



Town of Somers
Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME July 28, 2026

LOCATION Town Hall

Attendees: Shawn Curtis (Chairman), Holly Bonasera (acting Secretary), Melissa Zelek, Matt Beggs, Gail Kulas

Absent: Karen Murdoch (Secretary)

1. Call to Order – the meeting was called to order at 6:00pm
2. Public Comment – there were no public comments
3. The minutes of the June 16, 2026, meeting were approved as written.
4. Correspondence
 - a. The Tolland County Chamber of Commerce (TCCC) is soliciting nominations for business awards to be presented at their 69th Annual Meeting on October 29th. The nomination form will be released in mid-July. Members of expressed general interest in making nominations.
 - b. Our July 1st Facebook post on our new Commercial Property Resource Guide generated some interest, including inquiries about available properties.
 - c. CEDAS (CT Economic Development Association) informed us that membership includes access to CT Conference of Municipalities (CCM) resources, including webinars and annual convention.
5. Old Business
 - a. The 2026 Action Plan(s) vs. Long-term Strategy (discussion of latter deferred)
 - i. Progress on action plans for EDC 2026 Priorities based on the POCD were discussed, including our CEDAS, NCCCC, and TCCC memberships; Business of the Month; and social media engagement.

- ii. Future goals were discussed, including involvement in the upcoming POCD rewrite; improved collaboration with town officials; and representation on the Special Projects Committee.
 - b. The Featured Business of the Month for July is Lindy Farms. Due to BOS scheduling difficulties, members discussed publishing a photo and announcement in social media before official recognition at a future BOS meeting. Shawn Curtis will inquire about potential EDC participation in the Somers America 250th Celebration – as a possibility for presenting this award.
 - c. Tax Increment Financing District – based on his research of other towns, Matt Beggs reported that TIFs can take years to be established and that our short-term focus should be a demonstration of competency in the process. His September 3 BOS presentation will be discussed at the August 25th EDC meeting.
 - d. Blue Dot – inquiry from Gail regarding the approved next steps with the service / directory as discussed at the June 16 meeting. Shawn to look back at notes and clarify what was agreed and to be clear with ownership.
6. New Business
- a. Ways of working together were discussed. Unless urgent, it was agreed that 5-7 days was the window for reply to requests for input and that the date would be in the subject line.
 - b. Members agreed to take ownership of specific goals and implement action plans in concert with EDC priorities. Gail Kulas will liaison with the student entrepreneurial program. Holly Bonasera will research the potential for a Somers farmers' market and extending participation in the Somers Scarecrow Festival to business locations.
7. Business Issues – none were raised
8. Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm

Respectfully Submitted, Holly Bonasera (acting Secretary).