



**Town of Somers**  
**Economic Development Commission**  
Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME            April 28, 2026

LOCATION:                Town Hall

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

1. Call to Order – the meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm
2. Public Comment – Two guests attended the meeting.
  - a. Greg from Stafford EDC discussed desire to collaborate with Somers EDC. He noted the importance of local collaboration and support, youth involvement and improving public awareness and communication. Greg invited members of the Somers EDC to attend an upcoming Stafford EDC Meeting on May 19 at 6pm in the Stafford Community Center.
  - b. Holly Bonasera, a Somers resident attended and expressed interest in the goals of the EDC and how increasing business will lower the tax burden on residents.
3. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 24, 2026
  - a. A motion was made by Matthew Beggs and seconded by Gail Kulas to approve the minutes of the March meeting as written. The motion was approved unanimously.
4. Correspondence
  - a. Special Projects Committee – A Special Projects Committee is being formed in town to discuss and recommend capital improvement spending. EDC has requested a seat on this committee. Karen Murdoch and Melissa Zelek have expressed interest in representing EDC. Both are requested to submit a BIO to Kim LaFleur and Todd Roland as soon as possible.
  - b. RFP for 55 School Street – this RFP is on hold pending the formation of the Special Projects Committee
  - c. Sue’s Shirts Creations – the owners have decided to retire and sold the business to Minuteman Press. Minuteman has an office in Enfield and it is unclear at this time what will be the role of the new Somers location. Shawn has reached out via email, but has not heard back.
  - d. New businesses coming soon –
    - i. Hughes Mechanical at Field Road and Billings Road
    - ii. Industrial storage facility at Vasaile Road behind Marios/Hometown plaza

- iii. Blair Bookkeeping and Consulting grand opening and ribbon cutting by NCCCC Monday May 18.
    - iv. Roasted Beanery coffee shop was supposed to have a soft opening this week, however uncertain on the details as we've been unable to reach them.
  - e. Capstone Projects - Tenly Stoltz and SHS Interact Teachers will attend the May 26 EDC meeting to discuss students' capstone projects and how they can potentially collaborate with the EDC. Will also discuss possibility of "Shark Tank" style competition for student entrepreneurs interested in pursuing their projects.
  - f. Jeff Catlett, Town Sanitarian and Director of Land Use – will join the May 26 EDC meeting to follow up from his visit to the January EDC meeting to discuss ongoing collaboration between EDC and town offices.
- 5. Old Business
  - a. The Featured Business of the Month for April is Bumpa Built. There will be a presentation at the Board of Selectmen's Meeting Thursday April 30.
    - i. The commission agreed to include non-profit organizations in the Business of the Month. Missing Mutts Search and Rescue will be included in the list of potential recipients.
  - b. Bluedot – the tool is currently underutilized. The commission, led by Gail Kulas will work to build out the data base to optimize its use and potential. This includes bringing on a student intern, as budgeted, and collaboration with the Town of Somers Assessor's office. Will keep the Bluedot Directory in the budget this year and see if we can get more return from the investment. If not, consider dropping it out of the budget in 2027-28.
  - c. Tax Increment Financing District – Matthew Beggs is researching how other towns implement this strategy. Will report at a future meeting.
  - d. 2026 Goals, Budget, Action Plans – Commission members are asked to work on actions that meet the goals of the EDC and to also include measurable results to track progress.
  - e. Open Alternate Member Seats – EDC has two open alternate member positions. Members are asked to solicit interest in another alternate member.
- 6. New Business
  - a. Somers Connects Quarterly Newsletter – Shawn Curtis has written an article highlighting the EDC that will be included in the town quarterly newsletter that is mailed to all residents.
- 7. Business Issues
  - a. Example raised of inefficient town process due to lack of direct communication between Land Use and Town Clerk.
- 8. EDC Group Photo – a new group photo was take including all five members. This photo will be posted to social media.
- 9. Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm

Minutes are not Official until Approved at a Subsequent Meeting