

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

Tuesday, August 5, 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, Alan Colavecchio, Dennis Dressel, Gary Giordano, Jess Tessman, Jamie Coligan, Stephen Plumlee, and guests Veronica Zecchin, Ted Shafer, Linda Groppo, and Candace Bouchard. Absent/excused were Dewees Yeager and Carrie Stetson.
2. Agenda Review - Motion to approve by Alan Colavecchio, seconded by Dennis Dressel. Voted 7-0-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings:
 - Motion to approve the minutes of July 15, 2025, by Jess Tessman, seconded by Gary Giordano. Voted 5-0-2. Jess Tessman and Dennis Dressel abstained.
4. Public Comment - Ted Shafer.
 - Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours RECAP; NWCT Chamber of Commerce upcoming events updates.
5. Treasurer's Report
 - The EDC has an available budget of \$9,550 as of 7/1/2025.
 - Promotional video has been paid for.
6. New Business
 - Magnetic Stickers
 - Dennis proposed to order magnetic stickers with the new logo (Goulet Printing).

Motion to purchase Magnetic Stickers by Dennis Dressel, seconded by Jess Tessman. Voted 7-0-0.

- Community Night - Fall 2025
 - John Fiorello had discussion with Dewees, Stephen and Alan - startups showcase, recruitment, etc.
 - American Mural Project seeking sponsors for Picnic Tables.
- Lamppost Banners*
 - Table for further discussion at next meeting
- What's Happening in Town?
 - Community Needs Survey -
 - Results have been posted on the Town of Winchester website.
- Town Updates and Renovations -
 - 108 E Lake Street and Domino's continue with renovations.
 - 508 Main St. & Wallens Hill Request for Proposal (RFP) - mid August.
 - Yield Properties (Geoff working with Eversource to get power in there).-
 - 39 South Main has developer interest for affordable housing.
 - Cumberland Farms - no updates - still on the market.
- Liaison Updates
 - Sue Grossman Trail - Yield Industries discussion on sewer and water line.
 - Friends of Main Street - Fall Foliage Festival, Saturday, September 27, 2025
 - Thoughts on lamppost banners, size, hardware.
 - EDC asked to table at the upcoming fair and complete online application.
 - 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 previously emailed a list of listed properties to Geoff Greene.
 - 10 Bridge Street
 - Awaiting next meeting scheduling (Paul Harrington)
 - Brownfield Grant discussion.
- Business Visitations
 - Peacocks and Lilacs have moved into Andy's Attic.
 - Former Barrett Boat Property at 45 Willow Street discussion.
 - Winchester Hardware - Dewees met with new owners Ashley Padin and Molly.
 - Cura Cafe - Confirmed Sacred Beauty has re-located in Cura Cafe.
 - Northwest Soup and Sandwich - needs an AC update. Applied for Main Street America Grant.

- 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
 - Upcoming Spotlight(s) - Railway Cafe, Tyler FX Studios.
 - Keep Park Place Hardware on the radar - new renovations.
 - Local Realtors David Sartirana and Annie Simard are on the schedule

7. Communications - No communications reported.

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.
 - Paul Harrington interview scheduled for Thursday, August 7, 2025 at Town Hall.
 - Preview presentation discussion at BOS 2nd meeting in September (9/18).
- Job Fair - 2025
 - Event Date: Thursday, September 25th, 3:00 pm - 6:30 pm.
 - Location: Greenwoods Hall Gym, NCCC..
 - Zoom meeting is 8/19/25
 - 10 current registered employers.
 - Responses needed by September 19, 2025 to reserve a table.

9. Adjournment - 6:59 pm motion by Gary Girodano, seconded by Jess Tessman.

Voted 7-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jamie Coligan