

TBA meeting 1_10_24

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

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00:00

All right. What's the last year whatever you do?



00:16

Not like buying clothes to where it is. So we've got



00:30

the ability out there like crazy reason once again but now you have to be



00:50

short on figuring out what's going on behind me up like



00:58

right here good I got a question because nobody knows that we have a full suit



01:16

in order to get whatever it is the required



01:24

information you know you're at 530 and to come in our meeting minutes are always posted on our website. We don't have a secretary and take debit. So then on our website you can see the minutes from last month so if you ever want to check them out, you can see them and hear

them. So they're telling you that and we have a couple of new members here with us tonight. So, Christine and Christine right. Yes, that right from the northeast, go ahead. From the

 02:02

Northeast early childhood Council. We're a nonprofit that serves seven communities, one of them's Thompson, so we wanted to join the business association so we can meet other members of the community, a lot of what we do, serves families and community free resources. We have a guide that we can share with you guys tonight. It was shared through your Facebook page. Businesses can request the guides to help families and we do some programming, free workshops for families, all to get kids ready for learning. So thank you,

 02:38

thank you. Thanks for coming. Thanks for joining and also LV

 02:43

off camera productions I enter a local photographer. Not only do I empower the women to require but I empower businesses your business right and catch on product photography. So come with me for anything that you need

 03:00

is that you decide

 03:04

eight hours ago just

 03:09

any time that we have new members in attendance I asked everybody to rise into our code of ethics with us please.

 03:19

I will be fair, honest, impartial, respectful and professional and act in good faith at all by the business relationships with my clients, trade partners, suppliers to 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 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



04:15

Okay, so we will now go around the room and give everybody 45 seconds to talk about their business. Right You know, we some of you know most of you already and what you do, but there doesn't have to be that you can talk about if you need employees or you have a special coming up or anything like that. So Sarah.



04:36

Hi, there King phosphating Painting Services. Mike's not here because he's chosen not to be here. David was like my site time and he's like, why? Just pick him up? I know. I'm reading emails either for some reason, weekly updates pretty much anything and everything. We are currently waiting peeling wallpaper and painting there. So I'm anxious to see that before and after transformation. Just something for you guys as other small businesses. Thompson is putting on Peter Pan for their play this year. They are looking for ad space sponsor space for their playbills reasonably priced like 100 bucks for a full page on inside cover. 100 bucks for a hat paid on the outside cover off sorry, times up and then like sold for like the smallest like 20 bucks for advertising that goes out under the label. So if you need your one bag, just reach out to me next year.



05:38

Good evening everyone picked on you with any lawn care is only a transportation company. Tony Walker is a four season landscaping and snow contractor site service pretty much everything green industry related. And W transportation is a I would say a boutique force transport nationwide carrier. Pretty Michie on both ends. Our real specialty is high end customer relations and results. That's kind of what we strive for. That's the market we look for. And when it's any questions, anything after the fact happy to speak with you we have no specials running for really nothing important to say in a matter of joking. Yes, we're always hiring as everybody in this room. So yeah, if you know anybody looking for any type of work, absolutely. Dave. Hi, everybody. I'm



06:32

Dave Chaplin. With DCS cleanups and handyman services. Well kind of one stop shopping for you. You got a space as Fran would stop, we get rid of bit estates, garages, attics, all of it. We also work hand in hand with lawless and quite a few other folks in town. We kind of feed off one another for for jobs and for work and it's working out really nice. But as Nick said after the fact if you need anything, please come up to me. I'll get your business card and we can go over it. Maybe that's what she should have tested. The front table she is absolutely



07:18

Guevera David Belfie thank hometown here in North Grosvenor No. Just if you need any bank you need checking account business checking savings personal whatever credit cards business you really but yeah, you guys and no minimum Fiat no minimum balances no monthly fees on our accounts. So have come in and say yes to me and we have new CD specials next week. So you want to pop in and see what those are. Come and see us. Thanks. Tell us about your business. Okay.



07:57

So it's my second meeting. We joined last month. My wife is a psychiatric nurse practitioner. She works in Worcester. And this is her business. We're just starting the business and also representing my daughter who has my wife's business is called Rosie Incorporated. And then also my daughter is a photographer and she takes family pictures and I'd say it's a reasonable price. She's She charges me so I kind of know and she does family photography and stuff like that and her business is called Nina Anamosa photography.



08:47

Thanks for coming. Thanks for joining out. But Diane.



08:52

Diane pin Alan Patterson. Patterson Insurance Services basically specialize in health insurance specifically the Medicare market. Do a little bit of life. Really excited. I'm entering into a partnership with a new company that's starting in Woodstock doing property and casualty insurance. That's a piece we didn't have. So we're kind of working together on that also they're going to be heavy in manufacturing insurance, your business owners insurance, umbrella policies, workman's comp, things like that. He has a background where he actually was the Vice President of Operations and underwriting for Liberty Mutual, so he kind of knows it from that side. And he's saying he can save people money so we'll see. I'll let you know how that goes. My god, that's it. We're kind of got out of open enrollment now so we're resting a little bit



09:49

perfect stitch can seamstress when anybody needs you.



09:57

She's got lots of guinea pigs. Do you make homemade toys for



10:05

custom gift baskets. You'll

custom gift baskets. You'll



10:06

get the custom gift basket everything's handmade and organic. And



10:10

she regularly donates kimonos house



10:13

as well as much other businesses we love them



10:24

so talkative yeah



10:32

all right. Hey all about me. I'm usually referenced as your local law child with a camera. I am a photographer I focus on boudoir facility power. Here are women through art to love themselves, except themselves of the bodies that they're in at any age from you know 21 And up. I also do lifestyle photography from eternity to buy things from the My very much focus on the boudoir to really empower the sisterhood that we have in our community. And I do business branding and headshots and service commercial pet portraits all your photo needs.



11:06

He has an event coming up that she's looking to sell tickets to Yeah,



11:09

so ladies 21 times day event is sponsored by Alec Mac and PGI counseling, consulting sorry, you're my counselor. She's my therapist



11:29

man from T got we're gonna report later so I could just keep it to less than to your to



11:32

11 11:50

your pen Director of Planning and Development for the town of Thompson. I also do have a spot on the agenda for an actual report. Just in general, we'll be talking about the 65 main project ongoing to try to encourage you guys to get involved but also as always, I come here not really as a member of the association but as a resource for the association if you have questions about stuff that's going on in town, I don't know everything but I do often have at least insights into things. And as I always say, I'll also make things up to sound credible. Make you happy.

