



Choose Columbia

Columbia Economic Development Corporation

MINUTES DRAFT
COLUMBIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Annual Members Meeting
Tuesday, April 28, 2026
Columbia –Greene Community College 4400 NY-23, Hudson, NY 12534

Please take notice that the Columbia Economic Development Corporation will hold its annual meeting on April 28, 2026 with registration beginning at 7:30am at Columbia - Greene Community College, 4400 NY-23, Hudson, NY 12534, for the purpose of discussing any matters that may be presented to the Corporation for consideration.

List of attendees is attached.

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m. by James Calvin, Board Chair. He welcomed the attendees to the 2026 CEDC annual meeting. He thanked Dr. Walsh, President of Columbia - Greene Community College, for hosting and COARC for providing the food. He recognized the meeting sponsors.

Mr. Calvin introduced Chair of the Columbia County Board of Supervisors Matt Murell as the first speaker. Chairman Murell thanked the attendees, welcoming them to the College for the event. He thanked the College for their hospitality and then reviewed several programs that CEDC and Columbia County have acted on in partnership, thanking Mike Tucker and the CEDC Board for their efforts on behalf of the County. Chairman Murell reviewed the advances in housing including accessory dwelling units and the Columbia County Land Bank. He thanked Chris Brown noting his actions would have a real impact on the entire county.

Mr. Calvin introduced Hudson City Mayor Joseph Ferris, who thanked the County and CEDC for their assistance and stated he looked forward to continuing their work together. Mr. Calvin thanked the elected officials and their delegates for attending the meeting. These included: Max Dydynski representing Congressman Josh Riley's Office, Daniel Wrenn representing Governor Hochul, Gunner Wordon representing Assemblymember Didi Barrett, Joe Landy from Empire State Development, Columbia County Treasurer P.J. Keeler, Columbia County Comptroller Jim Breig, Real Property Tax Service Director, Mark Taylor. Columbia County Supervisors: Colleen Lutz (Ancram), Brenda Adams (Canaan), Donal Collins (Chatham), Kathleen Eldridge (Greenport), Sonja Okun (Hudson), Ron Knott (Stuyvesant). Douglas Cropper, (Philmont Deputy Mayor) and Anthony Finta (Clermont Town Board) were also in attendance. Mr. Calvin acknowledged James Hannahs of Greene County Economic Development Tourism and Planning. Mr. Calvin thanked the elected officials as well as the former chairs of CEDC for their attendance.

Columbia Economic Development Corporation's Vice-Chair Tarah Gay introduced Matthew Wood of M.C. Wood Fabrication and Custom Millwork. Mr. Wood gave a brief overview of his business and products.

Mr. Calvin reviewed the CEO search process. He stated the first search had ended with the final 3 candidates withdrawing from the process. He announced Mr. Tucker had agreed to stay until the end of September to allow more time for the search to find their next CEO/President. Mr. Calvin read proclamations from elected officials honoring Mr. Tucker's service.

Mr. Tucker reviewed the past year with the attendees, noting the number of businesses assisted by CEDC. He noted that \$6 million had been loaned to 300 businesses in 10 years with technical assistance reaching an even greater number. He reviewed the Columbia Forward program made possible by County funding, which allowed a partnership between the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce and CEDC.

Mr. Tucker reviewed the status of the broadband project, reducing the unserved addresses from 4500 to 500 addresses in the county. He stated the formation of the Affordable Housing Taskforce, the Land Bank and the Accessory Dwelling Unit will aid in increasing needed housing in the county. He thanked Chris Brown, CEDC's Housing Coordinator, who had certified all 18 towns in Columbia County as pro-housing communities. He noted Mr. Brown had begun his new position with Pattern for Progress but would continue to work on Columbia County housing projects in his new role.

Mr. Tucker reviewed the City of Hudson IDA and the County IDA projects, noting the City IDA had closed on approximately \$175 million in projects and the County IDA had closed on approximately \$75 million in projects.

Mr. Tucker thanked the Board for their support over the past years, thanking past chairs Tony Jones and Dave Fingar and current Chair Jim Calvin. He thanked the NYS and local officials for attending and thanked them for their assistance and support. Mr. Tucker thanked the staff for the work and support.

Ms. Lane presented the Micro-Business results from 2025. She stated 37 loans had closed totaling \$924,000; the technical assistance grant from the SBA had totaled \$295,000 and assisted 130 entrepreneurs; and the Microbusiness class had assisted 14 small business owners. She stated CEDC had received a \$1 million loan from the SBA. She thanked Mr. Tucker for his 10 years of mentorship and friendship.

Mr. Calvin opened the CEDC business meeting at 8:56 am and declared a quorum present.

Mr. Calvin called for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 29, 2025 Annual Meeting. Tarah Gay made a motion, seconded by Rachel Levine. The motion was carried.

Mr. Calvin presented the annual financial audit stating the audit resulted in an unqualified opinion and no internal control deficiencies were found. He directed the audience to the CEDC website for further information.

Ms. Levine presented the slate of Directors for re-election as follows: Rick Cummings, Justin Goldman, Bryan Mahoney, Rachel Puckett, and Sean Sawyer, for a term ending May 1, 2028. Gary Graziano was nominated to complete an unfinished term ending May 1, 2029. Tarah Gay made a motion, seconded by Christine Hinz. The motion was carried.

Mr. Calvin noting there was no further business to be brought before the members, thanked Mr. Tucker, the Board and Staff, the Columbia County Board of Supervisors and Empire State Development as well as the CEDC membership for their support.

With no other business to come before the members, the meeting was closed upon a motion by Rachel Puckett Fischer and seconded by Rick Cummings, to approve the slate of nominees. The motion was carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00am.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Drafushuk