



Town of Somers
Economic Development Commission
Special Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME March 30, 2026

LOCATION: Town Hall

Attendees: Shawn Curtis, Melissa Zelek, Karen Murdoch, Matthew Beggs

Absent: Gail Kulas

1. Call to Order – the meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm
2. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 24, 2026
 - a. A motion was made by Melissa Zelek and seconded by Matthew Beggs to approve the minutes of the February meeting as written. The motion was approved unanimously.
3. Correspondence
 - a. Chair Shawn Curtis updated the Commission on recent correspondence with town leadership. He expressed concern that the EDC is not being included in discussions related to major development projects—particularly the Somersville Mill site and the newly formed Special Projects Committee. Members agreed that the EDC should have a more active role in economic-development-related decisions.
4. Old Business
 - a. Featured Business Update – The commission discussed businesses for upcoming “Featured Business” for the months of April – August
 - b. The commission discussed criteria and agreed that the Business for the month should have community involvement and an interesting story to tell.
 - c. Shoppes of Somers Brochure – The commission decided to pause work on this effort due to the cost, as it was estimated to cost two-thirds of the total budget, and didn’t feel it would deliver the same level of impact that other efforts will help us achieve.
 - d. EDC Goals and Priorities – The commission discussed its 2026 goals and priorities. A written set of goals will be finalized and used as a guide for making spending decisions. The budget will be periodically reviewed to make sure it aligns with the goals. The following top level goals were agreed to by the commission:
 - i. Commercial Tax Base Expansion
 - ii. Strategic Planning and Regional Advocacy
 - iii. Local Business Support and Collaboration
 - iv. Competitive Analysis and Research
 - e. EDC Budget – The commission discussed areas to focus for budget spending including the following: Membership dues, marketing materials, professional services (consulting), intern support, business outreach events, “Shark Tank” event for students, business cards and promotional materials. Commission members agreed to reach out to the various councils and report back in order to select which councils to join.
5. New Business
 - a. Somers Connects Quarterly Newsletter – The commission discussed adding content to the next issue such as; Featured Business highlights, economic development updates, business

resources. The commission agreed that we do not want to take on the responsibility of selling ad space in the newsletter.

- b. Open Alternate Member Seats – the commission discussed the desire to fill two alternate seats on the commission. Members will inquire in their networks and report back to the group.
6. Business Issues
 - a. A developer has reported that Somers is difficult to work with, citing unclear requirements, and lack of coordination in the land use office. Suggestions where the EDC could help include hosting networking events for developers and advocating for clearer processes and predictable timelines.
 7. Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm

Minutes are not Official until Approved at a Subsequent Meeting