

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

Tuesday, August 15, 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

Shannon Centrella, 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 7:02 pm by Deweese Yeager. At the meeting were Deweese Yeager, Jessica Tessman, Alan Colavecchio, Gary Giordano, Shannon Centrella and guests Ted Shafer and Linda Groppo.
2. Agenda Review – Add Plaque for John Wiarda, EDC Commissioner under New Business. Motion to approve agenda by, Alan Colavecchio, seconded by Jess Tessman. 5-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: August 1, 2023. Motion to approve the previous minutes by Gary Giordano, seconded by Shannon Centrella. Voted 5-0.
4. Public Comment – None reported.
5. New Business
  - a) John Wiarda Recognition Plaque
    - Linda suggested reaching out to Todd Arcelaschi for an update as multiple commissions are interested in recognizing former Commissioner, John Wiarda. Deweese will provide additional insight at the next meeting.
  - b) Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies:
    - *Coming Soon:* Little Red Barn (*Deweese*), Axe Throwing (*Shayne*), Curious Cat Bookshop (*Jess*), Earthbound Yoga (*Shannon*), Home and Cake (*Alan*), Mr. Coconut (*Shayne*), Papa's Market (*Shannon*), LisaBeth Confections.com (*awaiting permitting*), Mad River Music (*Deweese*), Mei Tea (*Joseph*), Papa's Deli & Grocery (*Deweese*), Peruvian Restaurant (*Deweese*), RRT Motorsports (*Shayne*), and Granville Farm.
    - Ted suggested including new business openings on the 2023 Ribbon Cuttings document (*Printed document that Deweese provided at the meeting*).

- All Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies are submitted to: Winsted Citizen, Register Citizen, and the Republican American.

c) What's Happening in Town?

- Cultural Arts District Meeting – Held on August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6PM at the American Mural Project building (*Jess and Ted will be in attendance*).
- Ted and Dewees attended the Northwest Startup Community Night hosted by the Community College.
- The Town is working on a Small Town Economic Assistance Program Grant - up to \$5,000, specifically focusing on 44 Elm Street and 10 Bridge Street.
- Ted/Gary visited two sites up for sale or leasing: 1 Lake Street and East Lake Street (*former nursing home*).

6. Communications: None reported.

7. Old Business

a) Fall Festival – September 30, 2023

- a. The EDC suggests that we have two Tables to differentiate between the Town and the EDC.
- b. Promo Suggestions: Dairy Queen Gift cards, Roll of 06098 stickers, beer coozies, or mini flashlights.
- c. The EDC/Town Tent will be outside of Community Health and Wellness (*front*).
- d. Town Table: Brochures from industries around town.

b) Manufacturers Event “Summit” – October 24, 2023, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm.

- Venue suggestion: Little Red Barn, or Crystal Peak.
- Guest Speakers: Paul Lavoie, Member of EdAdvance, Laura McCarthy, (*a recorded video*) – DECD contact.

c) 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.
- Flyer will be available to share out by 8/16 on social media platforms.
- Gilbert School Walk through scheduled for Thursday, 8/17 at 2:00 pm.
- Location: The Gilbert School, gymnasium.

d) 800 Corridor: Dennis, Gary, Dewees, Ted and Dave are on the sub-committee.

e) Welcome to Winsted Sign: Available mid-August.

f) EDC Social Media – Send business spotlights, resources, and additional information to Jess.

8. Adjournment – 8:30 pm motion by Gary Giordano, seconded by Alan Colavecchio. Voted 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jessica Tessman