Town of Winchester - City of Winsted  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
Tuesday, March 31, 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  
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  
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.
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 Deweess 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
      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