



Untitled Note


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 00:00
minus

 00:08
z 530 Dan.

 00:11
All right. All right. I'm gonna call this meeting to order at 530 Thanks for coming everybody. How's everybody doing? Hey Did everybody every all the members get their business card in the box and get signed in and everybody gets signed in? Yeah. Okay.

 00:34
I only have three brain cells left today

 00:38
to more than I draw too much everybody

 00:40
already knows this but our meeting minutes are posted on the website. There's, there's a transcribe that you can read or you can listen to it. You have access to that right on our website. Okay, we actually have some new members here tonight, Jeff. You guys are new members, too. But you've been here a couple of times. Did we do the code of ethics? Where you guys? Okay, well, we're gonna do it again tonight. Anyway, so Claire's multimedia, you started right, Jeff both the welcome. Thanks for coming. Jeff's a new member. And we will all stand up here as soon as I find the code of ethics Okay. I will be fair and honest, impartial,

respectful and professional and act in good faith in all of 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 them for the prices that I have quoted, I will I will establish goodwill and trust among 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. Thank you guys

 02:35

right, so we're to 45 seconds. So everybody signed in we already went through that. So let's get started with 45 seconds we'll go around the room and everybody tell us a little bit about your business or something that you need in particular sale was going on. I want to start back.

 02:52

For everyone my name is Matt power. I am the owner of vinyl underground sign shop and Charlton mass basically do anything not we're able to see I'm actually I'm pretty busy all year round. This time of year actually. Which is more to clothing, hats, jackets, shirts and stuff like that. Still doing truck lettering and things like that this time of year also do all kinds of interior signage, exterior signage, vehicle lettering, obviously clothing and stuff like that. So if you think about me, give me a call.

 03:30

You want to take a minute Israel to tell us why you're here and about the businesses.

 03:35

Sure, one second.

 03:38

Oh, and by the way, too, I wanted to mention Israel as a guest tonight. He has his wife and his daughter at businesses and they're interested in joining so he came out to kind of scout it out for

 03:50

them. My name is Israel. My wife, Rosemarie has a business. She's a psychiatric nurse practitioner. And we'd heard about the Thompson Business Association on the VA and why so want to come in and kind of find out what it is What is it about? And my daughter has a

photography business and Nina Anamosa photography, and she does family pictures and things like that. So just came to this. See and join and come in meet people.



04:31

Thanks for coming.



04:36

Okay, me and my lovely partner Victoria. Here we provide comprehensive financial planning and pretty much through education we we don't sell people we basically educate them and work out a financial plan to get them to their debt free to be ready for retirement. And pretty much you know, goals and dreams also added to that and pretty much we utilize exactly what we use for our clients and we can attest that it definitely works. I mean, it's it's everything and financial services. So it



05:14

will help single people, families, businesses, we have different programs for businesses, like Bob says it's all about education. And that's what I like about it. Let me educate people on the special information. We just want to make any difference. Thank you so much. Our office is in that awareness.



05:34

We are here



05:37

to repair Director of Planning and Development for the town of Thompson. I'm here really to be a resource for the members of the association. If you have questions about stuff that's going on. In town. I don't have all the answers to everything but I often have at least insights into stuff. And as you all know, I'm going to make it up I have a couple of things to talk about during the the time that's allotted to me on the agenda including the 65 main project. And really that is it.



06:13


All right, Sarah. Sarah





06:15

Kane boasting Painting Services a clean and paint everything. Under the sun. I feel like looking


for small interior projects yester winter, not this week because Michael is completely down on valium prime is back to having fun that's why I have no patience left. Yeah, okay. If you need us you can find this on flowers cleaning and painting.com where we provide a brilliant blend of cleanliness and color. It's a mouthful, but that's what it is. Yeah.


 06:55
Jeff, Jeff,

 06:57
both the owner and clerks multimedia group. We handle Photo Video, aerial work of all different kinds, anywhere between small businesses up to Fortune 500 companies, a lot of sports colleges. Yukon Haven. Bridgeport wide range and dealing with all round. Our biggest need right now is we're looking for some sponsors for certain moral high school basketball live streams. You might have seen it on the Facebook page. We only pull up when we try not to duplicate businesses. So if you're, you know a tax prep, we're both working for one, you know, mortgage company and stuff like that. But we do 22 dates this year, JV and varsity basketball so it's about a three, three and a half hours. We run ads throughout the questions just talking about it. Thank you, Dave. Dave,

 07:52
they'll be back hometown here in North Rosarito. Just a small community bank but if you have any needs, come see us we'd love to work with with people and business personal accounts, whatever you've got credit card living in you. We just love to help people. So come on down and see me.

 08:18
Go ahead. Hey, Diane and Alan Patterson. Patterson insurance services. So health insurance, life insurance, annuities, that kind of thing. And we just came off the Annual Election Period Last Thursday for Medicare and right now in the throes of access health which is the Affordable Care exchange marketplace which ends on Friday.

 08:40
And then we get a breather on Saturday.