12:17

Christine's like Hi. So as we said, we're from the Northeast early childhood Council. She's a regional director and I'm the Outreach Coordinator. And our mission is all children. In our seven communities are healthy, safe and successful learners and we focus on children first with HIV. And one of the things we everything we do is collaborate we we work with everyone within those seven communities, businesses, organizations, parents libraries. In the one thing we've just recently done is we've created this resource guide for families in northeast Connecticut. Anything we thought that a family could possibly use in this one book all contributors have their logos on the back. And we're always young, including bank hometown and T antique and we're always adding more so it's an opportunity for businesses to to weigh in on that and we have a number of days in the car if you would like to sample if you would like some for your business or for the families you work with. We can get you some copies of this. And I just shut off with my granddaughter

13:21

Yep, Hi, my name is Kim. I'm the owner of assemblies so I've been kind of quietly leave my offseason you'll usually see me at the farmers market during the summertime. So we just had a grim brand new grandbaby that's my three weeks old so I've been helping my daughter out a lot but still kick motors on my website, but pretty quiet.

13:46

Hi everyone, I'm out and standing up because I can't see everyone. I'm the new executive director of the Northeast Chamber of Commerce, which is very exciting. I've been here for about five months now. And we cover 23 towns within the northeastern Connecticut region. Thompson that was Plainfield all the way over to Coventry and our whole mission is to help businesses grow and thrive. One of our board members is here Joanne Chanel. And we do that in five different components networking, so we do monthly networking events, education, you'll start to see some more educational series coming with the chamber. We help with visibility for businesses, growth for your business as well as advocacy. So if you're interested in learning more about the chamber reach out we love to support all eligible businesses and looking forward to working with our local business associations. So

14:37

yes, I can see the brochures my husband is j&j construction, we do excavation. So foundations, perimeter drains, all that good stuff. And I'm also the person who won when he went in the

morning. So sign up. We're pretty booked by the way. I can't wait to do the report late. I'm excited about it.



14:57

I'm here to tell you.



15:00

Hi, I'm Joanne Chanel. And we're on the agenda so we're gonna look



15:10

here for the sympathy, I said



15:13

it's all fake. I'm filled with sight and sound tech solutions anything tech that you don't get, give me a call. I do everything from TVs, home theater, cameras, smart thermostats. Anything along that line. Just as somebody called today asked about a VCR I did somebody's version from an old video, tape a family to DVD. Do that once in a while. Do this past year. I did a lot of church and a couple schools we do things with audio. I did a lot of church audio revision stuff and I get some referrals from people going into churches going into schools and you know, I can't hear the speaker at all. Please can you call call this company of all the school calls church and so that works out a lot. Do a lot of video cameras. Did some business and churches with video camera systems and house cameras. You can see right on your phone and all that stuff. But please don't buy anything before you contact me. I hate walked into a house and they buy something that just doesn't work. Well. Thank you. And the home theater with Dan Shut up the



16:24

damn Yeah, I can't wait. It's almost done. Okay.



16:28

We do it a lot of shadows. I'm Brian. Handling membership here with the TVA. I chaired the Economic Development Commission. And I haven't decided if I'm at the end of business or in between businesses. So I have nothing to say about business.



16:52

I palliative alimac at Ciani consulting I go to girl for all your marketing needs. If you're looking for social media management all the way to advice on how to start your business or even just

one simple flyer or graphic design word. You can bring it up right my way. Something I'm looking for this month is the event we're sponsoring for off camper is our Valentine's Day event. Ally Mac is sponsoring the wine and chocolate tasting so ladies, if you're looking for a fun night, women empowerment and just loving yourself and seeing the heck out chocolate and why don't we just go to OFF CAMERA productions, their Facebook page the tickets are right up there for sale.



17:30

It's fun.



17:32

And I'm Bennett I'm the owner of GDC solutions where we transform the space you live into a place you'll love to hear and we have a design event coming up. It's actually two weeks from tonight at Taylor Brook winery. teleco brewery in Woodstock, so yeah, from 530 to 8pm. All of our trade partners are going to be there painting cleaning electrical plumbing.



17:54

I'm probably missing somebody. Phil's going to be there



17:58

at Eastern Chase Eastern designs.



18:01

Oh yeah, the East rebuilding supply design center. So yeah, we'll have a designer there talking about what's going to be trending and both design for 2024. I'll have my virtual reality design software setup where we can put you in a VR headset and let you take a look at how that looks to view your new kitchen or bathroom before you actually buy it. So if if you just have a question about electrical or plumbing come down now I would be here. Walk around and talk and all of our vendors are going to be bringing door prizes. So the cool stuff the raffle. That's about it I just wanted to remind everybody because I forgot I think before if you haven't already signed in, and any members put your business card in the basket to be eligible for business of the month. And now I'm gonna do



18:48

the presentation. Let's say I like the flyer.





18:52

Yeah, did you do that? That's why I say yeah, that's



18:55

the same time as our next networking. thing. Oh, 65 Me too. So some of us won't be there.



19:02

Oh, okay. You guys probably want to move I'm gonna turn this back on.



19:13

You Born



19:29

Alright, so we've been working on getting some new marketing opportunities for all the businesses, all our members and Sandy actually who's not here tonight, our treasurer, most of you know, actually got this going. She went up and met with the marketing guy at Thompson Speedway and so he put together a whole proposal. So most of this is about the Thompson Speedway and what they're offering us for marketing opportunities and discounted rates for that because you're a member of the Thompson Business Association. So



20:02

one of these buttons makes it go to the next slide, right. There we go.



