

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

Tuesday, May 2, 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

1. Call to Order and Roll Call - Called to order at 7:00 pm by Dewees Yeager. At the meeting were Dewees Yeager, Jessica Tessman, Shayne Deschamps, Dennis Dressel, Alan Colavecchio, Joseph Santoro, John Wiarda, Shannon Centrella and guests Ted Shafer, Dave Sartirana and Lance Hansen.
2. Agenda Review – Add Marketing to Old Business. Motion to approve agenda by, Shayne Deschamps, seconded by Joseph Santoro. 7-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: April 18, 2023. Motion to approve the previous minutes by Alan Colavecchio, seconded by Shayne Deschamps. Voted 6-0-1.
4. Public Comment – None reported.
5. Treasurers Report – Northwest Bank contributed \$2,000 towards the Economic Development Commission. Total Budget remaining as of 5/2/23: \$6,090.15. Dewees will check-in with Gary regarding business cards, new T-Shirts and name badges.
6. New Business
 - a) Officer Elections
The Winchester Economic Development Commission votes to keep the following officers in their current positions.

Dewees Yeager, Chairman
Dennis Dressel, Vice Chair
Jessica Tessman, Secretary
Gary Giordano, Treasurer
 - i. Motion to approve Officer Elections by, Alan Colavecchio, seconded by Shayne Deschamps. 7-0.

b) What's happening in Town?

- a. May 8th Annual Town Budget Meeting (Dennis is the moderator at the event).
- b. Ted: Spotlight on Downtown Torrington Event.
- c. Winsted Citizen – Looking to highlight 20's – 30 year olds in town.
- d. Lance –
 - i. 147 Torrington Road – former sports dome – officially closed on property.
 - ii. Sue Grossman Trail extension discussions are underway.
 - iii. 314 Main Street (Poppa's market), 508 Main Street, Mountain Side Drive, 212 West Wakefield Blvd – discussion
 - iv. Batcheller School – proposal for affordable housing.
 - v. Administrative – Pam is relocating to another department in the town.
 - vi. Josh is working alongside Joe Miller.
 - vii. Tractor Supply: Nothing new reported.
 - viii. Little Red Barn – expansion, axe throwing– still under development.
- e. Friends of Main Street event - September 30, 2023 tentative date. Shannon and Jess will coordinate together to be the liaisons for this event.

c) Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies:

- Gianni's Deli: Saturday, May 6 at 10:30 AM.
- Fairchild - May 12.
- Little Red Barn – new expansion.
- Mad River Music – postponed.
- Earthbound Yoga (Shannon).
- Lisa Beth Confections – sweets and treats (Dave will connect).

7. Communications: No communications reported.

8. Old Business

a) 2nd Winchester Manufacturers Breakfast Meeting

- Happy Hour Event – estimated time: 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- Suggested Date: October 5th 2023
- Suggested Speakers: Paul (CT Manufacturing), Innovation Center, Laura McCarthy (NCCC), or panel discussion.

b) 2023 Job Fair

- Date: October 11, 2023
- Shayne sent the application to Dewees to complete to host the event at the school.
- Location: The Gilbert School, gymnasium.

c) Welcome to Winsted Sign

- Two options: utilize the EDC remaining funds or private donation.

d) EDC Social Media

- a. Jess will coordinate with Dewees to highlight the recent awardees of the Façade Improvement and Business Start Up grants.
- b. Jess will post the EDC Commissioners on social media and upcoming ribbon cutting ceremonies.

e) Marketing

- a. Marketing initiatives are being developed.

9. Adjournment – 8:53 pm motion by Shayne Deschamps, seconded by Joseph Santoro. Voted 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Tessman