



The Corporation for New Milford Economic Development

Board of Directors Annual Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 22, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
The Iron Rail Restaurant

Present:

Oley Carpp, Chairman
Mayor Pete Bass
Adele Conner
Liba Furhman
Mike Nahom
Tony Vengrove

Mir Ahmed
Geoff Ball
Dean Barile
Kristen Gizzi
Paul Murphy
Bob Reiling
Stephanie Barksdale, Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order

Mr. Carpp called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of October 23, 2025

Ms. Furhman moved to approve the October 23rd minutes, seconded by Mr. Reiling. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Chairman's Welcome

Mr. Carpp welcomed attendees and thanked the Board of Directors for a strong year that included positive change and progress on several important community initiatives. He also congratulated Mayor Bass, Mr. Murphy, and Mr. Barile on their re-election to their respective Town government and Board of Education positions.

Mr. Carpp provided a high-level overview of accomplishments from the past year, including progress on the DPW Brownfield Assessment project, the East Street School project, the Corporation's role as fiduciary agent for RiverFest, and the launch of the Corporation's first small business survey. He concluded that the year reflected meaningful progress toward the Corporation's original vision of managing and supporting key community projects.

4. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Furhman presented a financial statement of activity from July 1, 2025 through January 20, 2026 and reported the following account balances:

Bank Balance	
Operating Account	50,659
Restricted Funds	
Pop Up	21,664
Riverfest	8,487
Facade Grant Account	<u>38</u>
	30,189
Available Funds	20,470

Mr. Barile moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gizzi and passed unanimously.

5. Nomination & Election of the Class of 2028

Ms. Conner moved to approve the renewal of the following directors for two-year terms: Geoff Ball, Oley Carpp, Liba Furlman, Mike Nahom, Ray Oneglia, Jr., Bob Reiling, Ivan Shiffman, and Tony Vengrove. Mayor Bass seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

6. Meeting Schedule for 2026

Mr. Carpp presented the proposed 2026 meeting dates (see Attachment A). No issues were identified, and the proposed dates were accepted.

The Board also discussed the possibility of holding Board of Directors meetings in the late afternoon or early evening, rather than in the early morning. Members expressed openness to the change and agreed to consider the option further before making a decision.

7. Action Plan for 2026

Mr. Carpp decided to push the 2026 action plan review and discussion to the April 23, 2026 meeting.

8. Old Business

A. DECD Riverfront Grant

Mr. Carpp reported that the Executive Committee met and approved a \$6,300 extension to the Fuss & O'Neill contract to fund additional evaluation work assessing potential impacts to drinking water and confirming there is no impact to nearby aquifers. He noted that, once this additional work is completed, Fuss & O'Neill will finalize the report for an early spring presentation to the Town Council.

Mr. Carpp added that the presentation will summarize the project's findings, identify any recommended remediation steps, and outline a proposed action plan related to relocation of the current DPW facilities.

B. DECD East Street School Grant

Ms. Furlman reported that an RFP was issued for a Brownfield Assessment of the East Street School property. She noted that the site walkthrough was well attended and resulted in seven proposals. The Development Committee (DC) narrowed the field to three firms, conducted interviews, and is recommending Weston & Sampson, citing the firm's experience with schools and historic buildings and the thoroughness of its proposal.

Ms. Furlman moved that the Corporation enter into a contract with Weston & Sampson, in an amount not to exceed \$78,000, to conduct the Brownfield Assessment of the East Street School property. She also requested that, if DECD raises an objection to the selection of Weston & Sampson, the Board authorize the Development Committee to initiate discussions with Fuss & O'Neill as the second-ranked firm. Mr. Reiling seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

C. Marketing Survey

Mr. Vengrove reported that the Small Business Survey remains open and will close at the end of February. He noted that response volume has been lower than anticipated and that it has been challenging to engage local business owners and nonprofit leaders.

Mr. Vengrove requested the Board's support with a final outreach push, noting that online promotional resources are available on the Corporation's website and that printed postcards are available at Town Hall for in-person distribution. He also shared that, to encourage participation, a gift card raffle has been added as an incentive for completing the survey.

7. New Business

Mr. Carpp invited the Board to discuss the future of the Facade Grant Program. He reported that the program account balance is \$38 and that the Corporation has not identified a funding source to replenish the account.

The Board agreed that the program has value; however, members noted that rising storefront and signage costs make it difficult to scale the program or achieve meaningful impact with limited funds. By consensus, the Board agreed to suspend the Facade Grant Program at this time. The Board further agreed that, if new funding or a revised program approach becomes available, the program will be reviewed for possible reinstatement in the future.

8. Adjournment

Ms. Gizzi moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Reiling. The meeting adjourned by consensus.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Vengrove". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tony" and last name "Vengrove" clearly distinguishable.

Tony Vengrove, Secretary

Attachment A

Corporation for New Milford Economic Development

2026 Meeting Schedule

Date	Start	Meeting
January 22, 2026	5:30pm	Annual Meeting
February 26, 2026	8:00am	Executive Committee
March 26, 2026	8:00am	Executive Committee
April 23, 2026	7:30am	Board of Directors
May 28, 2026	8:00am	Executive Committee
June 25, 2026	8:00am	Executive Committee
July 23, 2026	7:30am	Board of Directors
August 27, 2026	8:00am	Executive Directors
September 24, 2026	8:00am	Executive Committee
October 22, 2026	7:30am	Board of Directors
December 10, 2026	8:00am	Executive Committee