

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

Tuesday, June 1, 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

David Sartirana

Joshua Kelly, Town Manager

Jack Borque, BOS Liaison

Linda Groppo, BOS Liaison

1. Call to Order and Roll Call - Called to order at 7:02 pm by Dennis Dressel. At the meeting was Dennis Dressel, Dewees Yeager, Jim Welton, Jessica Tessman, Gary Giordano, and guests Pam Colombie, Kim Parsons-Whitaker, Linda Groppo, Alan Colavecchio, Shane Centrella and Shannon Centrella.
2. Agenda Review –Motion to approve amended agenda by Dewees Yeager, seconded by Jim Welton. Voted 5-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: May 18, 2021. Motion to approve current amended minutes by Gary Giordano, as written, seconded by Jim Welton. Voted 6-0.
4. Treasurers Report
  - a) The EDC has a remaining balance of \$5,200. Business cards and name tags will be ordered for EDC Commissioners.
5. New Business  
What's Happening in Town?
  - a) Cumberland Farms relocation to Mercury Fuel.
  - b) The Planning & Zoning Commission conditionally approved a special permit to expand on Newfield Road for ECAD.
  - c) Asa's Steak and Seafood coming soon at 127 Main Street.
  - d) Planning & Zoning Commission: Chestnut Grove Elevator, 80 Chestnut Street.
  - e) Jim & Dewees will connect with Cumberland Farms for a Ribbon Cutting.
  - f) Jim met with Gia's Catering at the Greenwoods Country Club, located at 300 Tarringford St.

- g) Kim Parsons-Whittaker Presentation:
    - Jim invited Kim Parsons-Whittaker, Associate Director at Connecticut Main Street Center, to our meeting.
    - The Connecticut Main Street Center advocates for downtowns through education, training, and advertising tools to self-guide. The Annual fee is \$1,000. Members have access to all educational programs, networking, special events, visitations, monthly newsletters, video libraries, and more.
    - Kim suggested that the Winsted EDC should connect with the EDC Director of the Town of Windham.
  - h) Ad Hoc Committees: Two representatives from the EDC were chosen to take part in the following committees:
    - Planning of 508 Main Street: Gary Giordano.
    - Reviewing the American Rescue Plan Act: Jim Welton.
  - i) Winsted Phoenix Update: Dewees and Alan met with the Winsted Phoenix Board at Whiting Mills.
  - j) Next roundtable meeting: Dewees handed out a Winchester Master Business List containing the different types of categories of businesses. Commissioners should view this list to determine the next category.
6. Communications
7. Old Business
- a) Manufacturers Meeting Review: The EDC hosted a first-ever manufacturing summit on Thursday, May 20, 2021. Winsted manufacturers stated that they are having trouble with finding employees. Jim suggested connecting with NCCC. Dewees has spoken with OWTS. Pam suggested to host an informational series for middle schoolers/ high schoolers.
  - b) Business Visitation and Business in the Spotlight: Jim visited Gia's Catering at the Greenwoods Country Club and posted to Facebook.
  - c) Gary: Suggestion to open pop-up shops, for an incentive to occupy business spaces on Main Street. Gary will look into the possibility of having spaces donated.
  - d) Gary has a 9:00 AM call with Advance CT re: Tax Incentives to draw in Businesses.
  - e) Freedom of Information Training is available on July 8<sup>th</sup> and each board and commission members are encouraged to attend.
8. Adjournment – 8:38 pm motion by Dewees Yeager, seconded by Gary Giordano. Voted 5-0.