20:14

45 Okay, so there we go. So, Thompson Speedway, probably all of you know where it's located. It's been in operation for 83 years. They've got all kinds of different divisions of racing. I know. I'm not sure I don't think it's on here, but I know they have like new owners within the last few years, and they're really like turning up the valium up there and bringing in other racing series and stuff like that. So premier premiere, that is that 61, the 61st annual World Series of racing in October where there's 20 different divisions there. All these different events. I'm not going to read all this I am also going to email this out to everybody so you'll all have an opportunity to read it but all the different events that they have all year starting out with the icebreaker in April. Let me know if I'm going too fast here. 15 days of racing all season 125,000 people expected 15,000 seats 15,000 people per event



21:28

all the different opportunities which there's going to be a little bit more details about these but naming rights for the races. Title sponsorships, race day promotions, specific race promotions and special opportunities. Okay, so the premiere event opportunity. Some of these are big ticket items, but as you can see, there's a lot of people there. So title sponsorship of the icebreaker event. You have the billboard out there package. And this is a couple of days back. Like I said, I didn't get to read this as much as I would have liked to before we did this but

 22:13

all kinds of different packages. I'll let you guys take a look at that for a moment and move on and like I said, I'll email it to everybody so you can you can see

 22:30

if you want to

 22:39

Yeah, it's there's some there's some other opportunities out here and they're coming up they're not as expensive but that's just

 22:45

not my wheelhouse, right.

 22:50

So here's, here's some other stuff. Oh, and I don't know, let me let me go back to that page real quick. Oh, so for all of those big ones. If you see it at the bottom it says Business Association members will get double the free tickets. But then when you get to these ones, it's like business association members or get \$100 off or any of these per day

 23:15

so the event that was one of the ones that we were talking about that seems like it might be a really good opportunity for people is the event display space you can actually go up there and set up a 10 by 10. Booth on a race day when there's going to be 15,000 people walking around you can do that for \$400 As a member of the Thompson Business Association.

 23:46

Division naming rights we're back into some pricey stuff for the division naming rights. You get a 15% discount for those touring division naming rights. A little bit more reasonable and you

get a 15% discount for any of that include naming rights in specific races or divisions. creates an atmosphere built around your company perfect for entertaining guests, clients or employees.

 24:29

Some of their big sponsors now that attract sponsors can drive you better be able to write so that's about that. There's some contact information on here if anybody's interested in writing this right down now but I like I said I will email it out to everybody afterwards. Good. Okay, so now this is the stuff that I'm more excited about that I worked on, when he commercial. So as a member of the TVA, my plan is we can do a 32nd commercial every day of the year that mentions the TVA, and then it will mention seven of our businesses so each of those businesses would have to pay \$343. But that gets your business mentioned on the radio every day of the year. Also, obviously it's promoting the Business Association, which is going to get us more attention. Get us more members to more members equal more connections for everybody. And if we fill up one of these commercials, if there's seven businesses that want to do this for the year, and we cannot we could obviously go ahead and do a second one too. And have a little display here the Killingly Business Association and the Putnam Business Association. already do this chillingly

 25:48

Business Association is growing with more members and more activities to promote the wonderful things happening in Killingly Are you a member yet? If not join them as they work together to support and grow local business. participating members include REMAX Bell Park Realty, the golden great restaurant first casualty insurance companion Veterinary Health Center Shepherd and Associates Real Estate Group of EXP Daniels in surplus sales and The Last Green Valley see the Killingly Business Association online is killing Li ba.org And be sure to like them on Facebook.

 26:20

And then

 26:24

there's character around every corner in Putnam, Connecticut discover Putnam's great restaurants cafes, antiques and art galleries still find toys, comic books, boutiques, live theater and more. And while you're here discover these members of the Putnam Business Association first

 26:40

American Home Loans and wireless zone theory brothers Mike's dad Terry's embroidery foster Corporation and Charter Oak Federal Credit Union Green Valley glass and global design and



26:50

more at discover.putnam.com All right.



26:56


That one next one is probably a lot of you know Henry's variety and Putnam as well. So I got this idea from Dave on. We would have this this card, create a card created where the TBA would be a small part of it and then a group of our businesses would fill up the rest. Dave does it where he has one whole side. And he offers specials on the air and stuff. I don't know if this one Yeah, you get a free hot dog if you bring the card and my idea is that we could do we would only need a small area on there so we could add a few more businesses to the front. And nine businesses on the bat. And this would get mailed to 4055 addresses here in Toms. And they would it because the print minimum is 5000. We would have an extra 900 cards approximately that we could distribute however we want and we can give them to the to the people that paid for them or we could distribute them in businesses. Around here. Whatever everybody feels like would be best. So it'd be approximately \$160 per business. If you if one business wanted a bigger space, they could take two spaces and pay the extra money. And if we ran this once in a court once a quarter would be \$640 per business or wanting if we did it once a month would be 1920 possibly if we I'm thinking maybe once a quarter would be good. And we can also change up to businesses every quarter if we can, you know keep enough interest in people that want to jump on there. But I mean for \$160 you can get your business mail directly to over 4000 homes in town. So I do direct mail marketing for my business. It's a little bit different than this because I don't mail it to every house. I pay like \$1.75 per card, but I mail it to who I want to map it to and neighborhoods that I want to be able to tip with with Every Door Direct Mail. You don't have that flexibility it's a lot cheaper, but you just have to send it to every address on you can you can take like one route one mail route, but you can't you can't take less than that. And then this one is I have a little less details about it. The price is approximately right. I'm working with both the shoppers guide and the smart shopper right now to they're going to put together some packages for us. And we will get more details about this coming real soon. But my idea for this is very similar to like the card or like a restaurant placemat where we would TVA would be in the center we'd have a bunch of businesses around it. I did a layout today. If we were doing a full page we could have up to 14 businesses on the page. And for that it would cost per business 1400 basically \$1,400 a year which breaks down to \$170 a month. We could possibly do it by the month. The only problem with that is keeping you know business getting the rotation getting enough businesses each month to keep turning it over. So I think it might work out better if we had you know businesses that wanted to do it for the whole month. And also I'm waiting on like I said I don't have all the pricing details yet. This was like pricing based on their just this is what it costs to advertise with us. And so I've talking to both of them now about hey can you give us a deal as for Business Association, if you're going to run it all year, and so they both said they would get back to me. They both do inserts which might be a little less expensive too. So that's an option.





