

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

Tuesday, July 20, 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

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 7:03 pm by Dennis Dressel. At the meeting was Dennis Dressel, Dewees Yeager, Jim Welton, Jessica Tessman, Jill Fourie, Gary Giordano, with guest Pam Colombie.
2. Agenda Review –Motion to approve amended agenda by Dewees Yeager, seconded by Jim Welton. Voted 6-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: July 6, 2021. Motion to approve current amended minutes by Jim Welton, as written, seconded by Gary Giordano. Voted 6-0.
4. 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. Dewees will contact the business owner.
 - b) A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, 7/21 at 6:00PM for Laurel Lanes | Papa Boba, located at 266 Main St. Another Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be held Saturday 8/28 at 11:00AM for Dillon's Pellet & Stove, located at 920 Main St.
 - c) Dewees suggested that the EDC should begin using the Social Media Calendar, first initiated by Meg. Jess will input all events on the calendar.
 - d) Dennis will add Mixed-use buildings to next meetings agenda. Dennis will send out information.
 - e) The American Mural Project held a meeting on Monday 7/12 at 5:00PM. The meeting explored visitor experience for their opening in Spring 2022.

5. Communications
 - a) Dennis sent commissioners a new State social media initiative and website designed to highlight young professionals in hopes of attracting and retaining individuals to begin their careers here: CtForMe.com.
 - b) Plant Life Aficionado, located at 60 Main St, is closing business and re-locating. Dewees will complete an exit review.

6. Old Business
 - a) Dennis coordinated with Sandy Conforti at NW Commercial Bank and Amy Wynn at American Mural and the event may be held on Thursday, 10/21. This date may change.
 - b) The Freedom of Information Act Meeting was held on 7/8 at the Town Hall. The agenda must be posted within 24 hours of the next meeting, and meeting minutes seven days after the meeting.
 - c) Storefront Façade Contest: Jess sent an email to Jim & Jill to schedule a meeting to discuss details.
 - d) Top 10 Reasons to love Winsted Campaign: Jim met with Alan and postcards were quoted by Goulet Printery: 1,000 cards for \$150.00. EDC members suggested the postcards include a note section for people to write on them. Other items suggested: calendars and pamphlets. Jill will assist Jim and Alan.
 - e) Breakfast Meeting: Jim will coordinate a date for the next meeting for some time after Labor Day.
 - f) Manufacturing: Dewees handed out a flyer to EDC commissioners. Gary and Dewees are in the process of developing a plan to assist Winsted Manufacturers by connecting with local schools. The goal is to develop a link page where businesses can find appropriate resources, fulfill their needs, and post a job opportunity.
 - g) Pam suggested that the EDC will have a much more active page by not being a “sub-page”. The EDC website will be easier to navigate by making this switch. Pam suggested to connect with the Assessor to retrieve business records for our List.
 - h) Winsted Business Mastersheet: Please notify Dewees if there are any errors on the Mastersheet List. Dewees will re-send the Mastersheet to Jill.
 - i) Business in the Spotlight: Gary is in the process of connecting with Tyler Green FX Studio.
 - j) Gary suggested Pop-Up Shops on Main Street. Project tabled.

7. Adjournment – 8:14 pm motion by Dewees Yeager, seconded by Gary Giordano. Voted 6-0.