

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

Tuesday, September 21, 2021 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 Borque, BOS Liaison
Linda Groppo, BOS Liaison

1. Call to Order and Roll Call - Called to order at 7:04 pm by Dennis Dressel. At the meeting was Dennis Dressel, Dewees Yeager, Jim Welton, Alan Colavecchio, Jill Fourie, Kevin O'Connell and guests Linda Groppo, Pam Colombie, and Alison Pierce.
2. Agenda Review – Agenda amended to include upcoming changes to the EDC membership. Motion to approve amended agenda by, Dewees Yeager, second by Jim Welton. Voted 5-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: August 17, 2021 and September 7, 2021. Motion to approve current amended minutes for both meetings by Alan Colavecchio as written, second by Jim Welton. Voted 5-0. .
4. New Business
 - a) Introduction of the new Winsted Grants Manager, Alison Pierce. She will be working with Town Departments to identify their financial needs and to look for available funding where applicable and to also help the EDC be aware of existing or new funding programs that may be available for local businesses.
 - b) Change in Winchester EDC Membership. Jim Welton will be resigning as EDC Commissioner as he will be spending more time in Florida. He will become an Alternate Commissioner instead upon approval. Alternate Kevin O'Connell will take his place as Commissioner.

c) What's Happening in Town ? Pam: The Winchester POCD update was approved.
Linda: Congratulations EDC, you're doing good things and it's being noticed. There is a five year plan for area roads in place.

d) Take away from EDC's Main Street Tour: More vacant storefronts than expected. Tarp is still up at 450 Main St. Jill: Crumbling infrastructure needs work, too many weeds.
Kevin: We should consider advertising area manufacturer job openings on the vacant IGA Supersaver storefront windows.

e) Upcoming Ribbon Cutting: Bailey Fox is opening "Little Fox Portraits" a photography studio at 424 Main Street and would like to do a ceremony on Thursday 10/14 at 4pm.

5) Communications: Dewey: Christine Goodall, HR Mgr from Hubbell asked re the most recent water main break if there was any sort of new notification system in the works. I will follow up.

6) Old Business

a) Storefront Business Update: Contest is underway; notifications up.

b) Restaurant Owners Breakfast Meeting. Jim: Dmitri will be hosting the meeting at Rowley Grill tomorrow at 3 pm.

c) Manufacturers/Business Visitations. Dewey: We have visited with Josh 7 of the 11 major area manufacturers with the last four somewhere in the setup process. The meetings and facility tours have gone very well. The 9/15 Manufacturers Jobs Fair at AMP, hosted by Next Gen/NRWIB was sparsely attended but still very worthwhile,

5. Adjournment – 8:29 pm motion by Kevin O'Connell, second by Alan Colavecchio. Voted 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dewees Yeager