

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

Tuesday, July 19, 2022, 7:00 PM

The Blue Room

COMMISSIONERS

Deweese Yeager, Chairman  
Dennis Dressel, Vice Chair  
Jessica Tessman, Secretary  
Gary Giordano, Treasurer  
Alan Colavecchio, Commissioner  
Kevin O'Connell, Commissioner  
Jill Fourie, Commissioner  
David Sartirana, Alternate  
Shayne Deschamps, Alternate  
Joseph Santoro, 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 7:00 pm by Dewees Yeager. At the meeting was Dewees Yeager, Dennis Dressel, Jessica Tessman, Alan Colavecchio, Gary Giordano, Kevin O'Connell, and guests Ted Shafer, Linda Groppo and John Wiarda.
2. Agenda Review – Motion to approve agenda by, Dennis Dressel, seconded by Gary Giordano. Voted 6-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: July 5, 2022. The EDC votes to amend the minutes:
  - Dennis Dressel abstained in the approval of the July 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. The EDC amends the vote from 6-0 to 5-0. Motion to approve current amended minutes by Dennis Dressel, as written, second by Gary Giordano. Voted 4-2.
4. New Business  
What's Happening in Town?
  - a) New Businesses in Town Updates:
    - Cura di sé Nutrition has officially opened on 60 Main Street. They offer healthy drinks and yoga classes.
    - Gianni's Deli, at 175 Main Street is coming soon!
    - Mad River Music possible expansion.
    - Chicken and Pie's – coming soon in August
    - The EDC attended Mad River Market's New Organizing Office's Ribbon Cutting ceremony on Saturday, July 9.
    - The property at 314 Main Street (formerly known as Hunny Bunns Bakery & Café) is under new ownership and plans to open. Business plans to be announced at a later date.
    - The American Mural Project is open Friday's and Saturday's from 10:00am-5pm and Sunday's, 12-5pm, at 90 Whiting Street.

- b) Ted is working with Josh to formulate plans for the empty storefronts on Main Street with a specific focus on the front side of Community Health and Wellness. Ted informed the commission that he tracks the activity of each business that he visits.
  - c) Josh is applying for a federal program through the United States Department of Transportation. There are a few informative webinars. Ted will share the link with the EDC Commissioners.
  - d) Ted has rescheduled the meeting with Carl Rosa from CT Main Street, due to inclement weather.
  - e) The Welcome to Winsted Sign needs to be replaced. The EDC could approach the Winsted/Torrington Rotary Club for assistance. Alan will connect with Guy Rovezzi through the Northwest CT Community Foundation.
  - f) Ted provided updates on the UCONN Brownfield project and explained the sustainable CT program, which aims to raise the quality of life in town. A summer Intern will be assigned to the Town of Winchester and create reports for our Town to utilize.
  - g) Job Fair in the Park: The EDC will be collaborating with Pamela LaRosa, the Chamber, and other key community partners to host a Job fair with the potential dates of: September 8, or 15<sup>th</sup> with the time range of 10-1pm or 11-2pm. This concept originated from the Manufacturer Breakfast Meetings. Event logistics are still being worked out. Alan volunteered to assist with Marketing and create a flyer.
5. Communications – None reported.
6. Old Business:
- a) Committee Planning for the next Business Event conversation led by Dennis and Gary:
    - Event taking place in September / October
    - Searching for a keynote speaker, suggestions: Ex Basketball Players? Authors? Bookstore owners?
  - b) Winchester Manufacturers Meeting:
    - Dewees inquired if the EDC would be interested in organizing another event at the Little Red Barn for a Manufacturers event. The EDC decided to postpone event planning to the spring.
  - c) Update on business marketing campaign: Alan and Ted reported that the focus groups were very successful and well-attended. Jess and Shayne are on the subcommittee. Alan suggested that we formulate a plan to link Winchester and Winsted together. (Branding of our Town's name).
  - d) Business Visitations: Dewees visited an antique shop – A Step Back in Time – rents rising.
  - e) FB-Business in the Spotlight: Dewees visited D'Angelo Building Company, located at 100 Whiting St #300. Kevin will submit the spotlight on Facebook. New spotlight suggestion: Noujaims.
  - f) Website Development: There is no time table currently – development is still underway.
7. Adjournment – 8:34 pm motion by Gary Giordano, seconded by Alan Colavecchio. Voted 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jessica Tessman