



Town of Somers
Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME February 24, 2026

LOCATION: Town Hall

Attendees: Shawn Curtis, Melissa Zelek, Karen Murdoch

Absent: Matthew Beggs

1. Call to Order – the meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm
2. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 27, 2026
 - a. A motion was made by Karen and seconded by Melissa to approve the minutes of the January meeting with the following changes and/or additions:
 - i. Karen Murdoch was on vacation and attended the meeting by phone for election of officers
 - ii. Election of officers: Karen Murdoch nominated Shawn Curtis for Chairman, seconded by Melissa Zelek. Matt Beggs nominated Jim O’Hearn for Chairman, seconded by Jim O’Hearn. Shawn Curtis was elected Chairman by majority vote. Shawn Curtis nominated Karen Murdoch for Secretary, seconded by Jim O’Hearn. Karen Murdoch was elected Secretary by unanimous vote.
 - iii. The CT Small Business Boost fund information was distributed by Jim O’Hearn but not discussed.
3. Correspondence
 - a. EDC article – Shawn Curtis sent out a press release indicating the new board elections and vision for the board for this year.
 - b. Jeff Catlett email – Jeff followed up by email after his last visit. Land Use Department is working on New Business checklist and ways to inform EDC of new business startups.
 - c. POCD land use – Shawn Curtis has been conversing with Land Use about the POCD and EDC involvement.
 - d. David Pinney America 250 – the America 250 committee has gotten a business listing from the tax office that we will merge into the Bludot directory.
 - e. Tax Assessor – Shawn Curtis discussed with Tax Assessor their correspondence to new residents and adding information about getting involved with EDC.
4. Old Business
 - a. Featured Business Update – good feedback from Alana Orlandi from Haven Yoga. The EDC likes the format of having the spotlight business representative attend the BOS meeting to get more recognition.
 - b. Shoppes of Somers – Past Member Jim O’Hearn has the information on the Somers businesses and was going to send it to Sean at DG Graphics. Shawn Curtis from the EDC will follow up to get the status. The Commission will decide at the March 2026 meeting whether or not to continue with this project. Karen Murdoch will get information about bulk postage rates.
 - c. America 250 – see correspondence notes above.

- d. Special Guest – discussed possible guests to invite to future meetings. There is a file in the Google Drive under the Agenda folder with a list of possible guests. EDC members should add people or organizations that might be of interest.
5. New Business
- a. 2026 Meeting Schedule
 - i. Melissa Zelek made a motion to approve the meeting schedule as proposed by Shawn Curtis for 2026, Karen Murdoch seconded, and it unanimously passed.
 - ii. Meetings will be the last Tuesday of every month at 6:00pm, including the Summer months, with the exception of June, (moved to 16th) November (moved to 10th) and December (moved to 15th)
 - b. 2026 Budget and Financing
 - i. Shawn Curtis confirmed with CFO, Brian Wissenger that the EDC has a current balance of \$6,233.42 and BOS has approved additional \$5,000 for 2026, which will be available effective July 1, 2026.
 - ii. EDC will review and finalize budget line items for discussion in March including Blutot, mailers and brochures, NCCC (or other chamber) membership and advertising.
 - c. 2026 Goals and Focus
 - i. Shawn Curtis presented an outline of potential goals for the commission to work toward in 2026. EDC Members to review and will finalize at March 2026 regular meeting.
 - ii. All agreed that EDC needs to increase liaison with Land Use Office by either meeting with Jeff Catlett to discuss issues or inviting him to our meetings.
 - iii. All agreed that representatives from other Town of Somers committees / commissions should have a standing invitation to our meetings.
 - d. Google Drive access and use
 - i. Discussed use of Google Drive
 - ii. Keep information on Drive so that all members – current and future - can access it
 - iii. Information stored by subject and year
 - e. Nominations for Featured Business
 - i. Melissa Zelek will lead the Featured Business program for the EDC, and will work with EDC members and others to propose names of businesses to consider for the business spotlight.
 - ii. Melissa Zelek to check with Kim LaFleur on what the title is on the certificate (business of the month or other title) and correct it as needed.
 - iii. Continue to use the BOS meeting as the means for presenting the award to give the awardee more recognition.
 - f. Local Chamber of Commerce
 - i. Melissa Zelek to contact the Ellington Town Planner, Lisa Houlihan, to get feedback and perspective on their involvement in the Tolland County Chamber and what benefits they receive.
 - ii. EDC to decide at the March 2026 regular meeting if the EDC should join local Chambers of Commerce.
 - g. EDC Vacancy
 - i. EDC members to suggest names of possible new members to fill vacancy on the commission, and Shawn Curtis will present list of interested candidates to Kim LeFleur.
6. Business Issues
- a. The EDC has inquiries to Town Staff if positions have backup plans for when Staff is out of office or on vacation.

- b. The EDC has received inquiries from business owners reporting long times between decisions by Town Staff.
- 7. 2026 EDC Group Photo
 - a. A group photo was taken of the members present at the meeting for use in upcoming PR and outreach.
- 8. Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm

Minutes are not Official until Approved at a Subsequent Meeting