 08:51
With AJ manufacturing



08:58

anyhow, we manufacture stone hard pads which are for protecting protective plastic wonder wood stoves health so, gas stoves. We do not sell direct to the public but we do sell to retail stores in the security and throughout the United States. So that's what we do. Chris,



09:27

I got to rant so I'll make a quick tip. For tracking busy man. Spread them between eBay shop and welding business. So start with Patreon. In like one of the last vape shops around like 30 miles. If you need my eBay, worm shiners, your basic necessities to get through fishing. I got that 24 hour self service so I'm not there. Cash and Cash App but other than that you can call and ask the questions. Side two. I own a I run a welding shop in town His name is fat boy belts. I build anything from firepits to working on a horse trailers. I've been doing a couple of exhaust repairs. Guy damn in the last one. I did the muffler in the tailpipe and came back two days later the rest of it fell apart. Then I'll be doing the whole exhaust so I'm not really a body working guy but anything from your yard work to custom creation fires and stuff like that. I can do that. Thank you. Thanks, Chris. JOANNE



10:36

Hello Joanne Chanel from Teague. If you don't know if my nonprofit yours, Thompson both service Thompson offer services to seniors every



10:53

day you Joe and Brian



10:59

we don't I don't need it. emptied out the truck for the winter so the tech is doing nothing oh



11:15

that's it's December. I'm Sandy from Kerrigan tech service. Right now I'm helping businesses wrap up their year. A couple of businesses are making them starting here and then they're here. But we have less than a month before like tax season starts again. Hired a few staff right now. I don't mean anything. I mean should just be calm is over, but that's who I am. That's what's going on. I am part of the Yeah, the sponsorship for the basketball games and have been for at least three I think three years now. Yeah. And I think my name should be first sign that it's all workable for free.



12:07

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I'm Ally with alimac and de Ciani consulting. We are a marketing agency and I do anything from your social media management all the way to making your business cards and logos. And if you really need help getting up and started with a small business. I'm the one who does all that research don't want to do like what licenses you need, what kind of funds you need, places to get connected to get started. I do the frustrating work so you don't have to actually keep on getting your business up and going or the tasks that you really don't have the time to handle like posting on your social media keeping up with all of your messages inquiries. So give me a call if you need anything of that ally. I'm always looking to expand and get more clients so referrals are what I'm looking for at the moment. Were you on me? Yes.



12:54

I thought I heard



12:57

she was on wi and why with the business association. That's one of the benefits of joining because you get where every month we take two businesses on Wi Fi to get a lot of fun. So my name is Dan Ballard. I'm your DVC solutions where we transform the space you live in a place you'd love to be in and we're hosting a Design Expo at Taylor Brook winery, our tech Taylor brewery actually January 24. We're going to have our trade partners out there as our electrician or plumber. We're gonna have bank hometown out there as a lender real estate agent. We're gonna have our audio video guy. I'm probably forgetting somebody but Oh, Sarah. Hey, that's right. So anyway, today we're gonna have somebody from East for building supply is going to come out and do a talk about what's going to be trending in 2024 for home interior home design, and and then you just be able to mingle and if you have a question about electrical or plumbing or whatever, they'll all be there to talk to so we're going to everybody that registers pre registers online. We're gonna buy you one drink. It's going to be catered by g7. Obviously, there'll be more beer in mind prevail, and it's going to be from 530 to 8pm. It's going to be good time, come hang out with us. So that's about it. And then we're moving on I guess I'm not even gonna sit down. So as part of being in business in the month, you get to spend 10 minutes talking to the group about your business, Dave Shapleigh and DCS finance and Andy minutes are just didn't want to do the 10 minutes today because I guess because he probably just got back. prepared and he's not even here but So Dave, DC cleanouts and handyman services if you haven't heard of him, look him up does great handyman work. I've sent him to clients for smaller jobs that we can't do. And I always get good reviews back and so Dave's a good guy he helps out a lot with the weekend warrior program. So if you got if you got something basement or something needs to be cleaned out or you get some handyman work done, Dave's the guy and then I have food as I can see. Oh yeah right here so.



15:40

Sorry to say it that way I just start to wear Here we go. Okay, so, in our ever ever evolving world, I can't remember all this. I'm just gonna read it. A toddler is our ever evolving world the digital digital age. The digital age stands out as a transformational error especially for businesses like ours in the home remodeling industry. This period isn't just about the latest tech advancements. It's about how these changes redefine the way we connect with our clients

and operate our businesses. Digital Transformation. For me, this means more than just using tech tools. It's about fundamentally changing the way we work for instance, in my home remodeling business integrating 3d modeling software has revolutionized revolutionize our design process. It's not only streamline our operations, but it's also gives our clients and immersed view of their project. And what we find that the best part of all that is, is it relieves stress in the project people are spending a lot of money and a new kitchen, bathroom, whatever it is, and when they can actually see what they're buying before they actually have to get involved. It just takes so much stress out of the process for everybody. So data the next part data has become a valuable asset to the decision making process. In my business every client interaction and project completion is a source of crucial data. We use client feedback and project data to identify popular design trends and common issues this data driven approach has helped us refine our services improve project management and elevate client satisfaction. Innovations in customer engagement, mainly customer engagement, we use buildertrend software, which the whole platform takes the client all the way from lead intake from when they first reach out to us all the way through warranty phase. The biggest part of that is their client portals. Everybody that works with us gets their own client portal they get to create their own login information they can log in anywhere they are from the smartphone tablet computer and see up to date information about their schedule their their payment information and any documents any change orders that need to be done. It's all done in there. It's communication and transparency and data trail or a paper trail so everything is recorded. So if there's ever an issue along the process, we can go back and look at what was what was actually talked about. Adapt adapting the customer to changing customer needs. being adaptable as adaptable is crucial, particularly in our remodeling industry where trends and customer preferences constantly. I always focus on staying responsive to these shifts like incorporating eco friendly materials in response to growing environmental awareness. It's also about listening to our clients keeping up with industry trends, and being ready to evolve our offerings. Just one thing I'll say about that is starting in 2020, Florida State of Connecticut has dramatically increased their insulation requirements. So we can still build exterior walls with two by sixes but it will have to be sprayed with high density spray foam. You have to have our 30 insulation in the walls and so it's either it's either use the high density spray foam or expand the wall cavity to a two by eight or more. So when I first started framing houses, it was two by fours I actually remember that two by four to two basic shifts. Like one day we were building a house was a two by fours the next day two by sixes and I'm like what's going on here. It wasn't about strength. That's what I thought at first, but it was that's all that insulation in summary the digital age presents incredible opportunities for growth and innovation in our field from embracing digital tools and leveraging data, engaging with clients online and adapting new trends. There are numerous ways to advance our businesses. I encourage all of you to consider how these strategies can be applied to your own companies. Let's not just adapt to the digital age. Let's be the forefront of this transformation in our industry. That's it



19:56

we're going on right okay, so And she didn't give me anything so we're nothing from God tonight, Brian. Membership report. What do we got? Well,



20:11

it's looking pretty good. We're almost at the end of the year. We wanted to hit 100 If you remember. Oh, yeah. And Dan reminded us last week, last month that we're not losers.

