

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

Tuesday, May 18, 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

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 7:01 pm by Dennis Dressel. At the meeting was Dennis Dressel, Dewees Yeager, Jim Welton, Jessica Tessman, Gary Giordano, Dave Sartirana, and guests Pam Colombie, Linda Groppo, Alan Colavecchio, Jill Fourie, Kristin Dowler, Bob Dowler, and Town Manager Joshua Kelly.
2. Agenda Review – Mainstreet Webinar added to agenda and Winsted Phoenix meeting added to be last under New Business. Motion to approve amended agenda by Dewees Yeager, seconded by Jim Welton. Voted 6-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: May 4, 2021. Motion to approve current amended minutes by Jim Welton, as written, seconded by Dewees Yeager. Voted 6-0.
4. New Business
What's Happening in Town?;
 - a) Asa's Steak and Seafood coming soon at 127 Main Street.
 - b) Cumberland Farms relocation to Mercury Fuel.
 - c) Joshua Kelly: Expanding Communications VIA Social Media. A newsletter will be delivered to Winsted residents with a survey attached regarding communication efforts.
 - d) Joshua Kelly: Two Committees are forming. Mr. Kelly would like two representatives from the EDC to take part in the following committees:
 - Planning of 508 Main Street.
 - Reviewing the American Rescue Plan Act.Both Committees will meet weekly.
 - e) Top 10 Reasons to Love Winsted Flyer presented by Jim: Highly Rated Local Education, Lakes and Recreation, and Vibrant Arts.

- f) Connecticut Main Street Center, Main Street Webinar: Jim attended a ZOOM Webinar which highlighted vacant property strategies, zoning, parking, and planning. Jim invited Kim Parsons-Whitaker, Associate Director at CT Main Street Center to our next EDC Meeting.
- g) Winsted Phoenix Meeting: Dewees and Alan plan to meet with the Winsted Phoenix Board at Whiting Mills.

5. Communications

- a) Rooted Market Ceremony: Saturday, May 22nd at 12:00PM. Celebrating 15 Years in the Community & One Year of New Ownership.
- b) Manufacturers Meeting: 25 Invitations Sent. The EDC must start developing ideas for the next forum.

6. Old Business

- a) Business Visitation: Dave and Dewees visited Dairy Queen, Dave has pictures to post to Facebook. Jim asked EDC members to step up/restart business visitations.
- b) Business in the Spotlight: The Railway Café's Ice cream was advertised; Dairy Queen will be posted before Memorial Day Weekend.
- c) WEDC Planning for the coming year: Reminder to be prepared for the new Fiscal Year, starting on July 1st, 2021. Jim created a Form for each EDC member to review.
- d) Open Discussion led by Jim regarding the positives of Winchester. Jill suggested hosting a Winsted Open House; Winsted Days, where all businesses are open on Main Street. Jill also mentioned hosting a Storefront Contest every month.
- e) Gary: Suggestion to open pop-up shops, for an incentive to occupy business spaces on Main Street.
- f) Gary will contact CT Advance re: Tax Incentives to draw in Businesses.
- g) Jim will fine tune all suggestions and distribute results.

7. Adjournment – 8:21 pm motion by Dewees Yeager, seconded by Jim Welton. Voted 6-0.