Town of Winchester - City of Winsted
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday, November 21 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
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, Dennis Dressel, Jessica Tessman, Gary Giordano, Shayne Deschamps, Alan Colavecchio, Joseph Santoro and guests Ted Shafer, Carrie Stetson and Rosemarie Scanlon.

2. Agenda Review – Add Treasurer’s Report before New Business. Motion to approve amended agenda by Alan Colavecchio, seconded by Shayne Deschamps. 7-0.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: November 7, 2023. Motion to approve the previous minutes by Dennis Dressel, seconded Joseph Santoro. Voted 7-0.

4. Public Comment – No public comments.

5. Treasurer’s Report – Ted and Gary met with Tom to discuss the EDC’s current balance. The total budget balance is $8,406.29.

6. New Business
What’s happening in Town?

a) Updates from Ted Shafer

- Chamber of Commerce Annual Holiday Party – December 7th, 2023 from 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm.
- Tourism in Connecticut event will be held at the NW CT Chamber of Commerce on Thursday November 30th at 8:00 am.
- The Board of Selectman met and discussed the new Marketing logo and tabled the discussion.
- Ted met with the building department and inquired about collaborative updates.
- Small Business Saturday.
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies – Awaiting Scheduling
  - Little Red Barn (opening of the restaurant), Ax Throwing, Earthbound Yoga, Grantville Farm, Little Red Barn, Mei Tea, Mr. Coconut, Papa’s Deli & Grocery, Peruvian Restaurant, RRT Motorsports.
b) Year End Transitioning
   - Jess and Dewees will work on a Year in Review to submit to the Board of Selectman.
   - EDC should focus on the 2024 timeline of events/activities.

c) Potential Businesses
   - EV Charging Stations (Green in Winchester), other concepts for Winchester: bicycle shops, cannabis, hotel, coffee shops, etc.

7. Communications:
   - Dewees proposed a projected Winchester EDC Meetings for 2024. The EDC agrees to follow the proposed schedule.
   - Town of Winchester logo – Dewees suggested creating a board of peers to discuss the logo. Alan will chair the board of peers.

8. Old Business
   a. Business Visitations:
      - Ledgebrook Spirits (Dewees)
      - Christmas Party at Personal Digital Spaces on December 17.

   b. Annual Manufacturers Breakfast Event
      - Host Site: American Tort Museum.
      - Suggested Dates: January 25 or Feb 1
      - Thursday 7:45 AM – 9:00 AM.

   c. Welcome to Winsted Sign
      - Dewees will connect with Bob to discuss sign efforts.

   d. EDC Social Media
      - Small Business Saturday.
      - Holiday Card – Take a holiday picture at the next meeting.
      - Freezin for a Reason – Friday, December 8th

9. Adjournment – 8:17 pm motion by Gary Giordano, seconded by Joseph Santoro. Voted 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Tessman