

**Manufacturing Innovation Fund Advisory Board**  
***Meeting Minutes***  
**Department of Economic and Community Development**  
March 17, 2026  
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

**Attendance**

Board Members Present: Kirti Patel, Hannah Belmont, Dave Cremin, Mike Rocheleau, Mark Burzynski, Lydia Blanche, John Zoldy, Kelli-Marie Vallieres, Colin Cooper, Dustin Nord (Chris DePentima delegate)

Quorum: Yes

Absent: Chris DiPentima, Emir Redzic

Stakeholders & Guests: Paul Striebel (CCAT), John Glidden (CCAT), Ron Angelo (CCAT), Amy Thompson (CCAT), Eileen Candels (CCAT), Sonya Randall (CCAT), Michelle Coach (CT State), Adam Rodrigues (FORGE), Anya Losik (Forge), Laura Teicher (FORGE), Shannon Marimon (ReadyCT) Christine Lawlor-King (ReadyCT), Jessica Taylor (ACM), Ryan Scott (CONNSTEP), Barbara Fernandez (CONNSTEP), Beatriz Gutierrez (CONNSTEP)

DECD Staff: Michelle Hall, Cindy Hetu, Carmen Molina-Rios

1. **Welcome**
2. **Meeting Minutes 1/20/26 (vote)** - Motion to accept 1/20/26 Minutes made by Kirti Patel. Moved by Kelli Vallieres, second by Michael Rocheleau. Colin Cooper abstained. Motion carried unanimously.
3. **Quick Fiscal Review**
4. **CONNEX Update** – CONNSTEP
5. **Product Acceleration Program update/new proposal – FORGE (vote)** Motion to accept program request of \$999,601 for continuing current layering of programs and an increase in Capital Deployment was made by Michael Rocheleau. Motion seconded by Colin Cooper. Motion passed unanimously.
6. **Conflict of Interest Policy (vote)** – Tabled until the next meeting. Clarification needed regarding proposed Conflict of Interest statement vs (current) Financial Disclosure currently required by the State of CT for members serving on a Board.

**7. Internship Subcommittee Report out**

- 8.** Motion to adjourn meeting made by Kirti Patel at 2:39pm. Motion moved by Dave Cremin, seconded by Michael Rocheleau. Meeting adjourned.