Because we're making a valiant effort. Here we are up to 83. We had 77 Last ones.



20:32

This time last year we have like



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Yeah, I think 50 like right around 50 Yeah, so it's we did really good.



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We picked up Clara's multimedia group and she had to jewelry fairway independent mortgage switch is now revolution mortgage. Yep. So it's a it's even we have girls and tools. Great course Oh, consulting all since last month. Revolution mortgage, like I said, Now Wilsonville herb farm is on but I didn't realize that they were Yeah, they weren't on here before.



21:19

Oh, really? Should have been how he signed up for Yeah.



21:21

Yeah, that was that was a surprise but that's where we're at 83 which is really respectable.



21:30

I didn't know because we just decided Woodstock fabric.



21:33

Oh yeah.



21:34

Oh, what's that Catherine?



21:34

Yeah, since Woodstock cavern did a huge contribution to the Thanksgiving dinner. We decided to make them but we're gonna pay for the membership for 2024. So celebrate and

to make them but we're gonna pay for the membership for 2024. So celebrate and



21:50

then and we and this one who is here with us tonight. Yeah, I



21:54

have played I mentioned Oh, this one went there and we still never picked up drafters.



22:08

They promise every time you guys go to drafters What have you got fit join. A couple more



22:13

points about that is for one again. We did a fantastic job. The momentum is built and everybody's been super engaged in it all year. We've grown from what we just said approximately at least about 33 people this year, which is huge. I mean, that's like, you know what, like 60% Right? Am I crazy? No, that's right about 60% of growth in one year. So that's like fantastic and the momentum is building the more we get the faster it's going to happen. So



22:43

yeah, and the more we support each other which was the whole premise of this back in 2011 supporting each other. And now I know that one of the benefits if you're new when when your name gets drawn, I've drawn the business card. You also get your business put on the sign in front of town hall. Besides being featured on our website and stuff, so last month, I went and turned in DC cleanouts. And someone in the Town Hall said, Oh, I can use a cleanup. Will they do my house? And I said yeah, sure. So again, it's us it's us communicating and you know the people at this table can't do your business for you. We all have to work together.



23:30

That's my piece. And we and we also added that new program this year, which is our dining local so we added a page to the website and any restaurants that join which we didn't have any restaurants before this. They get a clickable link on the Dine local page. So you can you know you can every restaurant in town, we put them on the page automatically, but it's just their name and address. Once they join. They get a nice clickable link takes them to their website, stuff like that. So and we've added we don't we haven't got drafters yet, but we've got Middletown grow Thompson as a pizza pit stop. And now and now, Woodstock tavern, we've got five



24:11

restaurants. Up until last year we had none which is a loss because that's the main business and Trump's in his restaurant.



24:23

You know, the more people we add, the more people we meet more people we talk to



24:27

yeah shut mine down and among vendor, or so.



24:39

All right, I'm gonna go over the Treasurer's Report. If anybody wanted a copy there was copy up here. I didn't test them out tonight but I'll just read you guys some numbers. The main account has \$1,646.32 in it. There is an outstanding check for \$80 And like every month to wi y, and our renewables. A lot of people pay online for our renewables that goes from into our PayPal account, and then I have to transfer it to the main account. So there's 160 308 pending transferring into the you know, the weekend warrior account has current our current acting account has \$3,051.45 Thank you, AJ manufacturing you have to extend the Lions Club. You guys are both here. We Sarah and I went to the Lions Club meeting last month and we just we literally walked in to just talk about the weekend warrior program. We walked out with a check from the Lions Club, a promise for a check from AJ manufacturing, which turned out to be much more than they even mentioned at the meeting. And the waitress gave us her tips at night. So all this money is earmarked for commercial size refrigerator freezer. We have a crystal commercial size for refrigerator and we have like three four different little freezers. We definitely need a big commercial size freezer. So all that's where all that \$2,100 is earmarked for that yeah



26:08

by the way, just the lines if you don't fit in small freezer,



26:12

yeah



26:17

yeah, the lions gave owner you know, oh no, that's there during the golf tournament. gave her an envelope with her tips. And then she thanking her for helping them all year and then she walked over and gave it to us restoring our backup account and just explained a little we have

a backup account for the weekend where your account just so that not all our money is hanging out on that account. Our bathroom account says \$8,327.12 our Thanksgiving account has \$499.53 this I'll explain a little bit at this section I was talking about when I first got here but we every year the money we collect so we do we put Thanksgiving dinner on at the Quinnipiac Fire Department for free every year for anyone doesn't matter if you live in Thompson doesn't matter if you have a million dollars you have \$1 in your pocket. Anybody can come to Thanksgiving dinner typically we have about 60 something people coming this year we had over 110 to 12 people usually we get enough like donations to cover us for the following year. Oh it's like food costs going up every no matter how we cut our corners. There was no way we were gonna have enough money to cover our Thanksgiving dinner. So I had put a I had I had asked the team if we could transfer some weekend warrior money into that account, so we can cover our food bill. Now the food is ordered through the Woodstock. Do you know who's the owner of the Woodstock tavern? also worked for sure which one it was Sherwood's and every year he would order food for us at his cost. And we would cover that bill. If you \$100 This year it turned out to be at 800 and something dollars because food just was ridiculous. So today I call Dino and I said I've got a check for you. And he said what do you why do you have a check for me so for the bill for the bill from your supplier, and he said I took care that that's all set. Well, they're doing so well this year. He covered in 800 and something dollar food bill for us. So that's why we have enough money in there to get started for next year now because we don't even have to touch it. But so that's why that was extremely generous. They are doing so well since they reopened. They can't even like express how grateful they are to the world right now. So yeah, so he's like, if I can do it, I'm going to do it. So yeah, so we took so that's why they're going to be a member. We're offering them free membership to because of that huge, huge donation, and then the golf tournament account, which is just money that hangs out there and start us next year. It's 507 57. Record treasures.



