

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

MINUTES

Tuesday, April 05, 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, Dewees Yeager, Alan Colavecchio, Gary Giordano, Shane Deschamps, David Sartirana, Kevin O'Connell, Jill Fourie and guests Ted Shafer, Linda Groppo, Tyler Tucker, and Joseph Santoro.
2. Agenda Review – Add Election of EDC Officers under New Business. Motion to approve agenda by, Alan Colavecchio, seconded by Kevin O Connell. Voted 7-0.
3. Approval of Revised Minutes of Previous Meeting: March 15, 2022. Motion to approve current revised minutes by Dewees Yeager as written, seconded by Gary Giordano. Voted 7-0.
4. New Business
  - a) Election of EDC Officers: There is open availability for two more alternates. The EDC will call for nominations of officers at the next meeting. The chairman cannot serve for more than 3 consecutive terms.

What's Happening in Town?

- a) Business Start-Up Program and Façade Improvement Program: Dewees and Kevin are the representatives. Each of the new business grant applicants will be invited to a meeting for a 3-5 minute presentation regarding their business plan documentation.
- b) Manufacturing Forum: The next Manufacturing Forum will be held on April 7, 2022, from 7:45 am to 9:00 am. The meeting is scheduled to take place in the Blue Room at the Town Hall.

- c) Infrastructure Proposals are under development.
- d) Ted is collaborating with the Town of Barkhamsted to assist and support their Economic Development Commission.
- e) The Cumberland Farms located at 115 Main Street is closing.

5. Communications

- a) Congratulations to Kevin O’Connell for being inducted into the Chamber Hall of Fame!
- b) Ted: Josh inquired if the EDC would be interested in co-sponsoring a photo contest with the Conservation Commission. Residents would send in Town pictures. The EDC agreed.
- c) Various surrounding Towns are being awarded grants and loans. Dennis connected with Josh regarding the grants and loans status. The Town of Winchester is still waiting to hear back.

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. AMP is charging \$500.00 for a rental fee. The EDC will assign different committees to determine awards/set-up of event. Jess will give Meg a call to send out the MailChimp. Jess and Shayne will put together a PowerPoint presentation with pictures of businesses in town. Jess will connect with Amy Wynn regarding set-up.
- b) 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.
- c) Business Visitation & Spotlight: Kevin created a video for RR Hobby Supply and posted Fairchild for the “Made in Winchester” spotlight. Kevin and Ted visited Community Health and Wellness.
- d) The Farmer’s Market is returning! The market will be hosted the second Saturday of each month April through September from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. Come support local vendors and shop your favorites! Located on the Winsted Green.
- 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, located at 2<sup>nd</sup> Home Lounge on 524 Main Street. Sponsored by: LIVE Be You Boutique, Little Fox Portraits, Hair By Nicole, 2<sup>nd</sup> Home Lounge and local models.

7. Adjournment – 7:57 pm motion by Kevin O’Connell, seconded by Jill Fourie. Voted 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jessica Tessman