

Town of Winchester - City of Winsted  
Economic Development Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 5th 2022, 7:00pm

Probate Room

COMMISSION

Deweese Yeager, Chairman

Dennis Dressel, Vice Chairman

Jessica Tessman, Secretary

Gary Giordano, Treasurer

Alan Colavecchio

Jill Fourie

Kevin O'Connell

David Sartirana, Alternate

Shayne Deschamps, Alternate

Joseph Santoro, Alternate

Joshua Kelly, Town Manager

Jack Bourque, BOS Liaison

Linda Groppo, BOS Liaison

Ted Shafer, Director of Economic Development

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Called to order at 7:03pm by Dewees Yeager. At the meeting was Gary Giordano, Dewees Yeager, Jill Fourie, Dennis Dressel, Joseph Santoro, Shayne Deschamps and guests Ted Shafer

2. Agenda Review

Motion to approve the agenda by Dennis Dressel, 2nd Shayne Deschamps. Voted 6-0

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from previous meeting: June 21st, 2022 by Shayne Deschamps, seconded by Jill Fourie, abstained Dennis Dressel. Voted 6-0

4. Treasurer's Report:

- The new fiscal year 2022-2023 has started with a new balance of \$10,000
- The vendors for shirts and signs from previous budget year are approved
- It was decided by town staff that the memberships that were approved on the June 21st meeting will be moved to 2022-2023 budget
- The previously discussed social media campaign was not-adopted, and the money will be going back to the town

5. New Business

- The Northwest Chamber of Commerce wants to help support the job fair we will continue brainstorming the next steps, with more information to come

- Ted provided an update on the UCONN Brownfield project; he will be inviting Sam, the person assigned to Winsted to an upcoming meeting.
- The CPACE, CT Green Bank would like to have more business outreach regarding Solar Panel plans. More info to come
- Carl Rosa from CT Main ST would like to do a main street business walkthrough Monday July 18th, Ted is going to talk to Carl about possibly moving that to a Thursday in order to see more businesses open.
- The Affordable Housing report will be sending out a survey to the manufacturers about workforce housing.

#### 6. Communications

- More discussion is needed on how best to utilize the Wall Street Journal article in social media and town marketing

#### 7. Old Business

- WEDC Planning for 2022-2023
  - We need to identify business concepts that could fit our town
  - The EDC needs to increase visitations
  - A large focus needs to be on more business events
- Committee planning for the next EDC Event
  - Need a popular speaker for next event, Dennis and Ted to reach out to some contacts
- Business visitations
  - Received feedback Villa that the town needs to trim back trees
  - Personal Digital Spaces has grown a very large amount in Mad River Lofts, taking up almost an entire floor
  - Ledgebrook Spirit Shop was visited
  - River Eatery LLC opening in the 8 South Main St (Old Primo building)
- Winchester Manufacturers Breakfast Meeting
  - More discussion to come
- Marketing plan
  - Alan to provide update at next meeting
  - There will be invites for the members of the subcommittee coming for a meeting now that the focus groups have been completed.

#### 8. Adjournment

- 8:27pm motion Dennis Dressel, seconded by Dewees Yeager. Voted 6-0

Respectfully submitted,  
Shayne Deschamps