30:29

But that's it for all


 30:31
yeah


 30:37
that's so one full page that will meet the shoppers guy and TV, TV as long


 30:45
as 14

 30:46
businesses we

 30:53
well, we would

 30:54
I mean 14 businesses every week, and then the next routine get routine next week. Well,

 31:00
I mean, my thought like I was just saying is that I would be ideally I think we would be looking for 14 businesses that want to step up and pay the \$1,400 for the year. And we do that one ad for the whole year. I wouldn't be great if we could rotate them out every week, but that's a lot of work. But we got to get 14 businesses that want to sign up for it every week and we got to do all the work because I mean the shoppers guide and the smart shopper would do the layout. You know but

 31:31
I so that's so it is 14 businesses so far when you're when you're saying I think you're saying this routine businesses on page every week, right business Facebook,

 31:46

right and you're in there for the whole year for 1400 bucks. It's the whole year every week you're in the shoppers guide. Which I think personally if you're going to do print marketing, it's got to you got to be consistent. If you put your ad in there for a week, it's pointless. It's got to be something that people see over and over.

 32:07

Again, me I mean, if somebody sees my name citing some potential issues, what is that? So I need a little bit I would need space

 32:16

to do right.

 32:18

Something like that. 14 businesses that that's one Yeah,

 32:22

well it's all I was just trying to, you know, make it as affordable as possible for everybody. I did. Oh, I actually did with you right here. It's there. It's a little bit smaller than a business. Right. But we show you that you do have some room on there. And then again, like I said, you could potentially do too, if you want it to but obviously then you're talking about \$2,800 Again, but if you and again this is basic. This is like based off their prices that are on the website, like any of us could go down there and pay for for the same thing for the same price. Um we're gonna get a little bit better deal than this. I'm presuming I presume, especially from the smartshop. We will we will see soon what that's going to be but and then you know, it's we can move this around. We can put less businesses on it. You know, it's depends but but yeah, it's like the same thing with like the winning Radio One.

 33:21

He could get your name on the radio every day for the whole year. I

 33:26

think that's a great deal person. I know I advertised it when he definitely cost me more money than that. Any other questions?

 33:38

I'll make a statement. We did plenty commercial. I don't know if you guys ready to do that. But

I'll make a statement. We did plenty commercial. I don't know if you guys ready to do that. But we did it first. So for basically the holiday season and cost us roughly around 400 bucks for that from like Thanksgiving to Christmas. And we have landed at least four jobs from that. So that just that and that's not playing that's being paid for that's money for me more so than cleaning. So in my opinion, that was a great way to advertise and we're working on the next commercial. So and that was running on a separate day and they do all the like planning of the commercial like if you were doing stapling nitrous this way we would use as an individual business here and writes the commercials to help you record it she'll even record it if you don't want to. So just kind of running here my commercial on my visa.

 34:24

Yeah, they will. They will do it for you or you can do your own how I like to go into my homework like I do the array and make it so easy like you don't it's like you don't have to be perfectly certain

 34:36

she's like, face to face and she's like Yep, I'll cut that together and it comes out sounding

 34:41

amazing. Say as a consumer to I know when I've gone to the shoppers guide. I see ads for businesses and then five months later I need that business. And if it's not there again so like to have it there every week because I know Oh, I saw in the top five but if I go back and wasn't there I don't always rip them out to see them. know if you're going to do that business. Right so I think the every week as a consumer Yeah.

 35:06

And I've done shoppers guide and I definitely felt like when he was more successful in my business then you might, that's why he did what was targeted and so like my business would target a lot of Facebook, Instagram, that kind of networking. So I'm missing all the demographic of the older generation that's not on Facebook or Instagram. So I thought oh shoppers guide cheap and expensive. Older folks read spacers whatever. We've had more success with one even with a shop, in my opinion

 35:40

right? Shoppers guide is not not cheap.

 35:44

There's about the same price. Yeah, yeah, I



35:47

was looking at some prices today. It's not cheap at all. So Okay, any other questions? I'm gonna email all this stuff to everybody like I said, and.



36:33

Okay, he's not here so we're gonna skip by that and Brian are up



36:50

okay. We are as of tonight we are up to 84 members we had a few switches from the last roster we lost fairway independent mortgage for a few studio liquidation lady and roaming Texas has changed their membership to Nikki's dark house. Yes. So that's Larry and Erica grow, still part of the association. So we lost



37:25

fairway mortgage but not he just changed to a new name. Okay, so we



37:30

so which then it's another mortgage company because we added Woodstock cavern, which we added Rosie incorporated that was from since the last roster. Northeast early childhood concert. Most of photography, no LP is not on there. Yep. And she's here. Yeah, I wrote. I wrote. Oh,



37:55

okay. So that's the 84th.



37:59

And I don't have I don't have a tax group. That got added in to the tax. Mortgage. No, no one on the restaurant.



38:14

checked into that.

 38:17

Yeah, because I had everything in green is new and everything in pink is not. So we've taken up our our challenge here to hit 100. We restricted it this year. So tell all your friends keep networking.

 38:39

Right. And then Sandy. Our director is not here with us but she didn't send along her Treasurer's Report. So we have in our main bank account, we have \$2,506.32. We are going to pay me and Sandy talked about this last week we're going to pay for the weenie radio that we already do for the whole year instead of paying it every month. So it will be by next month. We'll know what the money was for that \$81.97 transferred from faith out it's not in the total weekend warrior account has \$686.23 we don't want your backup account has \$8,327.12 Thanksgiving account for 9953 and golf tournament account 507 Decent.

 39:38

T you're up.

 39:42

Kind of surprised me there.

 39:44

Do you mind if I stand up here so does everyone in the room know what T does? Yes, no. For the most part, for the most part. Okay, once again, I'm here to try to clarify a few things. I always appreciate the time and and I always appreciate what the Thomson Business Association is doing for the community. I'm just going to be honest, we've kind of put out there we actually went to a Selectmen meeting to make sure we had the blessing of the Selectmen to move forward at some point with some building plans because we've had quite a bit of expansion. And you'll see that in a minute. From what I'm going to share. But so we went to the sort of just to see, we went to the Selectmen to see if they were certainly on board with us considering putting a building in the location across from the little road that runs up to the fields, the athletic fields behind our building. The reason for that is our programming has really blown up in the past couple of years. We have three people sharing one desk, we have we have a big room, it's not quite this size, maybe a little bit longer. A little bit more narrow, and it is our community room and we flipped that room, sometimes three times a day. We certainly are not able to use that room at different times. Mostly the holidays for our playgroup and our juvenile Review Board, things like that have to move completely out of that space and to other buildings. We serve as a hub for the food systems that serve the northeast corner. So we get a lot of the big deliveries in of food that that we are trying to keep in the system and to feed people and a lot of those deliveries go out to they go down as far as playing field with Project pin friends of Assisi, IHS P daily bread, we share out from there so we are often challenged, especially when we get very large deliveries and we're loading them in in the snow in the rain.

