

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

Tuesday, July 18, 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

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 7:07 pm by Dewees Yeager. At the meeting were Dewees Yeager, Jessica Tessman, Dennis Dressel, Alan Colavecchio, Shayne Deschamps, Shannon Centrella and guests Ted Shafer, Candace Bouchard and Jack Bourque.
2. Agenda Review –Motion to approve agenda by, Dennis Dressel, seconded by Gary Giordano. 5-1.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: June 20, 2023. Motion to approve the previous minutes by Alan Colavecchio, seconded by Gary Giordano. Voted 5-1.
4. Public Comment – Landscaping, zoning enforcement and canvas banners discussion.
5. Old Business
 - a) Fall Festival
 - a. The last Fall Festival was held in 2019.
 - b. Awaiting approval from Department of Transportation (DOT).
 - c. Scheduled for Saturday, September 30th from 10:00 – 4:00 pm.
 - d. EDC/Town Tent: 10x20 Tent – suggestions: story board available, updates on new developments in town, have town leaders available.
6. New Business
 - a. Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies
 - *Coming Soon:* Little Red Barn, Curious Cat Bookshop (Jess), Earthbound Yoga (Shannon), Home and Cake (Alan), Main Spot Bar: August 3, 2023 tentatively at 5:00 PM, Mr. Coconut (Shayne).
 - *Postponed:* Mad River Music and Mei Tea.
 - b. What's Happening in Town?
 - a) The Peruvian Restaurant - Potential new Restaurant coming to 127 Main Street (former Wendy's location).

- b) Town Grant Update: Multiple grants have been submitted on behalf of the town.
- c) Business Park/s: The Board of Selectman discussed in their last meeting: route 800 (Rowley to the Torrington line).
 - Identify vacant lands and discuss how to recruit new developments in town that can help promote the quality of life.
 - Suggestion to form a sub-committee in support of this mission.

7. Communications: No communications reported.

8. Old Business (*Continuation*)

- a) 2023 Job Fair, Scheduled for October 11, 2023 from 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM.
 - Next Zoom Meeting scheduled for next Wednesday 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.
- b) Manufacturers Event – October 24, 2023.
 - Venue suggestion: Crystal Peak.
 - Speakers: Advance CT representative.
- c) Welcome to Winsted Sign Update (from West).
 - Sign will be available by Mid-August.
- d) 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.
 - c. Dewees will connect with Alan Nero on behalf of marketing efforts.

9. Adjournment – 8:41 pm motion by Dennis Dressel, seconded by Shayne Deschamps. Voted 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Tessman