29:03

Oh Tara your Oh no, I'm sorry. Key joy in your Europe.



29:10

Obviously this is a really, really busy time. We just got out with thanksgiving. Like you our numbers are significantly higher. We serve 613 individuals which represents 259 families. Last year we took care of 201 family. And then so far for Christmas this year we have 285 families signed up which is over the children to you know the needs significantly co2 to provide gifts to the children and obviously we provide gifts to seniors who want to give the gift to their branch



29:57

events or anything coming up or no our next big event will be in April or April 5 at Connecticut. All right, Tierra you're up just tagging on to teeth. We've been running a toy drive since the Monday after Thanksgiving which is gonna go through next Friday. We did a tea didn't pick up today. So they got the band stuffed full of toys for today but we are doing a companion toy drive for Toys for Tots through next Friday because they have a much later distribution date. So if you find yourself in town hall, I organize the toy drive so possessive of it. Please feel free off and unwrapped new toy. Be advised that Toys for Tots will not accept donations that include

any food component for realistic looking toy weapons. In other words, Nerf guns like plastic Wonderwoman sorts AOK really realistically, firearms they will not accept them they will not distribute them. But anything else is fair game dropped down into the tax office in the town clerk's office. So that was my little and so the the big one which is really relevant to this group, of course is the 65 main project, which is ongoing. The four folks at the head table have been involved they come to the first couple of workshops actually you missed the first two.



31:31

No, I missed the last one. Just the last



31:34

one you were the first one right. So I'd love to actually hear some input from you guys on what we've done. The next workshop is one week from tonight in this very room Wayne Wiseman from the permaculture project will be back. So I've skipped over a lot of information already. But so for those who are not familiar, just down the street from us is 65 Main Street, which the town owns has owned since it was donated to the town by the TurtleBot family in 1914 ish. It's been vacant now for 12 years ever since Teague vacated it for their spiffy new on the on the Hill property. And it's been a persistent problem for the town because we own it. We're responsible for it. But it's been there's no been no resources to renovate it. Put it to you. So I have a couple of grants in place, one to renovate and one to plan for the future of the facility. Both of those are now ongoing. They're a pair of federal awards. Anybody who's been buying has seen that the renovation has been underway. The the demolition and hazmat abatement inside and out is complete. So every stitch of lead asbestos, whatever other contaminants were in there are gone. It is a gun to the studs and it's got a brand new roof on it. The roofers are. It's possible what they'll finish it this year, but I expect them to come back in the spring to do the gutters and the rest of the metalwork. I'm going to coordinate with the Historical Society on exterior paint finishes. So that it can fit their vision of what fits your property. That's the renovation side. The planning side is the workshopping and that is the community engagement process. Where we want stakeholders involved and stakeholders is neighborhood residents. The people of this association, the tea clientele, because what we've envisioned as communicated variously is a small business support center and whatever that means. Now the last workshop we did essentially a giant brainstorming game, which is starting to identify those priorities. And I can tell you that what started to bubble to the top, the greatest interest seems to be creating a pipeline from the high school and the career pathways into the facility, particularly for kids who aren't college tract who might be interested in entrepreneurship coming right out of the gate, but also incubator and accelerator programming within the facility. But another piece of it and what the focus is going to be next week is actually site design for the 3.2 to 3.5 ish acres behind 65, Maine which are actually a part of the Riverside Park parcels. The consultant that we hired into my planning grant way Wiseman comes out from Illinois, he is a permaculture specialist permaculture super easy to understand, but super hard to describe, but you can essentially think of it is where human ecology intersects with both conservation and agriculture. And the concept for that 3.2 Acres is a public park planted on or installed on permaculture principles which would have high food value native species that would essentially be free access, some community gardening, perhaps some interpretive things. So Wayne is going to be out one week from tonight in this room. Six to 8pm to do a two hour intensive on his early stage concepts and to try to get more input from again

neighborhood residents the other stakeholders. So that's going to be an intensive on the site design. I am looking for RSVPs for that because I will be providing pizza and eggnog and I want to make sure that I have snacks and I want to make sure that I have enough because I'm an Italian person so the idea of not having enough gives me like night sweats. So RSVP not required you can just walk in, sit in. Listen, give input not hit input, whatever but I would appreciate it if you email me just with an RSVP to planner at Thomson ct.org by next Tuesday just so I can get that. Get Stuff ordered but no big deal if you just decide at the last minute to come. That's why well, you might have you might have to share. Anyway, that's my schpeel love to hear you guys input on what you've heard and seen thus far.

 36:29

I mean, I think it's fantastic. I just really liked the idea of the whole project. I like the idea that that building won't be falling down and an eyesore anymore. It's going to be beautiful. When you just said that you're working with the historical society that's like, awesome that he's going to, you know, be historically correct and fit into the town the way it's supposed to. And as far as the programming goes, both meetings and events, were great. I mean, I forget his name, but the the permaculture guy he was right, that was the that was the focus of the first meeting, just really listening to him. and that that whole idea to that that is going to be that that whole area is going to be cleared out in the back and be you know, instead of just being Woods back there, it's going to be the permanent garden and then it goes out to the river, it's going to be beautiful. And then the time he did with the high school, I didn't know until we went to the ribbon cutting, two months ago now, for the. culinary arts program that the high school here in town has an amazing career pathways. It's it's almost like going to tech, you know, there's like what eight different programs I think that's fantastic. And then if we can create this business, this business center where the kids that are just like Terry just said that are coming out of high school, they're, they're entrepreneurial. And previously they might have been like, I gotta get out of time so there's nothing here for me. Now they're gonna know that there's the Business Association, they incubator where they can, they can get help, so I think the whole thing's fantastic. The meetings have been engaging, there's pizza and candy. Join us.