Gotta get them out of the heat quickly. We don't have a loading dock. That's a challenge. So we call together some some volunteers who had worked on our old building, and they came in and they gave us a Steve Lewis gave us several different options for some kind of an expansion that would give us a little bit of desk space, a little bit more meeting space, and a little bit more market space. And what we came up with was the separate building across the road. would probably serve best. That being said, we have no intention of building a building tomorrow. That was never the intention. The intention was to have plans that would be ready, that we knew we had the blessing of the town to put a building in that space. And to have plans that were spared level plans that we could get a price on that building so we would have a shovel ready building. When we got a grant or grant came up that we could apply for it. You can't go out for grant and say, I think I need \$500,000 for a building. No one's gonna give you anything for that. So we had to get to that level and that's why we went to the Selectmen to ask them who else we might want to ask. They said as a courtesy we should really go to the school board and that they would run it by PNC and we could kind of stuff that there. The media got a hold of that and we're interested in a story and the story was released. The story was not incorrect, but it sparked a social media right on the heels of me announcing I was retiring which may probably made it look like I was reading from social media but I'm not retiring for almost a year or so. So anyway, I I guess I'm coming to you because I always like to educate you about what we're doing. I always like to let you know what we're doing. And I thought that maybe if I just gave you a couple of couple of data pieces and service pieces that you can then spread the good word up to the community that teams awesome and they really are helping and we're doing a lot and we're not looking to steal anybody's land or use the title of Thompson as a launch service for social services. So that being said, I go to the town actually tomorrow my my requests are due to the town to ask them for support every year. We ask each town that we serve to give us support at a percentage rate of what our value of services are. So for every service we do, I answer the phone and I tell a client where they might find northeast early childhood counsel help and I give them the address and I talked to them about why that might be a helpful thing with what they're struggling with. And that is valued. Every service that we offer is valued because if you if the town was running their own social service agency, they would have that kind of value on their services. We value food by bags of food so we for that for the year on reporting on we had said that a bag of food was worth \$35 How many people can get a bag of groceries for \$35. So beginning at the beginning of this fiscal year, the 2324 fiscal year, that value we have moved up to \$50 every other value we moved down during the pandemic when we call to check in on an elderly person. We had that valued at a \$25 rate. We lowered that value because now our check ins are much more brief by phone and we're usually just make an appointment to go out and speak to somebody so that's back down to a \$2 value. So you see we moved a lot of values down email values, and so forth. But we did move that food value by \$50 back. I won't give you a lot of a lot of numbers, but I think these numbers will really surprise you. Last year, our total service of value was \$550,555 to the talent Thompson. This year. It was \$802,806. And for the first six months of our fiscal year that we're in right now, the total service value is \$696,600. For that the town of Tufts and pays \$50,595 a year. That is a percentage 6.3% of the value of service. So what we do is we go out, yes, Thompson gives us a percentage value. But we go out and we bring together grants. We bring together funding through our state. We have a little bit of federal government funding. We have a little bit of state funding that's about a third. And then the rest of what we do is we fundraise. we fundraise by having our heart auction, which we always you are always invited to that so a lot of fun. And then we send out our annual report. And we have donors from all over the United States, who send us money. I get things from Texas, every one of those letters. We sign I write a note on every one of those letters. I've had people say they've never received a note like that and they'll always give to take and that I think was a donor from Texas or Florida, right. That was somebody who was new to us. So we're bringing money in from all over the United States

to take care of our little NorthEastern corner. If you'd like any of these facts and figures, fine. I'd love to share them with you. If you could share them with our fellow townspeople I would be really, really grateful to you. Yes, the town does pay for services. The other thing that you need to know is that the other towns in our service area also pay for services. So they pay for the upkeep on the building they pay for people who work at tea, they pay for food and their services, their value of services is much lower. Woodstock is about 280,000 and Pomfret is 233,000. Seniors from the town of Thompson are invited to use the senior center that we run in conference at no charge. And any citizen of the town. Thompson can use the power of free market and the

 49:01

Woodstock market and they do.

 49:04

So, any questions? Does that sound a little clearer on how we do what we do? Yes,

 49:09

I would like to just add to that and say the Northeast early childhood counsel has found to be an essential partner crucial to helping us elevate the services we provide. So the service they provide is even greater than the number you have there. And an example is we've had a donation to create social emotional learning and support kids, kids for families, local families, but we didn't want to just give it to them without any type of guidance. We didn't have money for childcare. We didn't have space. We reached out to team they provided staff support tech support in the space and then we reached out to now northeast opportunities for wellness and they provided the childcare. And so the collaboration between our three groups who were able to create this workshop for families, and I actually met a family a few months later, and she said the change in her children's behavior that change and how she approaches her child and even a teacher have noticed a positive change. And so, yes, wonderful, and we couldn't have done that without you. And that's just a small example of how Teague is partnering with other programs

 50:17

and the value of services for early childhood. In Thompson was 53,232. And a lot of that was our hand in hand families, families who have lost children to DCF who now are stars at parenting think they're amazing. And we've seen such a growth there and that's to our hand in hand program, which is 100% funded by one funder wanted to see that happen in this town. So it's a great way to do the work. We're really proud of the work we do. And if anybody if you're out in public and someone is questioning it, I would welcome a call. I'd love it. If you heard something that sounded a little wrong to you all the way through and I would just love to clarify anything. It's big work we do and it's really hard to explain the work we do. We send out that annual report every year tries to write the story, and then I'll say come out and somebody will say oh, so take some food pantry. Yeah. So much.

