

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

Tuesday, October 17, 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

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, Dennis Dressel, Jessica Tessman, Gary Giordano, Alan Colavecchio, Shayne Deschamps, Joseph Santoro and guests Ted Shafer, Linda Groppo, Lance Hansen, Tom Carter and Joshua Kelly.
  - a. Shannon Centrella has provided the EDC with a letter of resignation. The EDC has 4 available Alternate Positions.
2. Agenda Review – Add Lance Hansen to New Business. Motion to approve agenda by, Shayne Deschamps, seconded by Joseph Santoro. 7-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: September 19, 2023. The EDC proposes to update the previous minutes to reflect the remaining EDC Budget balance of: \$8,417.50. Motion to approve the amended previous minutes by Dennis Dressel, seconded Alan Colavecchio. Voted 7-0.
4. Public Comment – No public comments.
5. New Business
  - a) Updates from Lance Hansen
    - a. The Historic District will be meeting on October 18, 2023.
    - b. Lance developed a proposal to develop a historical component to develop Route 44.
    - c. Lance, Ted and Josh attended the Sustainable CT Meeting at the American Mural Project.
  - b) Updates from Josh Kelly:  
What's happening in Town?
    - a. Welcome to Winsted Sign - Josh will follow up with Jim Rollins.
      - i. The Town is officially Bronze Certified for Sustainable CT.
      - ii. Lance, Ted and Katie will be working towards the silver certification.
      - iii. The First Time Home Buyers seminar was held and will be posted to the website.
      - iv. Ted will circulate a report on the Façade and Business Start Up.

- v. There is a handout available for business owners with a listing of how businesses can be listed on the tourism website. This is also located on the EDC website.
  - vi. Marketing and Logo Re-design: to be continued.
  - vii. Clips of businesses – Josh recommends to explore this option.
- c) Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies - Scheduled
  - a. Facials by Danuza, October 28 at 2:00pm. Jess and Ted will be in attendance.
- d) Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies – Awaiting Scheduling
  - a. Ax Throwing, Earthbound Yoga, Grantville Farm, Little Red Barn, Mei Tea, Mr. Coconut, Papa’s Deli & Grocery, Peruvian Restaurant, RRT Motorsports.
- 6. Communications: Trunk or Treat is taking place with the Winsted Recreation department on Saturday, October 28 from 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM.
- 7. Old Business
  - a) Welcome to Winsted Sign
    - Awaiting contact from the street department.
    - Gary will drop-in to connect with Jim.
  - b) Job Fair
    - a. Send any outstanding invoices to Ted, Dewees and Gary.
    - b. About 75 attendees visited.
    - c. Exit Surveys – 11 completed. Ted will merge the surveys and share with the EDC.
    - d. Ted will ask CT rides about the use of transportation at the event.
  - c) Manufacturers Advisory Council Meeting – October 20<sup>th</sup> at NCCC.
    - a. The EDC will be supplying water, coffee and donuts.
    - b. Location: Arts & Sciences Building.
  - d) Annual Manufacturers Event
    - a. Potential Host Site: American Tort Museum.
  - e) EDC Social Media
    - a. Spotlights: Alexa can help with posting.
    - b. Add a column to the Mastersheet that states last visited and name of commissioner.
    - c. Dewees revised the business visitation sheet to reflect changes from Josh.
    - d. Ribbon Cutting: Facials by Danuza.
    - e. Thank George Noujaim’s for providing the food at the Job Fair.
    - f. Noli’s restaurant spotlight – Jess will visit.
    - g. Well Done Detailing – David.
    - h. 2<sup>nd</sup> Home Lounge – Live Music (Gary).
- 8. Adjournment – 8:05 pm motion by Shayne Deschamps, seconded by Gary Giordano. Voted 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jessica Tessman