivery option for people who don't drive but that's kind of how we got past that. That might be a transport stuff I'm sure between Gary nine and our trucks in my million trucks and trailers and whatnot. The once a month things



1:07:10

11 1:07:10
that probably suck but where are we going to put it? Well, I'm going to walk through a

1:07:22
demo small but go off

1:07:28
Yeah, well, we will figure it out. For sure. I mean, this just happened so yeah, let's

1:07:39
so what I would, my suggestion would be say listen, that was our first time I will contact the seniors and let them know that there was a snafu. We are sincerely sorry, but it was out of our control and we'll shoot for next month. Well no we have

1:08:02
somebody so now I am but I'll be perfectly honest, he just screamed at me nice.


1:08:20
Tomorrow I'm going to be available mid late morning to like three ish, I gotta go to 330 But other than that


1:08:32
they still have 40 boxes. We have seven separate boxes


1:08:52
No, we already did that. He wants more money


1:09:01
after you've gone through this process, figure out what the where the holes are. Right then that you can't see your way through resolving and then maybe we can come up with a solution that has real accountability baked in with people who are reliable and organized. I got upset I was I was looking at I can't seem to get a little distance from it. We'll see how this first one goes. And


then we will solve the problem you're actually interested in so we just have to take it away from we have to take it away from them. Which kind of makes me sad also, and I don't want to be part of that conversation. I honestly didn't even want to be this role. Like I didn't want to be


 1:10:01
separations


 1:10:04
of this. Yeah, we got it we


 1:10:09
got to take this week.


 1:10:11
We're not going to do it. If you don't pay me we're not going to do it.

 1:10:13
Well there won't there won't be hard

 1:10:20
like they have to listen to skip school kids. Like they have they have everything there they want to they picked up there's no reason for them to keep that list.


 1:10:31
The box truck and take the


 1:10:35
mic okay so my shop like we don't do anything to you. You're more than happy to use whatever speech meter


 1:10:42
freezer and we iust ant the freezer readv have a conversation about dissolving the health


freezer and we just got the freezer ready, have a conversation about absorbing the heat... Okay. And then the list of everybody we need. I have the list of the elderly people

 1:11:09
all right. We got to


 1:11:14
think so anyway, thanks for listening see we can skip that part. Thank you, everybody. It could be like a wonderful day like it was happy so in the backup. So here's why we have a backup weekend warrior camp, because they literally have our debit card. And I didn't put Yeah, because they shop for us. So we have these guys.


 1:11:56
The thing is he may go and take the 500 some odd dollars out of the bank. I never wanted to put all the money in that one account because I didn't want to have access to 10s of 1000s. So there's 2000 went before because I was left on it

 1:12:30
yeah but we can you can shut it

 1:12:33
off. Let's talk to him because yeah

 1:12:40
you may take a piece

 1:12:41
out Yeah, yeah. You can restrict it. And then yeah, I'll restrict it tomorrow morning and then email me if you want me to unrestricted or email me if you want me to like shut it off completely.

 1:12:58
So the backup has \$22,449.57 And the reason for the backup accounts so they didn't have access to all of that, but they see the account has \$423.80 in it, which means we're starting a little lower than we did this year but that's it!!! it'll steal all your cash always does. We spent a

little lower than we did this year but that's it it, it it steal all your cash always does. we spent a total of 528 50 this year. It was for the turkeys and to the Amazon shoppers guide. The Golf Tournament account has \$500 I transferred all the money from the golf tournament money all the money to the backup warrior. It's one thing I wanted to throw out there. We still were missing two signs from the golf tournament that we have not paid for but some of them have lost in the hole shuffles here and asking shaft to please make those two signs so we have them in our inventory. I will I will I will. And I love them to death, but it's not at all time. So we're always in the backburner. He's like doing other separate people. So anyway, I'll just have to know to get them next year. And I'm going to be Sunday. Oh yeah. The only other thing is that I'm going to rules out completely



1:14:15

cool. All right, we got Teague. So



1:14:21

get together with deer. This is what we do. You know seeing yourself



1:14:30

I was just gonna report this is such a happy time. For us because we get so many so much absolute community. We have for our Christmas distribution. 261 households that we're going to be providing for 99 of them are families with 239 children and all children's gifts have been donated by local fire departments and businesses and the elementary school and it's just so nice to see. And we have 99 Senior households Wow, that's awesome.



1:15:03

Saturday



1:15:11

is it all right and then EDC



1:15:21

the boys



1:15:30

toys nice that's surprising



1:15:44

that's a really like go people



1:15:57

willing to give it just a break? Yeah, absolutely.



1:16:01

Alright EGC



1:16:03

don't have much free dc we didn't have any new businesses sign up. We talked about 65 recapped with the sidewalk project that was ongoing through the summer. Yeah, it does a lot for the people. I mean, our intent was to make the town more pleasant to drive through. And that was part of it.



1:16:36

Yeah, when we zoom in January, we don't usually have a nice summer meeting. We will bring up the nacho graphic. That's always on our agenda, basically. Basically in other events, if there's nothing to add, we don't but it's on the agenda. Materials. Yeah, that's fine.



1:17:04

I love the bandana.



