



Town of Somers
Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME June 16, 2026

LOCATION Town Hall

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

1. Call to Order – the meeting was called to order at 6:00pm
2. Public Comment – no public present
3. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 27, 2026
 - a. A motion was made by Melissa Zelek and seconded by Gail Kulas to approve the minutes from the May 27 meeting. The minutes of the May meeting were approved as written
4. Correspondence –
 - a. The Land Use office is working to host specific hours for businesses to come seeking help. There is a new form available for starting a business. Bumpa Built has successfully secured a new location in the Town of Somers and is appreciative of the support they've received from the EDC and other Town Officials.
 - b. A point of clarification was raised on the distinct roles of the EDC and the Land Use Department. The EDC's role is to attract businesses to Somers; the Land Use Department's role is regulatory — guiding applicants through State and municipal requirements to completion. Because the Land Use Department regulates the businesses being recruited, its involvement in soliciting them — or the EDC's presence during its review process — would create a conflict of interest. Both bodies share the broader goal of supporting local economic growth and can work in support of one another within their respective roles

- c. Bumpa Built described positive experience working with Town of Somers Land Use office this time around in their recent search for a new location. A much improved experience and interactions with the Town of Somers staff.
 - d. Karen Murdoch was selected as an At-Large member of the town Special Projects Committee.
 - e. Tenley Stolz followed up from her visit in May, thanked the committee for hosting and showing support.
 - f. First Selectman requested that the EDC become members of the North Central Connecticut Chamber of Commerce, which had already been done in support of the EDCs 2026 Priorities and areas of focus.
5. Old Business
- a. 2026-2027 Budget Update. As a part of the current budget referendum and need for cuts, the BoS has voted to cut the proposed \$5k budget allocation from the First Selectman's budget, leaving the EDC budget at \$11,235. The EDC will adjust as necessary.
 - b. Associations. EDC has been approved for memberships in NCCCC, Tolland County Chamber, Connecticut Economic Development Association. EDC members should use the EDC@somersct.gov email address when corresponding on behalf of the commission.
 - c. SHS Interact Update – Karen Murdoch and Gail Kulas summarized the meeting with Tenley Stolz during the May meeting. Ms. Stolz asked for help in three areas: Mentors for students, funding (donations from businesses) to support students' projects, and a "Shark Tank" style pitch competition. Once the interact Program administrators identify their needs, the EDC can facilitate networking and funding. The Werth Center and Northwestern Entrepreneurial Center can provide assistance. John Fiorello will meet with us in the Fall.
 - d. Featured Business. Eastwoods Auto was selected as the Featured Business for June. The commission will plan out the remainder of the year and plan dates on the Selectmen's calendar for award presentations.
 - e. Tax Increment Financing District. Matthew Beggs gave an update on TIFD. We learned that the Enfield Director of Economic Development (a staff position) and he leads the vision for new development in the town. Action Items: Put together recommendations from EDC how to implement TIFD. Recommend members to comprise a Board. Reference POCD Planned Development Districts. Schedule a meeting with BoS to discuss.
 - f. Collaboration with Stafford EDC. No actions. Keep communication open.

- g. Summer Intern. EDC previously discussed summer intern to update Blue Dot. Based on diligence Gail has done, Blue Dot has a feature that for \$390 the company will utilize Google search engine to refresh / update all businesses in the directory. Additionally, Gail is going to investigate adding “Jobs Available” tag as an added feature to participating business profiles. Discussed option to use Blue Dot CRM at a cost of \$3000/year and agreed that we will not pursue this.
 - h. 2026 Action Plan. All commission members requested to submit specific action plan components that will support the EDC goals. Submittals by the end of June and discuss at next meeting.
6. New Business
- a. Nominations for Featured Business. Tabled until next meeting.
 - b. CT Main Street. This effort needs a spearhead. The effort can be coordinated with TIFD. Action: get clarification that the development districts in the POCD are in the town’s vision to be developed. Determine if there is interest in further defining development districts.
 - c. Blue Dot Update. Covered above.
 - d. Fundraising / Community Involvement Ideas. Tabled until next meeting.
7. Business Issues.
- a. Discussed businesses closing including Somerville Gifts, Humble Fox and KK’s This & That.
 - b. Discussed businesses opening including Hughes Mechanical at Field Road and potential for Book Shop / Coffee in Somersville.
8. Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm