



Town of Somers
Economic Development Commission
Special Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME May 27, 2026

LOCATION Town Hall

Attendees: Melissa Zelek, Karen Murdoch, Gail Kulas, Holly Bonasera

Members Absent: Shawn Curtis, Matthew Beggs

1. Call to Order – the meeting was called to order at 6:00pm
2. Public Comment – See Special Guest Presentation below
3. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 28, 2026
 - a. A motion was made by Melissa Zelek and seconded by Gail Kulas to approve the minutes of the April meeting as written. The motion was approved unanimously.
4. Correspondence – Holly Bonasera’s appointment at May 21 BOS meeting as an alternate member to EDC was read.
5. Special Guest Presentation
 - a. Tenley Stoltz, a Somers High School Media Specialist who coordinates the Interact Program for juniors’ and seniors’ capstone projects, described the current needs of the program for which she is seeking assistance from the community. The following were discussed. Ms. Stoltz will follow up with us in July.
 - i. Mentors in the business community willing to provide up to 20 hours over the course of a semester, ideally to be in place this fall. Ms. Stoltz offered to create a google form with students’ areas of interest (i.e., marketing, social media, events, finances) to distribute to a list of local businesses. Gayle Kulas described the opportunity for a student intern to help develop the list using Blu Dot. Ms. Stoltz offered to find some potential candidates.

- ii. A “slush fund” to help students unable to afford capstone expenses (i.e., printing, trifolds, materials). Solicitation for donations could be included on the google form described above.
- iii. A “Shark Tank” event for students to pitch their capstone projects to the business community, possibly later this summer.

6. Old Business

- a. The Featured Business of the Month for April is Pleasant View Farms. There will be a presentation at the BOS meeting on Thursday, June 4.. A need for formal criteria was discussed.
- b. Tax Increment Financing District – Matthew Beggs is researching how other towns implement this strategy and will report findings at a future meeting.
- c. Collaboration with Stafford EDC – Gayle Kulas gave a recap of their May 19 meeting, including the use of local influencers to promote local businesses. They will share their area business survey with us.
- d. New Business coming soon – Roasted Beanery ribbon cutting date TBD
- e. Nominations for Featured Businesses - The Bra Ladies was added to the list of potential recipients. Holly Bonasera will follow up.
- f. Summer Intern – Gayle Kulas discussed the scope and details of the internship that will include working with Blu Dot.
- g. Welcome New Alternate – Alternate member Holly Bonasera was seated as an active member at this meeting.

7. New Business

- a. No new business was discussed.

8. Business Issues – none were raised

9. Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned at 7:21pm