

Town of Winchester - City of Winsted  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 15, 2025, 6:00 PM  
Lee Ann LaClair Room (Blue Room)

COMMISSION

Thomas Carter, Chairman  
Deweese Yeager, Vice Chairman  
Gary Giordano, Treasurer  
Jamie Coligan, Secretary  
Dennis Dressel, Commissioner  
Alan Colavecchio, Commissioner  
Carrie Stetson, Commissioner  
Jess Tessman, Commissioner  
Eric Richard, Alternate  
Joseph Santoro, Alternate  
Stephen Plumlee, Alternate

TOWN OFFICIALS

Paul Harrington, Town Manager  
Althea Candy Perez, BOS Liaison

1. Call to Order and Roll Call - Called to order at 6:00 pm by Thomas Carter. At the meeting were Thomas Carter, Dewees Yeager, Alan Colavecchio, Carrie Stetson, Gary Giordano, Jamie Coligan, Stephen Plumlee, and guests Veronica Zecchin, Linda Groppo, Holley Atkinson, and two others I did not catch their names
2. Agenda Review - Motion to approve by Gary Giordano, seconded by Dewees Yeager. Voted 7-0-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings:
  - Motion to approve the minutes of July 1, 2025, by Dewees Yeager, seconded by Alan Colavecchio. Voted 6-0-1. (Gary Giordano abstained as not present at meeting)
4. Public Comment - No public comments reported.
5. Treasurer's Report
  - The EDC has an available budget of \$9,550 as of 7/1/2025.
  - Need to find backup information for invoice from prior year
6. New Business
  - What's Happening in Town?
    - Community Needs Survey -
      - Results have been posted on the Town of Winchester website-
    - 108 E Lake Street and Domino's are moving forward with renovations.-
    - 508 Main St. & Wallens Hill Request for Proposal (RFP) are scheduled to be sent out in mid-August.-

- Yield Properties (Geoff working with Eversource to get power in there).-
  - Home and Cake - Tom sent email - to follow up on Exit Interview. - Linda heard she was making ends meet but now rent increase is prohibitive.
  - Chinese Restaurant(s): More information to come soon.
  - 39 South Main has developer interest for affordable housing.
  - Former IGA - trying to get contact info for possible gym
  - Jessica's Barbershop has moved into the former Sacred Beauty space
  - Business after hours with the chamber at the marina 7/29 5-7 pm
  - Meetings at town manufacturers, with the EDC and Paul Harrington to commence in September.
- Liaison Updates
    - Sue Grossman - Yield Industries Craig on board for easement through his property. Would like sewer and water line. - town
    - Three routes for SGT - polling for easements - former Sports Dome and Dave Curtis. Some routes don't require as many easements. Southern section requires no easements by route 8 - the route through Yield is preferable.
    - Friends of Main Street - meeting rescheduled to July 22 not enough members
    - Town of Winchester Website (EDC Page)
      - No updates
    - Traffic / WOW Committee
      - No updates.
    - Willow St. Business District
      - No updates.
    - Real Estate Committee
      - Tom, Dewees, & Gary are working on the properties list.
      - Gary sent a list of listed properties to Geoff last week via email
    - 10 Bridge Street
      - Awaiting next meeting scheduling (Paul Harrington)
      - Brownfield Grant discussion.
    - Fall Foliage Festival -
      - Have a tent - questionnaire, FOMS have a tent and man it set schedule
- Business Visitations
    - Peacocks and Lilacs have moved into Andy's Attic.-
    - Toby's - Tom visited but dates not confirmed yet
    - JoAnn Ryan Retirement - Gary brought card - was signed by Gary, Thomas, Dewees, Carrie, Alan, Stephen and Jamie.- Jess, Dennis, Joe and Eric to sign
    - Former Barrett Boat Property at 45 Willow Street - possible sale to town they are speaking with Paul H - steep grant would assist in this - check with Geoff
    - Winchester Hardware - Dewees met with new owners Ashley Padin and Molly Jackson for plan, shifting/rebranding but not pulling away from True Value
    - Cura Cafe - Dewees saw Becky and confirmed Sacred Beauty is there (Shannon may want a ribbon cutting) follow up on Thursday 7/17

- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies
  - No new ribbon cutting ceremonies scheduled.
  - Try to coordinate with Toby's.
  - Check with Sacred Beauty and Park Place Hardware
- Social Media Spotlights - no updates as Jess unable to attend meeting
  - Upcoming Spotlight(s) - Railway Cafe, Tyler FX Studios.
    - Keep Park Place Hardware on the radar - new renovations.
    - Facebook - 880 Followers.-
    - Suggestion: Promote Toby's Grand Opening.-
    - Marina Spotlight getting many hits on social media

7. Communications - No communications reported.

Neil McGuinness - HLWA meeting minutes

Willie Platt - Chair of Planning and Zoning

8. Old Business

- EDC Promotional Video (3 - 4 minute video).
  - The video is focused on highlighting the importance of being a business owner.
  - Expected Finish Date: September.
  - Shoot list in progress
  - Paul has message what town might offer to business - mention it to Paul
  - Completed by Labor Day is the deadline
  - General area footage is done
  - Interviews - 5 or 6 need to be set up
- Job Fair - 2025
  - Event Date: Thursday, September 25th, 3:00 pm - 6:30 pm.
    - Location: Greenwoods Hall Gym, NCCC..
    - Alan is working on the flyer.
    - Zoom meeting is 7/22/25
  - Payment Options
    - Decided not to go through parks and recs
    - Checks a possibility or maybe discuss with land use/Geoff
    - Any checks - memo section should include Job Fair 2025.

9. Adjournment - 6:35 pm motion by Carrie Stetson, seconded by Dewees Yeager.  
Voted 7-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jamie Coligan