

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

Tuesday, October 19, 7:00 PM

2<sup>nd</sup> 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 7:02 pm by Dennis Dressel. At the meeting was Dennis Dressel, Dewees Yeager, Jessica Tessman, Gary Giordano, Jill Fourie, Alan Colavecchio, and guest Pam Colombie.
2. Agenda Review – Restaurant Owners Meeting certificate of appreciation added to Agenda under Old Business. Motion to approve amended agenda by, Dewees Yeager, seconded by Alan Colavecchio. Voted 6-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: October 5, 2021. Motion to approve current amended minutes by Gary Giordano as written, seconded by Dewees Yeager. Voted 6-0.
4. New Business  
What's Happening in Town?
  - a) 10 Bridge Street is not on the market.
  - b) New development inquiries made on North Main Street. Possibility of an Artist Retreat Center near Winchester Center.
  - c) Capitol Products located at 35 Willow Street is creating a walkway and footbridge across the river.
  - d) The Premier Sports Complex located at 147 Torrington Rd is under new ownership.
  - e) Review of Health & Wellness event at Hubbell: The EDC was requested to table at Hubbell and SKF's Health and Wellness Fair for their employees. Dewees, Linda Groppo and Steve Williams attended.

5. Communications

- a) Joshua Kelly forwarded two new grant programs that will help create jobs, strengthen Connecticut towns and cities, and promote new public-private partnerships to accelerate the state's economic growth. The two programs are: Innovation Corridor and CT Communities Challenge.
- b) Governor Lamont announced \$8.3 million in funding for a series of technology and workforce initiatives that will bolster the long-term competitiveness of the state's manufacturing sector. Jess sent a MailChimp out to all Manufacturing business owners.

6. Old Business

- a) Restaurant Owners Meeting Certificate: Jill created a certificate of appreciation to present to Rowley Tap and Grill for hosting the meeting. Jill will deliver the certificate and organize a few photographs to post on our Instagram.
- b) Vacant storefront window project – Kevin O'Connell: Tabled until next meeting.
- c) Updates on WEDC Planning – Storefront Façade Contest: Dillon's Pellet Stoves, Torrington Municipal & Teachers Federal Credit Union, LIVE. Be You, F&G Richards Jewelers, Winsted Senior Center and Paws & Reflect are all participating in the 2021 Storefront Contest. Businesses have until November 1<sup>st</sup> to complete their projects.
- d) Manufacturer Updates & Create Enterprise Zones: Tabled until next meeting.
- e) Alan Colavecchio is meeting Betsy Paynter, the NWCT EDC Small Business Outreach Consultant on October 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:00AM. Dewees will attend.
- f) Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies: Alan Colavecchio will connect with the Railway Café. Dewees will re-connect with Little Fox.
- g) Business Visitation: Jill visited LIVE Clothing Boutique. Jackie explained that business is going well but suggested that the Town should add more crossings and bumps on crosswalks. Jess & Jill will connect with Paws & Reflect.

7. Adjournment – 8:00 pm motion by Gary Giordano, seconded by Dewees Yeager. Voted 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jessica Tessman