

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

December 6, 2022, 7:00 PM

COMMISSIONERS

Deweese Yeager, Chairman
Dennis Dressel, Vice Chair
Jessica Tessman, Secretary
Gary Giordano, Treasurer

Alan Colavecchio

Jill Fourie

Shayne Deschamps

ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS

Dave Sartirana

Joseph Santoro

Kevin O'Connell

TOWN OFFICIALS

Joshua Kelly, Town Manager

Linda Groppo, BOS Liaison

Ted Shafer, Director of Economic Development

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
 - a. Called to order at 7:02 pm by Dewees Yeager. At the meeting were Dewees Yeager, Shayne Deschamps, Gary Giordano, Dennis Dressel, Joseph Santoro, Dave Sartirana, and guests John Wiarda, Ted Shafer, Alan Nero, and Lance Hansen
2. Agenda Review
 - a. Motion to approve agenda by Joseph Santoro, seconded by Shayne Deschamps. Voted 6-0.
3. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Motion to approve minutes by Dennis Dressel, 2nd by Gary Giordano
 - b. Abstained Shayne Deschamps and Dewees Yeager
4. Treasure's Report
 - a. The EDC remaining budget is \$7,441.14, followed by a discussion about encumbrance issues Gary will speak to mark Douglass about. There also will be money coming to the EDC from the job fair and the town calendar.
5. New Business
 - a. Ribbon cuttings

- i. There was a Ribbon cutting celebrating the Sue Grossman Trail extension, it was well attended and set up by town staff.

Alan Colavecchio arrived 7:10 pm

- ii. Annie Q. Simard Real Estate ribbon cutting happened on 12/5 and went well
- iii. Since Fairchild Auto-Mated parts have a new owner, we need to schedule a ribbon cutting, Dennis will coordinate.
- iv. Gianni's Deli, we are waiting for updates. Dave will check in with them, there is a lot of public interest.
- v. A new saloon is opening, Wild ones, Dewees will try to make contact with the owner and set up a possible ribbon cutting.
- vi. Earthbound Yogi has opened in the former Live.BeYou location. Dewees will try to make contact with them.
- vii. JTs cafe should be opening in a couple of weeks.
- b. New communications director, Alan Nero, was in attendance.
 - i. There is lots of development coming with the website. The changes should streamline posting on all town sites and social media.
 - ii. More news to come soon.
 - iii. The town is looking at the Winsted Wire becoming a monthly document, as well as adding a new segment about Economic Development.
- c. What's happening in town?
 - i. Frontier is running fiber internet service all over Winsted/Winchester
 - ii. There are discussions happening with multiple developers interested in some sites around town

6. Communications

- a. Shayne visited Wendy at Cura Di Si. She is reporting that she is doing fantastic. She receives lots of support from DoT, the local schools.
- b. Mad River Music is moving to a location near JD Appliance on the other side of town.

7. Old Business

- a. Business Person of The Year
 - i. There was a lot of discussion about qualifications if this is the year to start the award, among other topics.
 - ii. Further tabled for more discussion till next meeting
- b. Welcome to Winchester Signs
 - i. An application with Rotary needs to be filled out. Gary will contact the town grant writer about assisting with this.
 - ii. Marketing campaign discussion tabled until next meeting
 - iii. There is a desire from the manufacturers to continue the monthly breakfast meetings. Thursday, January 12th, is on the calendar for the next one.

8. Adjournment

- a. Gary motion 2nd by Shayne 8:41

