

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

Tuesday, March 31, 2023, 7:00 PM

The Blue Room

COMMISSIONERS

Deweese Yeager, Chairman

Dennis Dressel, Vice Chair

Jessica Tessman, Secretary

Gary Giordano, Treasurer

Alan Colavecchio, Commissioner

Shayne Deschamps, Commissioner

Joseph Santoro, Commissioner

John Wiarda, Alternate

David Sartirana, Alternate

Joshua Kelly, Town Manager

Linda Groppo, BOS Liaison

Ted Shafer, Director of Economic Development

1. Call to Order and Roll Call - Called to order at 7:01 pm by Dewees Yeager. At the meeting were Dewees Yeager, Jessica Tessman, Shayne Deschamps, Gary Giordano, Dennis Dressel, Alan Colavecchio, Joseph Santoro, Shannon Centrella, John Wiarda, and guests Ted Shafer, Linda Groppo, Leland Licciardi and Alan Nero.
2. Agenda Review – Motion to approve agenda by, Shayne Deschamps, seconded by Gary Giordano. 7-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: March 7, 2023. Motion to approve the previous minutes by Dennis Dressel, seconded by Shayne Deschamps. Voted 7-0.
4. Public Comment – None reported.
5. New Business
 - a) Manufacturing Breakfast Meeting Next Steps
 - a. Tentative: Wednesday, May 4th.
 - b. Proposed Venues: Northwestern College Library (Draper Center).
 - c. Manufacturer's Panel discussion.
 - b) Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies
 - a. Recap: JT's café and Wild One Salon completed.
 - b. Fairchild: May 12 at 3:00 PM.
 - c. Curious Cat Bookshop, Earthbound Yoga (Shannon), Gianni's Deli (Gary), MEI Tea (Jess).
 - c) What's happening in Town?
 - a. Whiting Mills, Mineral Show.
 - b. 10 Bridge Street – discussion.
 - c. The Entrepreneurial Center of Northwest Connecticut is hosting a Small Business Seminar (How to hire great people) in Norfolk. Registration is open at: www.nwcc.edu/sbs.

- d. Berkshire Bank conversation.
- e. New Police Chief.
- f. Sustainable CT – Bronze Certification
 - Progress is moving along. This must be completed by April 1, 2023.

6. Communications:

- a. Board Selectmen Meeting: Budget.
- b. Business Mentorship Discussion – The EDC suggested designating a business liaison in Town that represents each sector that a new business owner can be directed to. Shannon and Jess will collaborate on this project.
- c. Jess and Shannon will connect with the Friends of Main Street.
- d. 2nd Home Lounge: Dewees connected.
- e. Walking Tour of Bridge Street with Bill K.

7. Old Business

- a) EDC Spring Event
 - Suggested Speakers: Police Chief and Ted.
 - Suggested Locations: Greenwoods Country Club, Gia's, or Crystal Peak.
 - Targeted Date: April/May.
- b) Website Updates and Social Media
 - Ted will connect with Josh.
 - Website Renovation is in progress.
- c) 2023 Job Fair
 - Shayne, Ted, and Dewees met with Greg (Head of School).
 - Location: The Gilbert School, gymnasium.
- d) EDC Social Media: Business visits/spotlights.
 - The Recreation Board does not have an email system. Jess/Shayne/Joseph will work on this.
- e) Job Fair
 - Will not take place while students are in-session.
 - Possible Location: Gilbert School Cafeteria or Gym.
- f) Social Media Spotlights
 - a. Business Mastersheet.
 - b. R&B Sportsworld – postponed until spring.
 - c. Noujaim's will be set up at the Rooted Market soon – Jess will coordinate with Shannon.

8. Adjournment – 8:28 pm motion by Shayne Deschamps, seconded by Joseph Santoro. Voted 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Tessman