

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

Tuesday, October 5, 7:00 PM

2nd Floor, The Blue Room

COMMISSION

Dennis Dressel, Chairman

Deweese Yeager, Vice Chairman

Jim Welton, Treasurer

Jessica Tessman, Secretary

Gary Giordano

Alan Colavecchio

Jill Fourie

Kevin O'Connell, 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 7:01 pm by Dennis Dressel. At the meeting was Dennis Dressel, Dewees Yeager, Jessica Tessman, Gary Giordano, Jill Fourie, Jim Welton, Alan Colavecchio, and guests Pam Colombie and Linda Groppo.
2. Agenda Review – Motion to approve amended agenda by, Jim Welton, second by Dewees Yeager. Voted 7-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: September 21, 2021. Motion to approve current amended minutes by Alan Colavecchio as written, second by Jim Welton. Voted 7-0.
4. Treasurers Report: The EDC has \$8,500 remaining.
5. New Business
 - a) Changes with EDC Commissioners: Jim resigned as EDC Treasurer and will become an Alternate Commissioner upon approval. Alternate Kevin O'Connell will take his place as Commissioner.
 - b) Treasurer's Position: The EDC nominates Gary Giordano as Treasurer. Motion to approve Treasurer's nomination by Alan Colavecchio as written, second by Jill Fourie. Voted 7-0.
 - c) Review of Restaurant Meeting- Jim Welton: The meeting was held at Rowley Grill and 6 Restaurant business owners attended. The business owners suggested all the above: have a business directory, first night celebration, host more events, promote others to upgrade storefronts, and assist with advertising. Jill Fourie will take the lead on the next restaurant meeting, possibly for a Monday after the holidays.

What's Happening in Town?:

- Chicken and Pies Coming Soon
- 10 Bridge Street –On the market again

6. Communications

- a) Gary, Alan & Dewees attend a COG Meeting at Five Points Gallery. Betsy Paynter, the NWCT EDC Small Business Outreach Consultant works with Discover Litchfield Hills. Alan will connect with Betsy to set-up a time for her to meet the commissioners.
- b) Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies: Little Fox, the Railway Café, 2nd Home Lounge, and Asa's Steak and Seafood are all postponed until further notice.
- c) Jim and Dennis attended a Main Street Meeting Webinar. The webinar discussed that downtown main streets are doing much better than malls. Suggestion for towns to modernize zoning. The key takeaway was that Town's must develop an identity.

7. Old Business

- a) Vacant storefront window project – Kevin O'Connell: Tabled until next meeting.
- b) 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 1st to complete their projects.
- c) Create enterprise Zones (Dewees & Gary): Gary will acquire more details regarding Torrington's Development Zone and connect with Alison.
- d) Manufacturer Updates: Dewees is still trying to connect with 4 Manufacturing companies. SKF and Hubbell are holding a Health and Wellness Fair this Thursday. The EDC was requested to Table. Pam suggested that the EDC connect with Steve Williams, Emergency Management Director. Dewees will contact the organizers to find out more information.

8. Adjournment – 8:00 pm motion by Gary Giordano, seconded by Jim Welton. Voted 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Tessman