 51:21

What services you offer. Like I know the food pantry. I know there's energy assistance, but what I mean I'm the family detox in six years but like what else do you guys offer that we might not know about? Oh, no, I don't need like, hey, we provide diapers to John Smith down the road but like as

 51:38

I already like we're back we kind of formula kind of done we go

 51:44

hand in hand program we have a parent child playgroup. We provide lessons on canning and budgeting. And all of that and we invite people from all walks of life to come in to say our centerpiece building and trying to mix folks together from all walks of life as they come together and talk. We do mentoring so we do and we do the juvenile Review Board. Yeah. It's it's a it's a very important and it's a very key piece. And we've had just like the story you've told, we've had so many people come back and say, That's what really kind of saved our family. So I'm trying to think what else can we adapt to school attendance mentoring for so strong like a mother is a postpartum support group that we do. We do attendance mentoring in the towns of Crawford Thompson, Woodstock and platinum because we are used. We are your youth service bureau. But that's that's an even bigger overarching that brings state money into this area to help families. But but the mentoring and the attendance mentoring that we do has helped to get kids back to school. I have a group of four people that go out every morning and pick kids up to take them to school. Kids who won't get out of bed. Some of those people go into the home and actually say go out now and they head in so it's pretty deep. It's pretty wide. We do we've done senior homes, we've gone and fixed up and done little fixes on senior homes to allow them to age in place.

 53:24

Senior Care RC Thank you Joanne our senior care program.

 53:31

See how much the services were for that. Thompson Thompson seniors that year received \$11,800 in senior care products those are products that we raise money for buy drives in the town of Thompson Business Association ever wanted to do that? I would love it. We provide poise pads and pull ups for people who have incontinence issues. That's one of the main things that puts a senior in their home and they're not able to get out it keeps them active that keeps them healthy. We also provide vitamins and heat patches and over the counter painkillers for arthritis to keep them active. We give people rides to places. I took someone today to arrive for

a doctor's appointment because she couldn't understand what her doctor was telling her just to help her try to clarify that. Do we do that? And you know, how do we count that that's a little bit of client assistance but it's nothing we're paid to do we just do it. We do it every so a

 54:33

lot of gaps because there are some government programs that do not cover some of these products or services. And they turn for them to be food or in comments. Right so

 54:47

I have a ton of questions for you.

 54:50

I hope that you'll ask them I will ask me ask me questions. I would love that. We also do did a bed clinics. We've had a three year grant with the Connecticut Humane Society. We were able to get people who had not had shots for their for their pets who had not been able to get small veterinary things done. And we have done safety with first responders and our visiting nurses.

 55:18

How does one find out like this is on their on your website or like our

 55:22

website or Facebook or Facebook. They're

 55:25

also in our guide. So

 55:27

we actually pulled everybody's Facebook and put it on our one. Yeah, we're like a one stop shop for anything going on in the region.

 55:35

Thank you. I don't want to take any more time but thank you so much.



55:43

All right. You're a girl.



55:46

So let me just briefly elaborate on what Ann was saying. The reason this is specifically relevant and it's a little diplomatic in the way she put it. We are approaching budget season. So those social media posts and I will not name the sites or the people cuz I don't want to stir those pots in this meeting. There are people and social media sites that are just clearly not interested in anything that serves the public good, like ideologically and they can be very loud and they come to meetings. So in budget season, as things start to get contentious, you know, those are public meetings and you are members of this public community so you can come in and make your comments in support of the things that are valuable like so I just wanted to take a second there. And



56:42

we're also not asking the town for another penny again this year. We don't ask every year that the town give us more and more money we understand but



56:53

briefly again it to sort of tie into the presentation itself. I actually was at the meeting at the speedway earlier that was related to the natural log epic. Some of you guys will remember But Hugh Freeze he came in, I think last year to talk about this race that comes through starts and ends at the speedway. That is growing and growing and growing. There they come in the last weekend. of March, and they do this gravel grinder race that's like trail racing and mud racing on bicycles. And because they're going every year, I think they will also be looking for sponsorships. That then also people to sort of contribute to some of their prize packages. It but the other thing that we've talked about an EVC is you know they're spending a two or three day period in the region. So if you are in a hospitality business locally and you want to run specials during that time, they would appreciate those connections that are most relevant. We've got a hotel here in Auburn Mencia, a member of this group, but any of the restaurants again in this is definitely talked about but never fully launched. But you know something to keep in mind. And they are running on the 24th of March this year. So then the other big thing, of course, is the 65 main project, which sadly the January workshop is in conflict with dance events. So you know, I won't feel badly if you guys want to go to that instead of ours. I didn't even realize that I didn't when I scheduled it either. But it was what it was. Yeah. It was the only date that I had available to get the consultant back. So just to give you a little progress report on what we've been doing. We are committed as part of the planning grant for the revitalization of the 65 main property to 12 monthly workshops. We are three workshops in the fourth one is coming up on the 24th And they're broken down into three months for the remainder, three month blocks of the general topics that they're going to be touching on because as you guys have heard, it's kind of a complex project. The piece that we're tackling first is the site design for the public food forest and permaculture park that we have a consultant hired the from He's based in Illinois. He will be presenting preliminary concept designs in a hybrid zoom in person meeting

at townhall Oregon Zoo on the 24th and the response to him in particular has been like there's a lot of interest because the idea of permaculture is so novel and interesting. You can think of it as regenerative agriculture that takes in human ecology as well. So the from now through March, we're going to monthly sessions will deal with that. The next three months we'll deal with the connection to the school and the education aspect of the programming that we want to put in the facility because we want to get that feedback before the kids and the parents are in the faculty are out for the year. And then the last three months. So that would be July, August, September is when we really want to turn our attention to the connection to this community the small business needs. Now anybody is welcome to drop in and contribute comment on any of those units. But as you're thinking about this, and I know I'm blasting through this because I don't want to take a lot of time. But obviously we've talked about it in the past as well. You know try to have it in your head that those months are going to be the months where we really want to create the structure that relates back directly to Thomson small business community. Also the connection from the Business Association to the school. And then following that I'll take six months with the project partners like Teague and Connecticut rcmd and a couple of other partners to write the master plan. All of this while I'm seeking other sort of implementation money through other grants. So again, it's complex project, a lot of pieces going, sort of working together. But so far I'm really pleased and if you have any because obviously your project partner too, if you want to contribute any observations on my



1:01:36

observation is and what I truly believe is that this will become the anchor on Main Street. I really think it will. I think you know, the the project dollars that you're applying for now to improve Main Street will be enhanced by this. This food forest is a very exciting thing. It's a long term project. It's a project that it took me a while to get my head around. I think Kira knows that I kept sitting there. What is this anyway, but there will be there will be a an area behind this building a natural area behind this building that is called permaculture that will create food in the form of nuts and roots and naturally growing plants that will keep giving fruits and vegetables to this area and it will be a draw it there's nothing else really like it in northeastern Connecticut. So I I think it's really hard to kind of get your head around it but once you see it, I think you're going to be very impressed and we are going to be kind of a one of a kind area and that's just going to enhance the back of that building.



