



The Corporation for New Milford Economic Development

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 24, 2025, 7:30 a.m.
E. Paul Martin Meeting Room

Present:

Oley Carpp, Chairman
Mayor Pete Bass
Adele Conner
Liba Furhman (7:38am)
Mike Nahom
Ivan Shiffman (virtual)

Geoff Ball
Dean Barille (virtual)
Ray Kostka (virtual)
Paul Murphy
Eli Noam
Ray Oneglia
Buck Whiteway
Stephanie Barksdale, Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order

Mr. Carpp called the meeting to order at 7:33 am.

2. Chairman's Welcome

Mr. Carpp welcomed the Board of Directors members to the meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes of April 24, 2025

Mr. Oneglia moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Whiteway and passed unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Furhman gave the treasurers report for the year-end financials (not audited). Revenue side, the Corporation earned \$212,297 with \$25,193.00 restricted. Expenses for the Corporation totaled \$204,757, leaving a net income of \$7,539.

Mr. Ball moved to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Mr. Oneglia and passed unanimously.

5. Community Update

Mayor Bass provide the following updates regarding the New Milford community:

Financial Update

- **AAA Bond Rating Maintained:** Standard & Poor's confirmed New Milford retains its AAA bond rating, making it the first town in Litchfield County to achieve and maintain this status, even following the recent settlement payout.

Infrastructure & Safety

- **Bridge Projects:**
 - Van Carr Bridge – On track for December completion.
 - Sand Road Bridge – Delayed due to utility pole relocations; likely to extend beyond November.
- **Housatonic River Safety:**
 - Following a recent drowning, FirstLight temporarily closed two facilities for recreational use. There have been 46 drownings statewide over the past four years. River emergencies consume $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Town's first responders, creating resource challenges during simultaneous incidents.

Economic Development

New & Expanding Businesses:

- **Cowboy Butter** – BBQ restaurant on Bank & Railroad Street.
- **New Café** – Opening at former Bleu on Bank location.

- **Vintage Clothing Shop** – Lease signed at 4 Railroad Street.
- **Citgo (Route 7)** – Expanding into a new convenience store.
- **HVAC Company** – Opening on Route 7 next to the auto parts store.
- **Still River Drive** – Adding a landscaping business and contracting company.
- **Stebbins Precision** – Hosted grand opening; serving clients nationwide.
- **New Record Store** coming soon.
- **Momma's Tacos** rebuilding after fire; plans to reopen.

Sidewalk & Bus Stop Improvements

- **Downtown Project:** Sidewalks now connect Canterbury School to the town center.
- **Route 7 Enhancements:**
 - New bus stop pads installed near future All-Town Market expansion.
 - Additional pads coming near Taco Bell.
 - Final phase extends improvements to Candlewood Condominiums.

East Street School Project

- **Single Bid Received:** Mr. Vallone submitted the sole proposal.
- **Next Steps:** Mayor Bass will review compliance with the RFP.
- **Public Decision:** Per the Town Charter, residents will determine the property's future use.

6. Old Business

A. Small Business Summit & Survey:

In lieu of Mr. Vengrove's travel conflict, Mr. Carpp reported on the status of the Small Business research project. Mr. Vengrove has been working with Western Connecticut State University (WCSU) to finalize the survey, which is ready to release. He also interviewed an intern from WCSU who will be hired as a part-time independent contractor to assist with the project.

B. Grants Update:

Mr. Carpp reported that the DPW assessment grant is waiting on Fuss and O'Neill to report back on the building demolition portion of the project. There was a kick off meeting with DECD for the East Street school assessment grant. The pro forma documents have been reviewed by legal counsel. The next steps with that grant would be to bring on a contract administrator again as we did last time.

7. New Business

Mayor Bass moved to nominate Mr. Romaniello to join the Board of Directors, which was seconded by Mr. Kostka and passed unanimously. Mr. Romaniello is one of the owners of Candlewood Valley Country Club.

Mr. Carpp said he would like to extend the existing grant administration contract with Mr. Kroop to include the East Street school brownfield assessment grant.

Ms. Fuhrman made a motion to authorize the Chairman, or his designee, to execute all necessary contracts related to the East Street School Brownfield Assessment Grant. The motion also included approval to issue two separate Requests for Proposals (RFPs): one for an administrative consultant and another for a licensed environmental professional to support the grant. The motion was seconded by Mr. Whiteway and passed unanimously.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Whiteway moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 AM, seconded by Mr. Nahom and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Vengrove, Secretary (August 25, 2025)

Meeting notes taken by Stephanie Barksdale, Administrative Assistant