

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

Tuesday, March 7, 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

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 7:00 pm by Dewees Yeager. At the meeting were Dewees Yeager, Jessica Tessman, Shayne Deschamps, Gary Giordano, Dennis Dressel, David Sartirana, Alan Colavecchio, Joseph Santoro, John Wiarda, and guests Ted Shafer and Shannon Centrella.
2. Agenda Review – Add Joseph’s report under social media. Add Sustainable CT under New Business. Motion to approve amended agenda by, Shayne Deschamps, seconded by Gary Giordano. 7-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: February 21, 2023. Motion to approve the previous minutes by Joseph Santoro, seconded by Shayne Deschamps. Voted 5-0-2.
4. Public Comment – No comments.
5. Treasurer’s Report - \$450 is processing from the small business workshop in collaboration with the Torrington EDC. The Winchester EDC has \$6,000 remaining in the budget.
 - Jess and Shayne stated that the cost for Constant Contact is around \$460 dollars for the year.
 - Shayne will email Josh /cc entire the group re: Town email address.
6. New Business
 - a) Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies
 - a. JT’s Café: Thursday, March 9 at 5:00 PM.
 - b. Wild One Hair Salon: Saturday, March 18 at 11 AM.
 - c. Fairchild: April or May
 - d. Mad River Music – Dewees will connect.
 - b) USDA Grant – Regional Farmers Market.
 - c) Methodist Church – Tax Abatement Discussion
 - d) 10 Bridge Street: Residential Housing.

- e) What's Happening in Town?
 - a. Winsted Citizen, Friends of Main Street Collaboration
 - b. Sustainable CT – Bronze Certification
 - Lance, Jim Rollins & Ted are working on a sidewalk Audit initiative. This must be completed by April 1, 2023.
- 7. Communications:
 - a. 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.
 - b. Event in the fall with Torrington/Winsted Manufacturers – Little Red Barn is able to host.
- 8. Old Business
 - a) EDC Spring Event
 - Suggested Locations: Winsted YMCA, Greenwoods Country Club, Gia's, or Crystal Peak.
 - Targeted Date: April/May.
 - b) Website Updates
 - There are broken links on the website. The website on mobile is not optimized.
 - Joseph sent a project sheet that will be shared with Alan.
 - c) Business Marketing Campaign: Update
 - The Marketing Team is continuing to meet with Josh/Ted to finalize details.
 - d) Town Website
 - 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) Manufacturers Breakfast Meeting
 - Suggested Location: The Tort Law Museum.
 - Third week of April.
 - g) Social Media Spotlights
 - a. R&B Sportsworld – postponed until Spring
 - b. Noujaim's will be set up at the Rooted Market soon – Jess will coordinate with Shannon.
 - c. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – JT's Café Ribbon Cutting post and Wild One Salon.
- 9. Adjournment – 8:45 pm motion by Shayne Deschamps, seconded by John Wiarda. Voted 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Tessman