

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

Tuesday, December 19 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

TOWN OFFICIALS

Bob Geiger, Town Manager

Althea Candy Perez, BOS Liaison

Ted Shafer, Director of Economic Development

1. Call to Order and Roll Call - Called to order at 7:07 pm by Dewees Yeager. At the meeting were Dewees Yeager, Dennis Dressel, Jessica Tessman, Gary Giordano, Alan Colavecchio, Joseph Santoro and guests Ted Shafer, Tom Carter, Shannon Centrella, David Sartirana, and Carrie Stetson.
2. Agenda Review – Motion to approve agenda by Gary Giordano, seconded by Dennis Dressel. 6-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings: December 5, 2023. Motion to approve the previous minutes by Dennis Dressel, seconded Joseph Santoro. Voted 5-0-1.
4. Public Comment – No public comments.
5. The Freedom of Information Act was discussed.
6. New Business
What's happening in Town?
 - a) Updates from Ted Shafer
 - Northwest Hills Council of Governments – Regional Economic Development Plan. Ted was appointed as a liaison in the strategic meetings. There is an online survey that we will be sharing through Constant Contact.
 - The Peruvian Restaurant (Toby's) is now open for lunch and dinner.
 - 10 Bridge Street – Ted provided updates.
 - Edgeworks Axe Throwing is opening this week.
7. Communications:
 - Dewees spoke to Amy Wynn about hosting a Job Fair at the American Mural Project.

8. Old Business

- a. Marketing/Logo
 - Alan is making additions to the Marketing/Logo proposal.
 - Wayfinding Signs discussion – historical landmarks, tourist attractions.
- b. Welcome to Winsted Sign
 - Dewees is connecting with Bob to .
- c. Annual Manufacturers Breakfast Event
 - Host Site: American Tort Museum.
 - Suggested Dates: January 25 or Feb 1
 - Thursday 7:45 AM – 9:00 AM.
- d. Business Visitations
 - Alan visited the AMP Holiday Party and met with Caroline from BabyBellyBand.
- e. Year End Transitioning/Recap of EDC Events
 - Jess is finalizing the Year End Infographic and will send to the EDC for additional suggestions.
- f. Manufacturers Breakfast
 - Save the Date: Constant Contact Email scheduled to go out.
 - Scheduled to take place on February 1st.
 - Multiple guest speakers are approved to speak at the event.
 - The EDC has inquired if Personal Digital Spaces would like to partner on behalf of the potential theme: artificial intelligence.

9. EDC Social Media

- Holiday Card – Constant Contact and posted on social media.
- Business in the Spotlight:
- Jess will edit the website.
- Retrieve testimonials from business owners in town.

10. Adjournment – 8:17 pm motion by Gary Giordano, seconded by Alan Colavecchio. Voted 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Tessman