



Town of Somers

Meeting Information			
Meeting:	Economic Development Commission Regular Monthly Meeting		
Date:	August 25, 2026	Time:	6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Meeting Leader/Facilitator:	Shawn Curtis, Chairman	Place:	Town Hall – Lower Level 600 Main Street, Somers, CT 06071

Participant	Attendance
Shawn Curtis, Chairman	Present
Karen Murdoch, Secretary	Present
Melissa Zelek, Member	Present
Matthew Beggs, Member	Present
Gail Kulas, Member	Present
Holly Bonasera, Alternate Member	Present

Agenda Item	Responsible	Est. Time
Minutes recorded in red following the meeting		
1. Call to Order	Chairman	1 min
The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.		
2. Motion to Approve July Meeting Minutes	Chairman	1 min
A motion was made by Kulas and seconded by Beggs to accept the July 2026 minutes as written. Motion passes.		
3. Public Comment	Open Discussion	20 min
Cassie Mashek (Kasandra Herbs Unlimited) – • Has been in business in Somers for 31 years • Only 17% of sales by town residents • Business owners are concerned about the roundabout/realignment affect on businesses • New Business Startup Process (by town) needs to be more comprehensive not piecemeal • Welcome packet for new residents should include business information - Shoppe Keepers of Somers has created their own brochure and made it available to new resident packet		

- Better communication of what is going on is needed - lots of people don't know about the roundabout
- Business owners want to know what is the vision for the town

4. Old Business		10 min
a. Review outstanding action items (prior month's)		
5. Present Committee Reports	Team Members	40 min
a. Business of the Month BoM to be presented at September BOS meeting Selections: Aug - Family Affair Sept - Fortune Fuel July - Lindey Farm	Melissa Zelek	
b. Business Engagement (BluDot & Outreach) Looking into ability to extract email addresses	Gail Kulas	
c. Business Networking and Mentorship Draft plan presented for networking opportunities	Gail Kulas	
d. TIF Presentation planned for BOS at September meeting	Matthew Beggs	
e. Large Projects Committee has not started yet, anticipated start in September	Karen Murdoch	
6. New Business	Team Members	40 min
a. Discuss decisions needed See <i>decisions reached</i> section		
b. xxx		
7. Review new action items (current mtg) - See <i>new/outstanding action items</i> section		7 min
8. Motion to Adjourn Meeting Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm		1 min

#	Action Item or Issue Description	Owner	Date Opened	Priority				Status	Target Date
				Show Stopper	High	Medium	Low		

1.	Refresh BluDot Database	G. Kulas	7/28/26			X		In progress	August 1, 2026
2.	Draft proposal for business/school mentorship event(s)	G. Kulas	7/28/26						
3.	Draft proposal for Shark Tank event	G. Kulas	7/28/26						
4.	Draft proposal for Farmers Market	H. Bonasara	7/28/26						
5.	Review strategic plan and action item document, send comments/feedback to Commissioner/Commission members	Commission Members	7/28/26	X				In progress	August 14, 2026
6.									

H. B

Decisions Needed		
#	Topic	Description
1.	Farmers Market	H. Bonasara and M. Zelek working on a plan for a farmers market, Need Market Manager. Possible locations discusses are Pleasant View Farms or Grammar School
2.		
3.		

Decisions Reached		
#	Topic	Description
1.	BluDot Extension	EDC will 'refresh' the database (approx. \$350) Bi;; has not yet been paid.

2.	Draft Proposal Mentorship	G. Kulas presented a plan for mentorship program. Program to start October. Need buy in from school/
3.	Networking	planning event on Sept 24th or 25th at 596 Main Street to showcase available real estate to potential new businesses
4.	Four Town Fair and Shop Local Signs	EDC voted to use funds to rent a booth at the four town fair, purchase “Shop Local” window signs and lawn signs to sell at fair. H. Bonasera and G. Kulas to lead this event.
5.		

Parking Lot			
#	Date Opened	Owner	Item or Issue Description
1.			
2.			
3.			

[illegible]