 38:06

And, as always, if anybody's got any questions about anything, either that I talked about, or as it's going on, I'm happy to do my best to at least provide some insight from the downside. And send some excess please. Perhaps hundreds of extra

 38:26

so are you I mean, once this is up and running, which What are you thinking? 2024

 38:31

Well, it's always so hard to project right. So the original renovation grant, which was \$240,000 from the Small Business Administration, that's almost completely extended because the hazmat and demo was three to four times what we were estimated by the architect, so that

threw a wrench in that. Now I have a grant request that is going in in the next two to three days to the state. It's a resubmission of grant that I put in for round three, which was unsuccessful to dpcd. But they encourage you to reapply. It's called the Community Investment Fund. It's a \$3.88 million grant requests. Now the bulk of that I want to be clear is actually the full depth reconstruction of Main Street in the sidewalks. That's like 3.3 million. I was going to be right off the bat. But also in that request is to close that renovation gap. Now if that's successful, we can essentially get back rolling right in the spring. The planning grant goes through March the end of March 2025. That's for the full development of the master plan. But as I have sort of mapped it out my head and describing this other grant application, you know if we can get the renovation sufficiently done into in my mind, that's the first floor in the basement. So even if we're still working on the second and third floors, that is something that we can then start to use, maybe not fully implement but so again, if we get this grant and we can complete that renovation by the end of calendar 24, which is totally feasible, then by 25. Yes, you could start to see some activity in there. That I think is best case scenario. Any project like this, where there's no real possibility of funding it straight up to the municipality. Because there isn't, it's got to be grant dependent. So it's going to be whatever like daisy chains of grants, I can string together until it can start to either generate program income, or get integrated into the school curriculum in a way that isn't income dependent. But well, that's also a part of master planning project, right? So best case scenario, I think is early 25. It comes online, but the the processes will just be ongoing. Right as long as long as I'm here. Gotta keep pushing that puppy forward.



41:21

So good. I'm glad to hear like the robot.



41:23

Well, that's the grant. It's so we didn't get round three. There's going to be a total of eight rounds of this. So only like between 60 and 70. communities in the state of Connecticut qualify Thompson as a qualifying community because we're alliances. So we didn't get the request the first time but what they do is they give you an executive summary of where they thought you could have strengthened your application. So I responded to all of those questions. The only thing I'm waiting on actually is an updated letter of support from state senator flexor because this particular program requires that I talked to her assistant today I'll have it within the day or two. So my application has been ready to go since last week. The deadline is Friday. I'm gonna end up submitting it. And I get that but whatever. It is a stronger application because it's, it's responded to their specific call outs. And we have progress to show right I can show a photo record of what's gone on in the building. What's going on across the street at Superior bakery, even though it's not a part of our request, it shows that these things are happening and that yes, particularly the improved road surface and sidewalks. But these are the businesses that are coming in, they want those surfaces improved. So it's a strong application, but it is a competitive program. I'm going to keep throwing this application back at them until they get us money. That's just the way it is



42:59

but excited for it. All right. Let's see couldn't be here. Oh,



43:06

well, we got Brian's back up with the EDC report. Economic Development Commission.



43:12

Yeah, yeah. We had a meeting we had. We didn't have one in Tober because it was time for me to candidates. So we had a meeting in November. We had two new businesses reported one was pantograph and Thompson, their publisher, and one was Sacred Heart journeys. Its spiritual base. Business, Education, meditation, merchandise, books, crystals, etc. That's a Northbrook. Year End business we did we had to approve our 2024 meeting schedule for the town we're looking at hopefully everyone will renew we had five people due for renewal. And it looks like we will have one opening. We will have one opening as an alternate. So if you're interested in being an alternate on the EDC, talk to me. Opening will have what what really is just too soon to stretch down I'm not stressed. Other than that, yes, we talked a lot about the blame Road intersection which is done no 65 main as always, well. Main Street itself is one big item on our agenda every every single month. We had an update on the turkey trot and we talked about our winter wonderland which was last Friday. EDC was involved TVA was involved that day, buddy, go come downtown for the winter wonderland. Sara said no, thank you. Well, we had 14 vendors set up on the sidewalk behind the community center. We had a tree auction in here. We had Dan gets stuck doing the hot chocolate. Night down by the bonfire. We had Max. He rolled out his new catering truck. So attendance was actually pretty good. We still have to have a follow up meeting. But we had a lot of active participation from TVA from EDC from the town so hopefully this will be an annual thing.



45:52

Try to try to figure out why the fire department put the fire out 30 minutes early.



45:57

I don't know it could be because they ran they did they were short on wood. And maybe it was just getting down on wood. And they it



46:06

was the fire was raging and there were still a bunch of people around and I was like all of a sudden they were just spraying the fire down and then everybody was like, what time did what just happened? Really? Except musta



46:18

gotten back to



46:25

people I know they didn't have as much as everybody goes to bed at 730 out there right? Well



46:36

people weren't even even live the vendors on the sidewalk because TBA had a booth tent, volunteering to wrap any packages that you had bought at the other vendors. That was one of the 14 setups. So I had gone around to all the vendors saying you know come up to 10 number one



47:00

did you buy the President's night nice people



47:02

were starting to pack up in about quarter past seven or so and maybe that's why they like the fire. I don't know.



