

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

Tuesday, December 21, 2021 7:00 PM

2nd Floor, 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

Joshua Kelly, Town Manager

Jack Bourque, BOS Liaison

Linda Groppo, BOS Liaison

1. Call to Order and Roll Call - Called to order at 7:00 pm by Dennis Dressel. At the meeting was Dennis Dressel, Dewees Yeager, Jessica Tessman, Gary Giordano, Alan Colavecchio, Kevin O'Connell, Jim Welton, and Town Manager Joshua Kelly.

2. Agenda Review – Grants added to Agenda under New Business. Approval of 2022 Meeting Schedule added to New Business. Economic Development Summit added to New Business. Motion to approve amended agenda by, Alan Colavecchio, seconded by Jim Welton. Voted 7-0.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: November 16, 2021. Motion to approve current amended minutes by Kevin O'Connell as written, seconded by Jim Welton. Voted 7-0.

4. New Business

What's Happening in Town?

a) The Department of Economic and Community Development is offering a grant application that can fund multiple projects to improve communities. The DECD will allocate up to 50% of the funds to projects in distressed municipalities. The Town is creating sub-projects for the Grant. The deadline is January 14, 2022.

- The Winchester EDC motions to approve the project and proposal with potential amendments in the future.

Motion to approve the proposal by Dennis Dressel, seconded by Jim Welton. Voted 7-0.

b) The Town of Winchester has an opening for a part-time Director of Economic Development (20 hours per week). Applications are due by Wednesday, January 5, 2022. Dennis will be included on the search committee.

- c) Kevin and Josh both attended the Economic Development Summit on Thursday, December 2, 2021. The summit featured state and federal officials and Connecticut business leaders. The summit organized conference panels addressing housing and real estate and federal support for local businesses.
- d) 2022 Meeting Schedule: the first and third Tuesday of every month.
 - The Winchester EDC motions to approve the 2022 Meeting Schedule.

Motion to approve the 2022 Meeting Schedule by Dewees Yeager, seconded by Kevin O'Connell. Voted 7-0.

- e) Dennis contacted Michael Rooke from NCCC regarding the use of the digital signs. Kevin and Jess will take the lead.
 - f) Dewees and Kevin are the representatives to assist Josh in reviewing grant opportunities.
5. Communications – No Communications reported.
6. Old Business
- a) Jim suggested to start Winsted Business of the Year. Dennis will add this topic to the next agenda.
 - b) The Storefront Contest seeks local Winchester businesses to participate by means of beautifying their storefront through improvements such as signage, awnings, windows, planter boxes, parking areas, and more. The winners were selected and are as follows: 1st Place Nutmeg Potters; 2nd Place LIVE.BeYou. Clothing Boutique; and 3rd Place Paws and Reflect. Jess and Jill will coordinate the recognition ceremony.
 - c) Update on Manufacturers Forum: Sterling Sintered, H-O Products, Fairchild Auto-Mated Parts, and many other Manufacturers are interested. Dewees will coordinate the “Made in Winchester Series” with Jess and start with Hubbell.
 - d) Business Visitations: View the Business Mastersheet and inform Dewees if there needs to be corrections.
7. Adjournment – 8:25 pm motion by Kevin O'Connell, seconded by Alan Colavecchio. Voted 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Tessman