1:02:43

And you guys have been part of it too. So you know your observations as well, I think,



1:02:48

well I think the whole thing and we know that the fact that the buildings are already not the dilapidated falling apart building anymore. It's being repaired and it's not an eyesore. The whole idea that that whole area the woods between the back of the building and the river is going to get cleaned up again usable space instead of swamp land wasted land. The connection between the school and business school, the Business Association and helping I say this every time that students that are interested in entrepreneurial want an entrepreneurial spirit, and

then they're like, I gotta get out of Thompson. There's nothing here for me. So you know, we have a place where they can where they know they can go get support and help start their business. I think that's fantastic. Congressman



1:03:35

Courtney was out last week with a specific and, you know, to your point there the thing that I said to him as we you know, you sort of talk through all this stuff every time you have one of these visits or one of the workshops or whatever and I was saying you know, right now kids who graduate the high school are kind of staying here because they don't have opportunities, right because the opportunities that exist exists outside colleges outside job, high paying jobs are outside, but the purpose of this is to create it so that kids are staying in the community because they do have opportunities. And that is an order of magnitude different in how sort of the locality the community the neighborhood, the region can grow over time. And if Congressman Courtney really likes the project, too, and he's he's a big supporter, so hopefully his input will help put us over the mark on this latest big grant application. I haven't I don't know. We won't know until the end of March but I'm just going to keep throwing proposals at whatever I can until I get the whole thing funded.



1:04:53

I also see a lot of gun in buildings and a lot I've gotten a lot of buildings that a lot of rooms. I've never seen a job like this. I've never seen a cleaner job. You've got to see the inside see you've gotta



1:05:06

go check it out. Yeah, it's



1:05:08

amazing. I have the key. Cool.



1:05:13

I mean, just the fact that building is such a historical value in this town and you know how the town obtained it originally and Tieg's presence there. Everything so it wasn't it wasn't the library before



1:05:25

that it was the library, I think in the 70s You know, so and just to update on the renovation itself, so where we are in the renovation and this was under the first grant that I got from the Fed that has not the basement and interior exterior demo are essentially complete. The only

exception to that is there's two staircases that still have some lead paint on them that we need for access. Once all the other interior work is done. Those are just going to get scrapped and rebuilt, but that's the only contaminated. So interior exteriors totally, there's a brand new roof on it cool roof system. They did not get to the gutters before the snow started flying so I expect to see the gutters done early spring. We are consulting with the Historical Society on exterior finishes. And that includes hopefully getting the Historical Society to organize a volunteer party to contribute that labor which will look good for other grant applications and is something we can accomplish locally. And then Brian Santos who is on the building committee and himself owns a very, very large construction company that does work only in Massachusetts on things like schools and big municipal projects is working on getting some incline labor. Joe needs to do some work on the foundation. Now once we're done with those things, I'm out of money on the first grant so these other grant applications will become important. But the most expensive pieces are done in the most expensive piece was the hazmat abatement that was crazy expensive, but there's no alternative for it right? Say all the time. We don't want to sort of be happy about other people's misfortunes but it is good for us that Putnam had their misfortunes first with the Cargill project or for both. Because we will not be in that position no matter what. We will monitor make sure that right No, no, it's it's clean as a whistle in there right now. Cool.

 1:07:48

All right. Brian, you're up again. Economic Development Commission report.

 1:07:52

Okay, we my last report was at our December meeting and we did not have a December Economic Development Commission meeting because it was close. to Christmas, but in its place we did one of these meetings here heads up for the 65 main project. Just remind people, what we're working on now of course, this month's meeting is next week we will be starting to look at budget stuff, my favorite time of the year. It's not and we'll continue with the 65 name updates and remind everybody once we get to the part later once we get through the outside promo culture, we really really going to need your attention and support when we start to get to programming. What's gonna go in that building. It's really what TBA to be a part of it wanted to help TBA what TVA to help the town and the students. Like like Dan was saying we've been working with turtle left for a couple of years now to keep students involved in certain things. But we'll keep you apprised of what's going on with that. Now, new businesses that I'll be reporting on next week, we have about probably griddling cams, that trainings. It's an online business dispensing medical instructions. Dan takes pictures. We have pipeline directors.

 1:09:38

Medical instructions. That's what it says.

 1:09:41

medical training. Yeah. Like CPR, AED first aid consultant.



1:09:49

Or like Google like I have a headache break and they're like



1:09:54

well, you're gonna have to we're gonna have to get them down here.



1:10:00

Business. We get turned in as new businesses and sometimes they don't even tell you what do they do?



1:10:10

It does have a little description down here. It says online business dispensing medical instructions. I said.



1:10:18

Trying to understand if you could



1:10:20

elaborate so pine constructors Incorporated, they do roofing and siding. That's it. That's it. We have sweet Jane's terrible like this. It's a thrift store on Thompson road Chase when appropriate for the new businesses that came to our inbox and I do want to note Thompson, Speedway is not a member



1:11:01

wants to bring it up.



1:11:04

Get that figured out. Work with me to shape it seriously.



1:11:13

Missing. Yes. All right. So everybody, we are watch for January. We are booked for February. We're booked for March. Oh great. We have one slot available in April. So let's get busy. Right.

So looking forward to it. Cool.

 1:11:28

Yeah,

 1:11:30

it's exciting,

 1:11:30

if you will, if you want to get on with the radio. That's an opportunity that you have as a member. You go right on our website under the members area when you radio and book your own time. We want the second the third Tuesday of every month. You go on with Missy. It's 737 40

 1:11:46

we go on 1012 minutes. Gary's excellent makes you feel comfortable. Don't be stressed about anything. If you're a little nervous here. We'll walk you right through it. Totally good time.

 1:11:58

And we've we've we've managed to create a frenzy I guess. Yeah. We used to have to, like beg people to go on and now they're just constantly booked. So yeah, don't miss your opportunity. If you've got something coming up in the spring and spring. You want to get on there, get it done.

