

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

Tuesday, August 17, 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 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, Kevin O'Connell, Jessica Tessman, Gary Giordano, Jill Fourie, Alan Colavecchio, and guest Linda Groppo.
2. Agenda Review – Motion to approve amended agenda by Alan Colavecchio, seconded by Dewees Yeager. Voted 6-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: August 3, 2021. Motion to approve current amended minutes by Dewees Yeager, as written, seconded by Gary Giordano. Voted 6-0.
4. New Business
What's Happening in Town?;
 - a) Developer Joseph Miller recently purchased the former Capitol Products Factory, 35 Willow Street. Alan will be the liaison.
 - b) The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Paws and Reflect was held on 8/7/21. The shop sells a variety of soy wax candles, wax melts, and soaps. A portion of all proceeds are donated to animal-focused organizations.
 - c) A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be held Saturday 8/28 at 11:00AM for Dillon's Pellet & Stove, located at 920 Main St. The Railway Café Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is postponed.
 - d) The Town of Winsted will be acquiring five interns from Northwestern CT Community College. Interns will be available to boards and commissions. Dennis will contact Joshua.
5. Communications – No Communications reported.

6. Old Business:

- a) Discussion on whether the EDC should make a recommendation to Planning and Zoning regarding converting current mixed-use properties to multi-family use.
 - Motion to approve the EDC's recommendation on determining that each individual proposal should be evaluated on its own merit by Dewees Yeager, as written, seconded by Gary Giordano. Voted 6-0.
- b) Business Visitations: The WEDC visits businesses in town and serves as a liaison between the town and business owners. Dennis scheduled a business visitation with Sterling Sintered on 8/25 at 9:30AM. Gary scheduled a visitation with East Coast Lighting on 8/25 at 10:30AM. Alan scheduled a visitation with Cadco.
- c) Public safety concern on Main Street / speed of motor vehicles. Commissioners provided safer examples such as: speed bumps, colorful crosswalks, and a different main street design.
- d) Business in the Spotlight: Gary will send Jess information to post about Tyler Green of FX Studio. The Gilson is a great idea for a business feature.
- a) Updates on WEDC Planning – Goals FY 2021 – 2022:
 - Top 10 Campaign – Brochure concept: Jim & Alan – No new information.
 - Winsted Open House/ Oktoberfest Concept Tabled. Jill suggested a Spring Fling - Jess & Jill
 - Dennis coordinated with Sandy Conforti at NW Community Bank and Amy Wynn at American Mural Project. The major business meeting event may be scheduled for the spring per COVID-19.
 - Storefront Contest – The Façade Contest will be announced on September 1st and run through November 1st. There will be 3 winners. The prizes are as follows: 1st place: \$400.00, 2nd place: \$200.00, and 3rd place: \$100.00.
 - Manufacturing: Dewees connected with Laura McCarthy, the Director of the Academic Success Center at Northwestern CT Community College.
 - Laura is hosting a job fair for Manufacturers on September 15th. Laura inquired that the EDC may be able to assist in pinpointing businesses to invite from Winsted.
 - Dewees is organizing MailChimp, and the date will be sent to all Manufacturers.
 - Dewees created a Manufacturers Questionnaire to assist the EDC for manufacturer business visitations.
 - Create enterprise zones, Gary & Dewees: Discussion surrounding various incentive ideas.
 - Restaurant owners breakfast meeting scheduled for Rowley Grill at 3:00PM on 9/22. Alan & Jim.

7. Adjournment – 8:24 pm motion by Dewees Yeager, seconded by Gary Giordano. Voted 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Tessman