

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

Tuesday, August 3, 2021, 7:00 PM

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, The Blue Room

COMMISSION

Dennis Dressel, Chairman

Deweese Yeager, Vice Chairman

Jim Welton, Treasurer

Jessica Tessman, Secretary

Gary Giordano

Alan Colavecchio

Jill Fourie

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, Dewees Yeager, Jim Welton, Jessica Tessman, Gary Giordano, and Alan Colavecchio.
2. Agenda Review – Agenda edited to include Winchester 250 under new business. Motion to approve amended agenda by Dewees Yeager, seconded by Alan Colavecchio. Voted 6-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: July 20, 2021. Motion to approve current amended minutes by Jim Welton, as written, seconded by Gary Giordano. Voted 6-0.
4. Treasurers Report: The current approved budget is \$8,500.
5. New Business  
What's Happening in Town?;
  - a) A new retail business, Paws and Reflect, will be opening shop, selling a variety of soy wax candles, wax melts and soaps. The shop is located at 538 Main St. A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is scheduled tentatively for Saturday 8/7 at 11:00AM. Dewees will contact the business owner and keep commissioners updated.
  - b) The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony scheduled with Railway Café, 580 Main Street, is postponed. Another Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be held Saturday 8/28 at 11:00AM for Dillon's Pellet & Stove, located at 920 Main St.
  - c) Developer Joseph Miller recently purchased the former Capitol Products Factory, 35 Willow Street. Alan will be the liaison.
  - d) Proposals to P&Z for mixed use zoning: Properties 351 N Main St and 28 S Main. The EDC was recommended to give an opinion on mixed use properties converting into multi-family homes. Discussion tabled for next meeting. Dennis will retrieve more information.

- e) Ad Hoc Committees: Delayed due to COVID-19. No new information reported at this time.
  - f) Winchester 250: Celebrations and festivities will begin in November and finish in May 2022. Jim suggested to collaborate and assist in celebrating the history of Winchester by connecting with business owners: special promotions or coupons. Jim will retrieve the agenda of Winchester 250 celebrations.
6. Communications – No Communications reported.
7. Old Business:
- a) Updates on WEDC Planning – Goals FY 2021 – 2022:
    - Top 10 Campaign – Brochure concept: Jim & Alan
    - Dennis coordinated with Sandy Conforti at NW Commercial Bank and Amy Wynn at American Mural Project. The event may be held on Thursday, 10/21. This date could change. Dennis suggested to invite an Economic Development Commissioner from the state of CT.
    - Storefront Contest – Starting September 1 – November 1<sup>st</sup>. Jill, Jess, and Jim are planning. Jim suggested to incorporate Winchester 250.
    - Restaurant Owners Breakfast Meeting: Jim will coordinate a date with Josh for the next meeting.
    - 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 15<sup>th</sup>. Laura inquired that the EDC may be able to assist in pinpointing businesses to invite from Winsted. Commissioners suggest using MailChimp.
      - Dewees created a Manufacturers Questionnaire to assist the EDC for manufacturer business visitations.
  - b) Town Website: The EDC decided to “pause” our town site initiative. A new site is in the works.
  - c) Business Visitation:
    - Alan visited True Value of Winchester, 276 Main St. He mentioned that the antique shops are valuable to the town. Alan visited Carol Morgan, owner of Antiques on Main, and has a meeting scheduled with all 3 antique business owners for this month.
    - Gary visited Tyler Green, FX Studio, 100 Whiting St #405. Tyler offers SFX courses and workshops. He gave positive remarks about Winsted and Whiting Mills.
    - Jim visited Catered by Gia at the Green Woods Country Club, 300 Tarringford St.
    - Dennis and Dewees visited Camp Wah-Nee, which frequents around 400 campers and 100-150 counselors/staff. Camp Wah-Nee was featured as the Business in the Spotlight.
    - Dewees completed an exit review with Plant Life Apothecary and visited Mad River Music.
8. Adjournment – 8:24 pm motion by Dewees Yeager, seconded by Gary Giordano. Voted 6-0.