 1:12:15

And don't forget like if you have a business that works well with another business, you can work together you can feed each feed off of each other. You know, if you got like, like Sarah with the painting and cleaning, and then you have people who build houses like yourself sometimes that goes hand in hand.

 1:12:29

You know, yeah, Eva Marie, and I try to do it because mainly

 1:12:33

because I remind people if you're really really afraid to go on. Like Missy said, Gary does make it easy, but you can go to our website and see some actual footage. Yeah, people are doing their spot on the radio that might put you at anywhere



1:13:04

with our social media stats report



1:13:08

so from last month's meetings now 137 People have been frequently engaging in our groups. That's incredible. That means our members are now commenting back and forth to each other posting as well as liking just overall interacting. So I'm very happy. The numbers continue to rise as we continue to build this group. The people who viewed our group from our last meeting to now reach 6298 people we were about 30% Every month we have continued to reach a larger and larger audience, the more we do that, the better chance of getting to our tva 100 We have as well as that's more exposure for you guys. And one of the benefits of being a TVA member is that you get to advertise in this group and you're in front of not only almost 700 people, you're also now in front of who's viewing our group because this group is open to the public and viewable. As far as engagement goes, unfortunately, Facebook's going through an update so it just shows me who our top posters and engagers are. And this month our top is your page today LLC so if Jodi's not here with us right now, but she did win as our top comments or an poster this month while following her was flawless she is now in second place continuing to rise. So watch out for the first place, Sara's coming for you. And third was caring and tax service. Those were our top three contributors this month. And then, we are trending in Thompson, Connecticut, Hartford, Connecticut. Webster. Woodstock, and Dayville. So those are the areas we are trending in right now. Which is phenomenal because you want to try to in your local areas of where you're trying not only to provide your services, but to kind of get people to join the association and continue to grow their network feel supported. And as we intend to work together on the members only group that again is a Facebook group that will be for business support and advice. So while I will also monitor that is received and how much we are engaging in there that is a resource for you. As a TVA member to connect with other members of this group, ask advice, get support, or even put something out if you're in need of something with your business.



1:15:20

And I always follow up with like, share, subscribe, if you're if you're on Facebook, which we all are all the time and you see a fellow business in the TDA or any business for that matter, you know, just hit the light weapon, hit the share button. It's easy, it's free. And it's how we grow as a community. So it's how we grow as a community in this crazy world we live in. Okay, and we can work your report filling in for Sandy is Sarah.



1:15:52

So this is from Sandy so I did write it took me a couple tidbits from for weekend warriors. We have a volunteer scheduled for the entire year. Currently the elementary, middle and high

have a volunteer scheduled for the entire year. Currently the elementary, middle and high school and superintendents offices are working on getting teachers, parents, admins and students to fill up our calendar once this is done we'll offer the remaining spots to members of creation church and other Thompson residents who have offered to help. We have a lead on a three door freezer from a restaurant in Webster that was today. Also the possibility and other items they may be putting up for sale. This will be our next major purchase and definitely running very short on space. Working with Adam Webster and Nash icon from 90.9 radio Jehovah comedy show fundraiser sometime this year. Thank you ally. We have also done brainstorming to come up with others through the other other things to the year. Another collab says Kayla But although collab with the American Legion, a pool tournament of poker rides and we always welcome more possibilities. So send your ideas to us. David standing open up the conversation apparently yesterday with Midwest Food Bank about how they started and how we can help establish another location. This is definitely just the beginning stages of a big goal for weekend warriors but it does sound like a possibility and it'd be cool to know that TVA started it Thank you



1:17:22

Okay, we're almost done. mixers. First, most important next Tuesday. We have our first mixer in the year and it is at prestige nail salon and Webster. It's going to be cool procedure. If you haven't been there. It's a great place. It's a big place. All kinds of services, massage, Reiki, salt, moving moods, nails, pedicures, all that stuff. I'm going to be buying the drinks that night. The salons providing snacks and stuff like that and come up with oh, they're gonna have she's bringing somebody out that's gonna teach you how to cut intricate snowflakes out there during winter themed come on out in the



1:18:08

woods that shares your bedtime share



1:18:10

and we'll post it again this week. Please help share like support and then we've got our mixer schedule almost filled up for the year we've decided on doing for a year now winter, spring, summer and fall. We have prestige coming up in this in now next week. And then who's next though the spring one is the one that we don't have. I have some interest from Spicer propane but they haven't got back to me yet. So the spring mixer, which the date for that would be 416 is still an option. The summer T gets stepped up and taking the summer mixers not that's going to be on 716 and then Donahue lawncare. Again, we've already done it there last fall it was that was hands down the best one we've ever had. And I know Nick and we better this year so and that's on October 5



1:19:07

Of course, as well.



1:19:09

Wasn't Nick? It was Declan. Definitely. Right.



1:19:16

So, that's about it. Anybody have any announcements? We're not putting on a



1:19:22

shout outs.



1:19:23

You guys are not playing it sounds good doing it.



1:19:26

Journey. Oh, draw the name. Sorry. I



1:19:30

was always the next meeting is on February 14. Right exactly.



1:19:45

Oh, exactly. That's interesting. Next month's meeting



1:19:56

all right. So you might have to bring a date.



1:20:01

Did everybody put their card in a piece of paper or a piece of paper?



1:20:07

There's problems with



1:20:11

this. I don't know if this basket can dig around in there Israel. Oh yeah. My time. So you haven't I have the list as you know, we go. Once you win, we wait six months before you can win again. And it looks like you're good, right? Yeah, I'm never taking your card. Because another benefit of the the TBA here is the winner gets blasted on our website, but it also goes on the sign in front of the Town Hall. So this goes to the Selectmen office,



1:20:55

and you also get the option to take the 10 Minute spot



1:21:01

for that weekend. I don't like oh goes on the back. To back when we get a word. Yeah.



1:21:08

I'll do that right now. I have a connection to it. That says hi everybody.



1:21:16

All right. This meeting is adjourned. Thank you for coming please help with the chairs bad. Dinner after this was real going for him. I don't know. What's going on



1:21:38

Thank you. What do you do?



1:21:42

Let me show you



1:21:51

when I get asked, What are we doing? Let me pull you are you later? No. Do you have your phone on you? I can take care of her right No. Probably not. Yeah.



1:22:13

So right you can see here on



1:22:30

the left that service