

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

Tuesday, February 6, 2024, 7:00 PM

2nd Floor, The Blue Room

COMMISSION

Deweese Yeager, Chairman

Dennis Dressel, Vice Chairman

Gary Giordano, Treasurer

Jessica Tessman, Secretary

Alan Colavecchio, 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 7:01 pm by Dewees Yeager. At the meeting were Dewees Yeager, Dennis Dressel, Gary Giordano, Alan Colavecchio, Althea Candy Perez, Ted Shafer, and guests Lance Hansen and Stephen Plumlee.
2. Agenda Review - Motion to approve agenda by Dennis Dressel, second by Gary Giordano. Voted 4-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings - Motion to approve January 16, 2024 minutes amended to reflect the correct meeting date of January 17, 2024, by Alan Colavecchio, second by Dennis Dressel. Voted 4-0.
4. Public Comment - Lance Hansen spoke about the Winchester Historical Corridor Route 44 and presented concepts for promotional bumper stickers that he has been working on with Alexa Hinton. The Commission is taking the idea under consideration in conjunction with its overall marketing plans.
5. Treasurer's Report - Gary requested any outstanding invoices from the February 1st Winchester Manufacturers Breakfast Meeting. The EDC's current account balance is \$8,975.33.
6. New Business
Deweese stated that a key initiative is to improve communications. Updated Commissioner contact information was distributed, with any corrections requested.
 - What's happening in Town ?

Ted Shafer reported on the Entrepreneurial Center's event in Salisbury, as well as a visit to the Farmington Valley Arts Center, communication with the CBIA, and attendance at the NWCT Chamber of Commerce Job Fair.

There was a reminder that Friends of Main Street will be hosting "Bubbles & Truffles" on Friday, February 10th and inquiries about the grant status for a Main Street study, 10 Bridge Street's status and potential communication with the Board of Selectmen.

- EDC Mentorship Program - Tabled.

7. Communications - None reported

8. Old Business

- Winchester Manufacturers Breakfast on February 1st - Feedback has been good regarding the program. 40 people were in attendance; 8 manufacturers. There was discussion about the difference between a program like the breakfast and roundtable discussions and what the manufacturing wants/needs in future events. Discussion also covered a possible 90 day trial bus route from Torrington to Colebrook River Road as well as interaction between manufacturers and high schools.
- Marketing/Logo - In process: Completion of Manufacturers newsletter and brand completion.
- Spring Event - Continued discussion on possibilities.
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies - Northwest Soup & Sandwich Co, Little Red Barn, & Edgeworks Ax House, to be arranged.

9. Adjournment - 8:17 pm motion by Gary Giordano, second by Alan Colavecchio. Voted 4-0.