47:09

Okay, there's a larger fire in front of struggling themselves trying to make sure it's completely out. That



47:13

could mean but I know they didn't have as much wood as they thought they were going to have they were grabbing branches and everything we offered out there weren't that many, not as many as usual according to John Sharp.



47:25

Well, they used to have people and people bring their Christmas trees. Oh because we did in January. Yeah. Yeah.



47:40

Not just do. I don't know. Amanda did say that. She thought there was more attendance at this bonfire than any of the previous ones she'd been to like when they did in January. So I think they will probably keep that piece at the very least. I have to say I saw my early and I was very

pleased to see how it was going because Brian and Dan will tell you I have to say I had high skepticism on my purpose focus stations. Yeah, we had a lot of conversations about this. But I think that event has a ton of potential. Yeah, for the next year and like with a couple of little tweaks, I think it can be excellent.

 48:25

And we'll start playing it a little earlier.

 48:27

Well, that is the thing. Yes. Any event like that. I've done plenty of event plans.

 48:37

Needs to be

 48:39

nice to have a year round kind of like you do with a golf tournament or anything else that needs to have a year round schedule that you you know doesn't mean you have to talk about it intensely. Benchmarks aren't good. Yeah.

 48:53

Yeah.

 48:53

That didn't I'm sorry. I didn't get started in planning until like, maybe six weeks out, right? Oh, no, it

 48:59

was we talked about it over the summer. But yeah, there were a lot of hurdles that we shouldn't have had. I'm gonna bug them now for what I call the post mortem. Next week. Well, that's from working in digital and Intel, after the fact meetings, and that should happen within two to three weeks at the most yes okay. After an event and we'll start with what could we have done better? Should we change the time? Should we shorten this? What can we add? What didn't work? And from there? Yeah, the planning should start. And yeah, we sure will do better. I think it was,



49:42

it was good. A lot of people down there we gave away a lot of hot chocolate more than I expected to that's for



49:47

sure. So they sold over 1000 Tickets for the tree raffle. Not that everybody bought just one ticket, but that tells you like, Yeah, more actively than unfortunately



49:57

we had a WAG horse drawn wagon, and the operator got sick. So maybe



50:04

that will put the fire out because they did leave early. They left right around seven the horse and buggy.



50:09

They left before that. Yeah, they did because he didn't. He was gonna try to make it he didn't feel well before he got there. Because I was gonna I know I was gonna take a ride with Amy and do a single log on the lacking and that it was the last ride. We did have Sam Sam. Missy took the club video. We did a walk around, do a little Carolyn. They wanted me to play the guitar down by well and I know I'm old nuttin 30 degrees that I really would like to if you want to do it inside up there. But we had a couple of the high school kids. I had worksheets because I've done that kind of thing. So that was people enjoyed that. We went out for an hour or so. Yeah. Ciara. Well, we we ain't right at you.



51:06

It just needed the snow. I pictured a Hallmark movie. It really didn't look like that because it was mainstream, but maybe once it's paved.



51:17

But it's a good opportunity. It did work out well. I didn't know how well it would work along the main street but good opportunity for any of our businesses TBA or not in a town where we have no storefronts keep your eyes on things like this that we do. It's for your benefit. Absolutely



51:43

I think so.



51:45

Alright, so real quick Missy is not here tonight but the windy radio report we have that task of the perfect stitch. And Laurie do charm of prestige nail salon and Webster they're going to be on the radio next Tuesday morning with Missy and then next month we have already filled up we have Jeff and Claire Claire's, multimedia. And Chris and are you doing one of your bins is next month and then the one out there? Yeah,



52:17

it was a bait shop again for like ice fishing. Yeah. We're looking for more work and welding



52:22

and stuff. So cool. So yeah, so Chris is Chris and Jeff, next month in January, and then Chris has signed up again for the following month. And but we still have an opening in February and beyond. So there's two spots every month. Go on the website and you can get signed up if you want to go on the radio. Hang out with with Gary.



52:44

Kind of fun. There's always a good time. Yeah, always a good time.



52:50

Okay, and then out of Europe. So what do we got?



52:54

So the amount of views we got this month. And our TBA group was 5158 people for sale right out there being noticed and seen for engagement. I'm pretty, pretty excited for this. We had 160 posts in the last month. Our popular day this month was Tuesday for whatever reason everybody wishes up on there on Tuesday between 4am and 12pm. So either you guys really like to work harder you're not sleeping



53:24

on the floor and club is like me saying the day we started



53:29

so talk to post this month one was from tax service for the describe your Wednesday using a GIF that was the top post the most the most fun that it was was painting and painting for the gifts for seniors. And then the runner up was Dan for supporting local business. That was the top three and this was when he visited prestige. Oh yes. Yeah. So for our top contributors this month or whatever it is Sandy from Caribbean taxes. Last month, and again, here you are. So now I am able to track not only how much you guys post but how much you comment. So what goes into this decision is how much you're doing a bulk and what it totals. So while Vicky and the vital underground talked at 31 posts this month, there was zero comments from men getting it on your comments 17 from Vicki. Sandy, you've commented for any one time she's posted. The following up was Max catering service flawless cleaning, you posted 17 times with five comments SP digital services dBc solutions your page today, the weekend warriors and Sara. So those are our top 10 contributors saying you commented the most of all my posting.



54:55

Do you know that not one of my posts were about my business. I don't know if everybody paid attention. They would just motivational



55:04

quotes to support other businesses. Yeah. So we are prepping in the United States, which I'm really happy about. We're not being seen in places like overseas, the top cities, we had 243 People visit our site. Our cage from toxic Connecticut 38 from Putnam 26 From what Soc 22 from Webster 45 from deadly 14 from Dayville 11 from Pomfret 10 from Charlton 10 from Danielson and 10 from southbridge. We are treading primarily in Thompson in Putnam at the moment. So all in all, we're on track we're doing really well and I'm very proud of everybody because everyone's comments and engagement has gone way up this month. So you're all working pretty hard. So congratulations.



