



The Corporation for New Milford Economic Development

Board of Directors Annual Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 23, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
Candlewood Valley Country Club

Present:

Oley Carpp, Chairman
Mayor Pete Bass
Dean Barille
Kristen Gizzi
Paul Murphy
Ray Oneglia
Ivan Shiff

Mir Ahmed
Geoff Ball
Adele Conner
Ray Kostka
Eli Noam
Jerry Romaniello
Tony Vengrove

1. Call to Order

Mr. Carpp called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of January 22, 2026

Ms. Conner moved to approve the January 22nd minutes, seconded by Mr. Barille. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Chairman's Welcome

Mr. Carpp welcomed attendees and thanked Jerry Romaniello for hosting the meeting at Candlewood Valley Country Club. He also informed the group that he is trying to reserve space at The Iron Rail for our next BOD meeting in July.

4. Treasurer's Report

Due to Ms. Fuhman's travel outside the country, no financial report was presented.

5. Community Update

Mayor Bass reported that the budget process is well underway, with both the Town and Board of Education budgets scheduled for a Town Meeting on May 5, to be followed by a referendum. He noted that the Town will be piloting a Saturday referendum in an effort to increase voter participation.

On economic development, Mayor Bass reported that the Town is evaluating potential changes to sewer connection fees to encourage additional connections. He also noted that the Town is exploring several initiatives to improve approvals and permitting processes, including technology enhancements and website upgrades. Building activity and permitting are currently exceeding projections, with a number of new projects and businesses investing in the community.

Mayor Bass further reported that there has been no recent activity related to the proposed battery storage facility following Flatiron's decision to pause its application. Lastly, he noted that he plans to meet with the developer who submitted a proposal for the East Street School property to review the project pro forma and discuss plan details.

6. Old Business

A. Grants Update:

Mr. Carpp reported that the DECD Riverfront Grant project is nearing completion. The additional well survey has been completed, and Fuss & O'Neil is finalizing the report. Mr. Carpp will share the report with Mayor Bass and then consult with the Executive Committee regarding the rollout and public communication of the findings. He estimated that approximately \$10,000 will remain in the grant budget upon completion of

the project and recommended seeking approval from DECD to use the remaining funds to conduct a Phase I environmental study of the Lindstedt property.

Regarding the DECD East Street School Grant, Mr. Carpp reported that the LEP contract was not approved by Cramer & Anderson (C&A). Mr. Carpp and C&A are drafting a revised agreement to help advance the project more efficiently.

B. Marketing Survey:

Mr. Vengrove presented preliminary findings from the Small Business Survey, including verbatim responses to the open-ended questions. He noted that while overall engagement was lower than anticipated, the insights gathered are meaningful and actionable. He recommended continuing the initiative, with improvements to planning and execution to increase future participation.

Next steps include soliciting input from the Board of Directors regarding the findings and scheduling a working session to align on the key insights to be included in the final report. Mr. Vengrove and Mr. Carpp are scheduled to present an update to the Economic Development Commission in May. Mr. Vengrove also invited Board members to volunteer to assist with drafting the final presentation and to begin planning the Small Business Leadership Summit.

C. Façade Grant Program

The Façade Grant Committee reported that it met to evaluate the future of the program and recommended its discontinuation, citing insufficient funding to sustain the program at a meaningful scale. Upon discussion, it was agreed to terminate the program and remove it from the Corporation's website.

7. New Business

Mr. Noam suggested that the board schedule time to meet and discuss important issues and opportunities facing the town such as tourism and affordable housing.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Kostka moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Vengrove. 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