

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
**THURSDAY MARCH 16, 2023 6:00 pm**  
**WOODBIDGE TOWN HALL – SELECTMAN’S CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

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Chair Robert Sharrer called meeting to order at 6:03 pm. A quorum was present and acting throughout the meeting.

In attendance: Chair Robert Sharrer, Shawn Flynn, Brian Marazzi, Clio Nicolakis, & Scott Prud'homme. Absent: Jeremy Rosner

EDC still has two open positions on the commission to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

1. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY 12, 2023:  
Upon motion duly made and seconded (Nicolakis, Marazzi), the minutes of January 12, 2023 were unanimously approved.
2. PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR BALANCE OF 2023 EDC MEETINGS  
Chair proposed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 6 pm Town Hall. Motion to approve these dates for future EDC meetings (Flynn, Marazzi) was unanimously approved.
3. UPDATE ON PROPOSED TAX INCENTIVE PROGRAM DOCUMENT TO BOS:  
Chair Sharrer had an informal conversation with First Selectman Heller and Town counsel Weiner about the proposed tax incentive program. The town would rather consider proposals on a case by case basis so it can be more flexible. Current structure allows the town to negotiate individually without adding an official incentives program to the town ordinances. Interested parties would make the request through EDC and EDC would forward the proposal to Board of Selectman with recommendations. Chair Sharrer will talk to First Selectman Heller about adding some verbiage to the website to reflect this process.
4. UPDATE ON EDC COLLABORATION WITH WOODBIDGE 2030 AD HOC COMMITTEE
  - a. Chair Sharrer discussed the EDC role versus the Woodbridge 2030 Ad Hoc Committee with the First Selectman. Most of our goals are also 2030 Committee goals. Based on this discussion, he hopes to bring projects back to EDC.
  - b. As a follow up with this previous discussion, Chair Sharrer asked for all of EDC to be added to the 2030 committee but they decided to just add the Chair to the committee. Mr. Sharrer’s purpose was clear to the 2030 committee that he wants to bring actionable items back to EDC to work on, such as grant applications.
5. UPDATE ON GIFT CARD PROGRAM “YIFTEE”  
Yiftee is a community-based all digital gift card system available through a phone app. It’s used like a virtual gift card at local businesses. Mr. Flynn reviewed the program and is getting ready to determine how to communicate it best to the Woodbridge business owners (the contract was already reviewed/executed by the town a year+ ago). Mr. Flynn hopes to communicate to the businesses by mid-April. Mr. Sharrer will find out about Betsy’s replacement and the business community contact list. It was suggested that the commission spend some of its unspent budget allocation on promoting this program. Ms. Nicolakis asked about the logo design on the virtual gift card and Mr. Flynn will follow up.
6. UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
  - a. Ms. Nicolakis reminded everyone that Rex Development is looking for public comments on 2023-2028 South Central Connecticut Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy planning document. Go to their website to view/download the documents. <https://rexdevelopment.com/ceds>

- b. There are still two open positions on EDC. Members are encouraged to spread the word that there are vacancies.
  - c. The next meeting is Thursday, April 13, 2023. It's during spring break so at least one member won't be here. We need 4 out of 6 for a quorum.
7. ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion duly made and seconded (Flynn, Nicolakis), the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 pm.