55:56

We're brand new you are the shit award winner.



56:05

Tax season starts next month. So we'll go from 41 comments to negative 41 comments



56:10

so every time you add a Top Contributor you will get the award.



56:17

Okay, Sandy, weekend warrior report.



56:19

Okay, a couple of cool things that have happened since last month. We are now helping for people who don't know we help the elementary school and the middle school and the senior systems in town. We had no foot in the door in high school but now we do. We were contacted by the GOP I forget what the name of that group is. It's a group to help kids learn how to take care of everyday needs by themselves. This program no Liz is in the group I can't cry diversity. Michael Joyce, the shop teacher is one of the program. So he encouraged his students to reach out if they needed something and try and take care of everyday items. And so we received an email telling us how important it is for the kids to have snacks in their classroom because they eat lunch at like ridiculously 1030 and then get out of school at three o'clock. So the kid who wrote was like had statistics you really put a lot of effort into the letter. So now that we can where your program is providing snacks to all classrooms in high school. So we went from so I tell you what, I forget how many it is. It's 225 students. I think there are 23 classrooms. So we bring 400 pieces of snack so cases in places with staff and bring them to Mr. Joyce and then the kids it's their responsibility to get the snacks to all the different classrooms. And the woodshop had built like a little case for them to go in. And so every classroom now has snacks from us, which is kind of cool. Another thing that happened is that we the majority of our food comes from the Midwest Food Bank in Manchester, Connecticut. We were considered a small organization, just based on our numbers when we first signed up, which was a couple of years ago. I gave them updated numbers and we are now a large organization we help we help 50 to 51 families in the elementary and middle school every week, which totals I think it's 213 individual people every week in the middle school and elementary school. That will help the high school so that's an additional 225 students and that on a weekly basis. So multiply that times four or five we have five weeks and then we help AB six now it is six senior citizen households in town. For a total I think we have 210 individual people. So we're like at 1200 people a month that we're giving food to so our need, our numbers went up tremendously. And so now we can get extra food from the food bank. So we still supplement what we need. With the funds that we have. But like for instance this this month, we got turkey so this year to this for the seniors we're gonna be able to give them a turkey turkeys vegetable stuffing, like a like a dinner and it's gonna be the 21st and we're going to deliver and so they'll have like a meal for me for Christmas. So it'd be really nice. Yeah, and we also have like a gift baskets going out to them with very generous people in the community have donated 85 individual things. The liquidation lady who's one of our members donated planters and then other people have donated needed 85 things. And we're making like baskets and so when everybody delivers their food this week, this month, they're also going to bring the gift to everybody. So they'll have a little something. There is still



1:00:07

time for everyone and there's still tie Yeah 85 of something. Yeah, my outfit right. By Friday,



1:00:13

we're putting the baskets



1:00:14

together on Saturday. So um, and then another fun thing, which is tomorrow, we're doing a pop up event in partnering with Co Op consignments in Putnam. We are going to be at Riverdale village. The three rows we are setting up and giving away food. We are setting up tables. We have we have Tammy and I were there all afternoon we put together water snacks, food, all kinds of things like like personal hygiene items like socks, like a bunch of bomba donates a lot of socks give socks and underwear. And so we have a lot and own mittens and hats and we've just been getting donations all over the place that tomorrow we're going to be there and literally set up shop right we're going to set up tables set up cases and open our cases and have food laid out. Cones consignments is going to be there and they're going to have winter coats and hats and all warm clothes and sweatshirts and toys and people I've had signs out there for a little bit more than a week and the property manager has advertised it. And so people can literally just come shopping for free through our thing. We're gonna be different three or four tomorrow. Just to throw this out there. We're going to be loading up our truck at one o'clock tomorrow at the mill if anybody who is big and strong thing come and help us load our truck. That would be really awesome. Once we get there, I'm loading it setting it up. I think we're pretty good at getting all the crap on the truck. Maybe it could use a couple extra hands. So if anybody is able to help, let me know reach out to me. I'll tell you where to go. If you've already helped us in the past you know where we have so but yeah, that's the three things that have happened. Okay,



1:02:04

thank you. Golf Tournament real quick next month. We haven't picked a day but next month we are first planning meeting for the new golf tournament for 2024. So we'll put out an announcement next soon for that. Then our mixer winter mixer 116. So I'm a little bit behind the eight ball getting started on this one. So when we get to tonight or whatever we can really get involved in I really want to get the ads going by like Friday because it's on the 16th so it's going to be at prestige nail salon in Webster. It's going to be on January 16. We do need an alcohol sponsor beer and wine sponsor. It only takes about what do you usually get if you did like faces Yeah, and



1:02:51

I worked from if anybody wants to it I literally order from this place online where I get like, discount like cases of



1:02:59

stuff. So it just takes a few cases of like, single serve wines and beers. And then you can come on set up a table in there and serve drinks and put your sign on it. And either our Beers and Beer and Wine spots. Anybody would like to do that we would appreciate it. We also need to gift baskets for them to businesses want to donated gift basket for door prizes for that event. And so we've we decided we already talked about this a couple months ago. But we were doing these things every two months. We decided to scale it back just a little bit because that was a

little too much. We're going to do for this year. We'll do them seasonally. So this is our winter mixer. We'll have a spring summer and fall mixer. Fall is already spoken for. That is Donnie new Donnie lawncare. We did there this past fall. It was a great event and he put a table up he hadn't catered. So we're going to expand on that for this coming fall. But we do have spring and summer mixer so if anybody would like to host those. If you have a location or you want to team up with a local restaurant or something, we're also looking for that. And we will so yeah, I mean I know when we we did the prestige It wasn't us that did it the last time it was at precedes you guys were there? It was the WD VA to beautiful places and they saw on and it was a good event. So again, it's January 16. Save the date. We're gonna get the announcement out real soon. Was that we have to talk? Yeah. Does anybody have any announcements they would like to

 1:04:40

make to talk about something so I keep saying tax season is coming up next month. Be there be square, Larry grow who is part of growing tax service, and I are going to have a fun little game next month for all of you with like, tax ideas.

