

Town of Winchester - City of Winsted
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

Tuesday, August 16, 2022, 7:00 PM

The Blue Room

COMMISSIONERS

Dewees Yeager, Chairman
Dennis Dressel, Vice Chair
Jessica Tessman, Secretary
Gary Giordano, Treasurer
Alan Colavecchio, Commissioner
Kevin O'Connell, Commissioner
Jill Fourie, Commissioner
Joseph Santoro, Alternate
David Sartirana, Alternate
Shayne Deschamps, Alternate
Joshua Kelly, Town Manager
Linda Groppo, BOS Liaison
Ted Shafer, Director of Economic Development

1. Call to Order and Roll Call - Called to order at 7:03 pm by Dewees Yeager. At the meeting was Dewees Yeager, Jessica Tessman, Jill Fourie, Shayne Deschamps, Joseph Santoro and guests Ted Shafer, Linda Groppo, John Wiarda and Jim Welton.
2. Agenda Review – Add Person of the Year under Old Business. Add Narcan discussion to New Business. Motion to approve agenda by, Shayne Deschamps, seconded by Alan Colavecchio. 6-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: August 2, 2022. Motion to approve the meeting by Joseph Santoro, seconded by Shayne Deschamps. Voted 5-0-1.
4. New Business
What's Happening in Town?
 - a) Narcan: Jess will email an article to the commissioners.
 - b) New Businesses in Town Updates:
 - LIVE. BeYou Clothing Boutique is moving to 58A Main St.
 - Grants
 - New Business Startup Grants: Josh is reinstating the committee to review the applications. Kevin and Dewees are committee representatives.
 - Bookstore/Bakery interest.
 - Community Action Grant opportunities.
 - US Department of Transportation Grant: Related to Main Street redesign.
 - Gianni's Deli, at 175 Main Street is coming soon!
 - The former location of the Winning Ticket is being renovated; JD's Café.

- c) Jim will draft up marketing ideas to present at the next EDC meeting re: article published by the Wall Street Journal.
 - d) Ted is in the process of rescheduling the meeting with Carl Rosa from CT Main Street.
 - e) Main Street, Sharing Concepts/Working together: Jim suggested that the EDC gather businesses together to identify partnership opportunities.
 - f) Photo Contest: Dewees will send out an email to all commissioners.
 - g) Walking Tour Panels: Funds were awarded specifically through the Communities Challenge grant for murals, panels or street painting.
5. Communications – None reported.
6. Old Business:
- a) Job Fair in the Park: The EDC will be collaborating with Pamela LaRosa, the Chamber, and other key community partners. The Job fair is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 6th from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm. The location will be at East End Park with a rain date for Thursday, October 13 at the NWCC Gymnasium or Whiting Mills (T.B.A). Alan will be assisting with marketing.
 - a. The date may change.
 - b. There is a zoom meeting scheduled for 8/17 at 2:00 PM.
 - c. Cost range: around \$1,000+.
 - b) Committee Planning for the next Business Event conversation led by Dennis and Gary: Tabled.
 - Working on logistics.
 - The Breakfast Event will be taking place sometime in mid-September through November.
 - The EDC will be utilizing Constant Contact for this event.
 - c) Update on Business Marketing Campaign: Received reports from focus groups. The website needs to be renovated before we move forward with the Campaign. Dewees and Ted will connect with Josh regarding Website development.
 - d) Winchester EDC Business Person of the Year: Jill will formulate a proposal.
 - EDC Social Media: Next spotlight: R&B Sportsworld (Laser Tag) and Noujaim's (Gary).
 - Ted, Dewees and Jess will create an Explore Winchester guide that highlights town offerings. This guide can be distributed to the senior center, library, town hall and other locations deemed as appropriate.
 - e) Business Visitations: Alan is a volunteer guide at the American Mural Project. They are doing great in their location. Shayne noticed that the Nail Salon near Mama Pho is no longer in business.
7. Adjournment – 8:47 pm motion by Shayne Deschamps, seconded by Alan Colavecchio. Voted 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Tessman