

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

MINUTES

Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 7:00 PM

The Blue Room

COMMISSION

Dennis Dressel, Chairman

Deweese Yeager, Vice Chairman

Jessica Tessman, Secretary

Gary Giordano, Treasurer

Alan Colavecchio

Jill Fourie

Kevin O'Connell

Jim Welton, Alternate

David Sartirana, Alternate

Shayne Deschamps, 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 7:00 pm by Dennis Dressel. At the meeting was Dennis Dressel, Jessica Tessman, Deweese Yeager, Alan Colavecchio, Gary Giordano, Shane Deschamps, David Sartirana, Kevin O'Connell, and guests Ted Shafer, Linda Groppo, Tyler Tucker, and Joseph Santoro.
2. Agenda Review – Add Façade and Start-Up Awards under New Business. Motion to approve agenda by, Kevin O'Connell, seconded by Deweese Yeager. Voted 7-0.
3. Approval of Revised Minutes of Previous Meeting: April 5, 2022. Motion to approve current revised minutes by Alan Colavecchio as written, seconded by Shane Deschamps. Voted 7-0.
4. New Business
  - a) Election of EDC Officers: The EDC will have a formal voting at the next meeting.
    - Deweese Yeager was nominated for Chairman
    - Dennis Dressel was nominated for Vice Chairman
    - Gary Giordano was nominated for Treasurer
    - Jessica Tessman was nominated for Secretary

Motion to approve nominees by Kevin O'Connell, seconded by Alan Colavecchio. Voted 7-0. A formal vote will take place at the next EDC meeting.

- b) Business Start-Up Program and Façade Improvement Program: Deweese and Kevin are the representatives. Thirteen local businesses have been chosen for a façade improvement grant program and five businesses were approved for a business start-up grant.

- c) The State's Department of Economic & Community Development's Communities Challenge Grant was awarded to Winchester. The funds will be used to revitalize Main Street.

#### What's Happening in Town?

- a) The Women's Fashion Show at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Home Lounge will be held on Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 pm – 2:00pm. Sponsored by: LIVE Be You Boutique, Little Fox Portraits, Hair By Nicole, 2<sup>nd</sup> Home Lounge and local models.
- b) The Farmer's Market has returned! The market will be hosted the second Saturday of each month April through September from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. Support local vendors and shop your favorites! Located on the Winsted Green.
- c) Jamie Smith with Lodestar Energy has a ribbon-cutting scheduled on Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022, from 11:00am-12:30pm for the Platt Hill Solar Farm (463 Platt Hill Rd, Winsted). This is not an EDC sponsored Ribbon Cutting ceremony, but commissioners are invited to attend.

#### 5. Communications

- a) Wall Street Journal: A journalist from the Wall Street Journal plans to publish an article on Winsted.
- b) Kevin suggested the use of sandwich boards for businesses. Gary will check on the zoning regulations.
- c) Friends of Main Street, Earth Day: The Friends of Main Street is hosting another Community Clean Up on Saturday, April 23, 2022, at 9:30 AM.

#### 6. Old Business:

- a) Review of April AMP social networking event: The networking event is scheduled for April 27, 2022, from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm. The Northwest Community Bank will be funding and sponsoring the event. The EDC will assign different committees to determine the set-up of event. Jess and Shayne will create a PowerPoint presentation with pictures of businesses in town.
- b) The Manufacturing Forum was held on April 7, 2022, from 7:45 am to 9:00 am. The meeting was held in the Blue Room at the Town Hall. Dewees created liaisons for three subjects. Kevin is the liaison for transportation, Alan and Ted are the liaisons for marketing, and Dewees is the liaison for workforce.
- c) Update on new business marketing campaign: Alan and Ted had a kick-off meeting last week. The plan is to hold a meeting every other Wednesday from 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm. There will be several different focus groups. The goal is to develop a marketing plan. Website renovations are coming soon.
- d) Business Visitation & Spotlight: Kevin created a video for RR Hobby Supply and posted Fairchild for the "Made in Winchester" spotlight. H-O Products will be the next business spotlight.

#### 7. Adjournment – 8:19 pm motion by Kevin O'Connell, seconded by Gary Giordano. Voted 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jessica Tessman