 1:04:58

Oh, that's right. You guys are gonna do the 10 that is bad textbook or 20

 1:05:02

Right. Now, yeah, so next one, it'll be fun. We're gonna throw out some new tax law questions just questioning you and stuff. You should probably know but it'll be fun. I mean, like,

 1:05:16

Does anybody think taxes are fun?

 1:05:25

Classes are so fun. Anybody else got any announcements? Question What time somebody went to mix their own time.

 1:05:31

Oh, sorry. Good point five to 7pm.

 1:05:40

Guys, so I'm trying to put together the calendar for volunteers. So when you guys know you

have open days or times that you know kind of coincides with what we're looking for on days to volunteer whether it's packed bags, unload the trucks, things like that. You can either reach right out to us or email the weekend warriors cte@gmail.com. And then I can follow up with you and just confirm that you're attending and if you'd like to recurrently help. Just let me know the days and times you're available and I'll see if it matches with what we have.



1:06:11

Anybody else? Going once, going twice. That meeting is adjourned



1:06:18

at 630 to say oh



1:06:29

this is everybody. This is not everybody. Next year.



1:06:34

No



1:06:42

it's not I mean, I think part of it has to do with eligibility is no reason why people have already won.



1:06:50

Jeff your cards in there is anybody's card now in there? It's here that's eligible to win.



1:07:06

Now nobody's hurt nobody



1:07:21

I've got your grant, right. Chris, do you have two cards or do you just have the Fat Boys? Oh, yeah, it is double sided. Okay. All right. Cheater. Oh, Claire's, chapter one. Okay, maybe





1:07:50

one more thing to town meeting on Monday here. Two issues. I think there's only two items on it. One is a small acquisition thing that I don't think it's gonna be a problem. It's a piece of property we're going to be buying the town wants to buy from the butler's to add to the Grady's pumps and train wreck memorial park that's also grant funded the \$5,000 is called grant money but technically you still have to go to town meeting on it to prove it. The other thing which absolutely needs people to come out and support is the developer of 929. The town is proposing to sell the tax liens to him from the existing owner, which was 20 mil to mil so that's one of the sort of key elements in the strategy to get the existing absentee owner out of the picture is to sell that tax lien to but that also needs to be approved at town meetings,



1:08:56

just sell it to the developer



1:08:58

to sell it. Yeah. So they're going to purchase that lien from the town and then that gives them a legal right to foreclose on him if he continues to drag his feet about the sale. itself. Okay. So these are very important strategies. It is the kind of thing that people who don't understand or and obstructionist mindset might come out to agitate against so. For those of you who understand how important that building is. Monday at seven, seven here



1:09:33

in the library, that developer will be paying the back to taxes right so they for the owner was dragging his feet to sell it. So I that's like, selling dates, isn't it? It's



1:09:47

much less rolling dice than what he's got now. And it's way too complicated to execute. Ascribe. There's literally a flowchart that we have, which even when I look at it, it's like mind boggling, but the assignment of the lien



1:10:02

through sale by so it's gonna eliminate the lien. So there's a clear path to purchase.



1:10:07

Got that and it gives the developer the ability to directly foreclose on the owner. Without getting into it too much. There's like a middleman involved. Several mortgage company,



1:10:19

sort of private mortgage guys



1:10:22

sort of the it's, it's, I'll show you the flowchart, if you stuck in my office, it's kooky. But anyway, it is it is very important part of the strategy and just needed to sail through and we have learned not to sleep on these issues at Downing Street.



1:10:45

Yeah. When we go pack our bags, well yeah. We're allowing for the



1:10:57

fitness same plants for as long as this developer has been in the chain, so 750,000 square feet total. The proposal is 300 ish. Units of 90% market rate, rental housing and 36,000 ish, square feet of mixed use space. So that commercial office, whatever Yes, it's a huge it will be a huge transformative project. For the for the economy. I mean, it's astonishing once it's done, but it's taken years to get to where we are now for various reasons. And these are some of the last steps that will enable us to sort of turn the corner



1:11:55

it closing now. That's like what's Is there any any redeeming value of what's going on in the building now? So



1:12:05

there's some tenants in there, but the developer has essentially taken call it spiritual ownership of the property. He's he has a property manager for it, even though he doesn't own it. They have tenants in there essentially, just to keep the place from being vacant, which is what puts properties at highest risk. When you hear about all these mills that you know burned down in the middle of the night. It's because there's no eyes on them. Right. So that's the main function. And anybody who was at the meeting, I think it was back in September, maybe late August, early September, when the developer was up talking about some of the stuff you know, the tenants in there, understandably, are, like not crazy about the fact that no renovation has been done, but he really can't do any substantive renovation until he owns it. I just wish he would do something. Really, to keep me but it's all the weasel. This



1:13:06

will be Oh, yeah. That's a true story. And



1:13:13

Laurie would like to know if there's a theme



1:13:16

for the million dollars into a theme for the circle.



1:13:19

Lori commented on the live stream and asked if there was a theme for the mixer,



1:13:24

which is Lori's mixer. What's the theme Laurie? We need to know right now for tonight. We're gonna



1:13:35

All right. Thanks, everybody, for coming to our final meeting of the year. Thanks for all your support. We'll see you next year. What do you don't work mixer



1:13:46

at the Thompson dam and we rent the facility



1:14:00

Thank you



1:14:07

General about the show. So I wanted to start again.