

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

Tuesday, November 16, 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, Jessica Tessman, Gary Giordano, Jill Fourie, Alan Colavecchio, Kevin O'Connell, and Guests Pam Colombie and Linda Groppo.
2. Agenda Review – Storefront Contest added to Agenda under Old Business. Enterprise Zone added to New Business. Motion to approve amended agenda by, Alan Colavecchio, seconded by Gary Giordano. Voted 6-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: November 2, 2021. Motion to approve current amended minutes by Kevin O'Connell as written, seconded by Alan Colavecchio. Voted 6-0.
4. New Business
What's Happening in Town?
 - a) Baily Fox Photography is coming soon. Dewees will organize a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.
 - b) Discussion of "Permitted as of right" or activities considered non-regulated.
 - c) Review Election Results: The new mayor is Todd Arcelaschi and Town Clerk is Glenn Albanesius.
 - d) Review of Betsy Paynter Meeting: Alan and Dewees met with Betsy, the NWCT EDC Small Business Outreach Consultant. Suggestion to connect with the Torrington EDC Director, Rista Malanca.
 - e) Business Mastersheet: The WEDC is receiving requests to gain access to the mailing list.
 - f) Tax Incentives: Gary reported that Winchester has an Enterprise Corridor Zone, which is designed to encourage development along Route 8 (north and south).

5. Communications – No communications reported.
6. Old Business
 - a) Storefront Façade Contest: The deadline for submissions was on November 1, 2021. Winners will be finalized this week. Jess will connect with Gary.
 - b) Vacant Storefront Window Project: Kevin suggests that the EDC think about permanent ideas such as managing a digital sign to promote town events and advertise town updates (such as the NWCCC sign). Dennis will contact Michael Rooke to inquire if NCCC may be able to buy blocks of time on the sign.
 - c) Business Visitation: The 2nd Home Lounge, located at 524 Main Street, plans on opening in November. Jess and Jill met with Paws and Reflect. Jill suggested the use of indoor/outdoor music. The WEDC recommends Jasmine to connect with the Entrepreneurial Center of Northwest Connecticut.
 - d) FB- Business in the Spotlight: Take photos of supporting local businesses and send to Jess. Perhaps, a Facebook campaign for Small Business Saturday, or for the holiday season.
7. Adjournment – 8:26 pm motion by Gary Giordano, seconded by Jill Fourie. Voted 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Tessman