1:17:06

Well, Ed, you're saying EDC, right? Yeah, EDC is on zoom so you can play your video or whatever. Yeah, yeah, I think I'm good. Okay. And so,



1:17:19

I have a question from the boys that I'm in. For



1:17:30

someone here wants to know why some of our street signs are red and some are green

because there's been no cohesive plan. Through the selectins office, and actually, as we're writing the updates to the subdivision regulations to standards, the street signs will be in them. They may actually be in the existing ones but nobody's ever looking at them. But they will be fresh in everyone's mind. So the question is, what color do you want? Blue. What we are going to what I am suggesting in that update, because we're also discussing regulations for private roads, we actually set aside those subdivisions because the towns underwater on his road maintenance budget, therefore it would be irresponsible to add new public roads. If you want to build one as a private developer, that's fine to maintain it but anyway, to differentiate my word to differentiate between the two they should be coded differently or some similar. So anyway, I mostly want to cede my time to Richard came out and I wanted to be able to talk more about the matchup if he wants but I just wanted to touch I just want to give the briefest of updates on the 65 main projects because there has been some forward motion either last week or the week before I let the architects in who we hired. This is the only piece that was not grant funded. It was funded by a direct donation from a private donor plus some EDC funds. And as a third source I can't remember Oh, that little pocket of money. Prior grants it wasn't fully extended to the architects have been in first drawings of the exterior and existing interior floor plan today over the next couple of weeks. They're going to go back in there to do some more work and then they're going to start working on concept plans. And yes, dirt day, I finally received from USDA, the first of the two final documents for the grants that we have coming for working on the program. So I hope to have all that contract stuff assigned by the end of the year, which means we will be getting rolling in some capacity right away in 23. And that's going to start with me in the named project partners. The nonprofits who are actually also sub recipients. And then and then have you guys to etc, to the ad commission to all of the other sort of logical stakeholders in developing how this small business support center is actually going to work so that it serves your needs and so that it also serves the sort of the piece that I sold to the Fed, which is that it's going to be have some kind of focus on agricultural businesses and small food system startups, but also serving the more general so this is this is the thing where the Thomson business association can show a set of goals that is related to the actual growth of businesses in town that has nothing to do with Woodstock or Webster, but it's going to be based around what the needs are of this entrepreneurial community, because that is the entire purpose of these hooks that I have been jumping through for the last two years to get this. So and but I'll say



1:21:24

we really don't have a whole lot of time left here, to be honest. With



1:21:27

you. So I'm religious. I'll be real brief written we're making a few changes to our event. This year. We started where we were trying to sneak around where you guys didn't notice it and then when we knew it'd be your one. And then, but then when the COVID thing hit, we had to start. We started our riders in little waves and 25 just a we did want to gather we didn't know. And so that worked really well. But then to even add to that we developed this idea we produce bandanas and some T shirts. So everybody This was off my neck. I'm not gonna give it to anyone. We didn't have we just in case just add like, you don't have a map here. We knew the risk reward. But last year, this about last year, we made a map of the course. This year. We're making the map more granular and it's going to include every like business or like every cool restaurant is going to be awesome. Everybody, we're making a few changes that are that are

this year we are starting in big ways. The first way that we the epic only men will go at 250 riders at once. Nice just to wake you up which is Wakefield Park Road. Nobody knows what it is. It's undriveable so it is the worst road you'll ever see. We're setting them in their. In our little tiny group going in there and adding



1:23:17

at four miles formats.



1:23:18

This year we're adding explore division, which is only 60 miles. We're adding an express division which is only 32 miles and only has one tough section. The reason I bring it up is that the Express division was also going to offer a juniors division, we're going to offer that to 18 and under kids like sea bass are the only thing I would put out there for our community. If Charmin is helping you with this. There's five intersections when we start doing these big waves that we are where we're trying to get some flaggers just so you just there to make it safer. Very low traffic and very low impact by trying to maybe hit people up to just do some volunteer time. You know, everybody gets everybody gets a meal ticket for it. They can coffee



1:24:08

free food, and I get to see 250 bikes ride away at once alright



1:24:22

so Monday there is a planning I believe the issue of the Gil and GSP stroke is supposed to be on that agenda. For those of you who are unaware we have a professional class of NIMBYs here in Thompson who have decided they want to disrupt everything, everything and one of their latest rounds of complaints is that Jalen G's live music there's a couple of blips across the street, who has a bee in their bonnet about it. And the professional in the class has latched on to that as something that they can leverage into a higher profile. We all know these people's names I will not share them here because if you speak the name of evil get arise.



1:25:08

This is the ask to you guys. What happens in these meetings is that the people want to complain are the ones who come out. So what that does is it creates the illusion that that is the voice. Nobody ever comes out to say, You know what? This neighborhood needs a business like this. We've never had a place where you can hang out and listen to live music



1:25:34

and, you know, there was that part of their initial plan, not a part



1:25:39

of their initial plan, although it wasn't part of their liquor license. But what and we have a strategy for that which I believe is what's going to be on the agenda for Monday double check it's possible she'll be getting this don't even don't even know. But anyway, people well, as it turns out, many of us latched on to this we're not from the neighborhood, the other people on the other side of town have decided that it is in their interest to make sure that essentially nobody ever succeeds. And we can't have nice things.



1:26:38

Anyway, agenda will be Monday night meeting started seven they're both live hands on the agenda



1:26:52

All right. Seeing you can't when you get to draw



1:27:05

today, can somebody else carry stuff. I put my card in there because I put Sandy's name on it because she didn't have a card to put in so.



1:27:27

I can't give that to



1:27:30

you. So, all right. So we were run. We're out of time, really. And I was just gonna say I gotta stick to my commitment of getting out of here at seven o'clock. So



1:27:46

for several years that the library has done a gingerbread house, and they're not doing this year, because they didn't have to. Suppose that's what the chooser units I think maybe they didn't want to do. So. So my question is maybe next year we can think about volunteering, because it's really disappointing.



1:28:11

We just have to build the list. Spend the money on food gingerbread is



1:28:18

so cold. So what are we going to do?



1:28:24

How can I get to these? to adjourn, I make a motion to adjourn this meeting. There's no



1:28:39

official rule that says you have connected the most