

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

Tuesday, August 1, 2023, 7:00 PM

The Blue Room

COMMISSIONERS

Dewees Yeager, Chairman
Dennis Dressel, Vice Chair
Jessica Tessman, Secretary
Gary Giordano, Treasurer
Alan Colavecchio, Commissioner
Shayne Deschamps, Commissioner
Joseph Santoro, Commissioner
John Wiarda, Alternate
Shannon Centrella, Alternate
Joshua Kelly, Town Manager
Linda Groppo, BOS Liaison
Ted Shafer, Director of Economic Development

Dewees Yeager called a Moment of Silence for John Wiarda at 7:00 pm.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call - Called to order at 7:03 pm by Dewees Yeager. At the meeting were Dewees Yeager, Jessica Tessman, Dennis Dressel, Alan Colavecchio, Shayne Deschamps (Arrival at 7:26pm), Shannon Centrella and guest Ted Shafer.
2. Agenda Review –Motion to approve agenda by, Gary Giordano, seconded by Alan Colavecchio. 5-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: July 18, 2023. Motion to approve the previous minutes by Dennis Dressel, seconded by Alan Colavecchio. Voted 5-0.
4. Public Comment – None reported.
5. Treasurer’s Report – The EDC has a budget of: \$10,000. There are no outstanding payments.
 - a. Don Morelli.
6. New Business
 - a) Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies
 - a) Main Spot Café – Scheduled for August 1, 2023 at 5:00 PM.
 - b) Jess will create a social media post of the upcoming Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.
 - *Coming Soon:* Little Red Barn/Axe Throwing (Alan), Curious Cat Bookshop (Jess), Earthbound Yoga (Shannon), Home and Cake (Alan), Mr. Coconut (Shayne), Papa’s Market (Shannon).
 - *Postponed:* Mad River Music and Mei Tea.
 - b. What’s Happening in Town?
 - a) Gary/Dewees met with the Police Chief discussing speeding and staffing.
 - b) There is a new Marketing and Communications coordinator, Alexa.

- c) Ted: Cultural district on Main Street Corridor. There was a discussion about the Capitol building/ Burwell property.
 - d) Tractor Supply – Looking to re-locate around October 2024.
- 7. Communications:
 - a) Networking event in the fall – Dennis is seeking a candidate for a speaker.
- 8. Old Business
 - a) Route 800 Corridor Discussion: Sub-committee: Dennis, Dewees, Gary & Dave.
 - b) Welcome to Winsted Sign
 - a. Tabled until next meeting.
 - b. Sign will be available mid-August.
 - c) Fall Festival – September 30, 2023
 - a. Tent outside of Main Street.
 - b. Friends of Main Street: Highlight businesses in town; displays, handouts giveaways.
 - d) 2023 Job Fair, Scheduled for October 11, 2023 from 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM.
 - Next Zoom Meeting scheduled for August 16 at 11:00 AM.
 - Chairs will be available on site and employers will be charged \$50.00.
 - Jess will connect with Shayne on Constant Contact.
 - Location: The Gilbert School, gymnasium.
 - e) Manufacturers Event – October 24, 2023, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm.
 - Venue suggestion: Crystal Peak.
 - Guest Speakers: Paul Lavoie – DECD contact.
 - f) Welcome to Winsted Sign Update (from West).
 - Sign will be available by Mid-August.
 - g) EDC Social Media
 - a. Jess will post the EDC Commissioners on social media and upcoming ribbon cutting ceremonies.
 - b. Spotlight Ideas: Lapointe's (Kitchen and Bath) and the Marina.
- 9. Adjournment – 8:41 pm motion by Dennis Dressel, seconded by Shayne Deschamps. Voted 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Tessman