

Town of Winchester - City of Winsted
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, September 2, 2025, 6:00 PM
Lee Ann LaClair Room (Blue Room)

COMMISSION

Thomas Carter, Chairman
Deweese Yeager, Vice Chairman
Gary Giordano, Treasurer
Dennis Dressel, Commissioner
Alan Colavecchio, Commissioner
Carrie Stetson, Commissioner
Jess Tessman, Commissioner

ALTERNATES

Stephen Plumlee
Eric Richard
Joseph Santoro
Jamie Coligan, Secretary

TOWN OFFICIALS

Paul Harrington, Town Manager
Althea Candy Perez, BOS Liaison

1. Call to Order and Roll Call - Called to order at 6:24 pm by Thomas Carter. At the meeting were Thomas Carter, Dewees Yeager, Gary Giordano, Alan Colavecchio, Dennis Dressel, Jess Tessman, Carrie Stetson, Jamie Coligan, Eric Richards, and guests Veronica Zecchin, Neil McGuinness, and Bill Hester. Absent/excused were Stephen Plumlee and Joseph Santoro.
2. Agenda Review - Motion to approve by Dennis Dressel, seconded by Jess Tessman. Voted 7-0-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings:
 - Motion to approve the minutes of August 19, 2025, by Dennis Dressel, seconded by Dewees Yeager. Voted 4-0-3. Gary Giordano, Carrie Stetson and Jess Tessman abstained.
4. Public Comment
 - None
5. Treasurer's Report
 - Balance is \$8,980
 - PO's for Tents Unlimited, Radio Spot, and lawn signs to promote Job Fair to follow
6. New Business
 - What's happening in Town?
 - 142 Main Street (former Jesse's restaurant) to be converted to all housing units
 - Cappy's Cleaners back on the market
 - JT's Cafe is closed
 - Wallens Hill RFQ to BOS in mid September
 - 508 Main Street - list with need for qualifications first is required
 - 163 Main Street - Welding Company to go behind Citgo
 - Cumberland Farms building - owner researching opening as high end deli

- Liaison Updates
 - Sue Grossman Trail
 - Work on easements continues.
 - Requests for qualifications for engineering is out for proposals due date of October 2, 2025
 - Friends of Main Street - Fall Foliage Festival, Saturday, September 27, 2025
 - Road closes at 7:30 AM for set up; Runs from 10 AM - 3 PM
 - Car show needs an emcee
 - Town of Winchester Website (EDC Page)
 - Check the Resources section for 2025 Job Fair Info links for Attendees and Employers as well as other information links
 - Planning and Zoning Commission
 - Meeting held as planned
 - Better communication between commissions
 - Asked for list of air bnb's in town
 - Meet with Town Manager third Thursday of Month at 10 AM
- Business Visitations
 - Dewees visited Ash Family Heating - open for business but location needs work so hoping for ribbon cutting perhaps late winter/early spring 2026
 - Peacocks and Lilacs is now in Andy's Attic spaces - good spot, foot traffic, getting organized
 - Tom/Dennis to reach out to Geoff for contact information for Marshall's & Ledgebrook Plaza
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies
 - Aero Salon, Sunday, September 21, 2025 at 1:00 PM.
 - Jessica's Barbershop mid September- need to reach out again
 - Sacred Beauty and Cura Cafe some time in September
 - Keep checking with Park Place Hardware
- Social Media Spotlights
 - Upcoming Spotlight(s) - Tyler FX Studios, Winchester Hardware.
 - Local Realtors David Sartirana and Annie Simard are on the schedule
 - Railway Cafe has been filmed
 - Post Job Fair Event

7. Communications

- Safe Streets for all - SSFA - See Town's Facebook Page
 - Gary to reach out.

8. Old Business

- EDC Promotional Video (3 - 4 minute video).
 - Draft video presented by Albert Petrunti prior to start of meeting
 - More editing to be done
 - Presenting at BOS meeting on September 15, 2025
 - Premier at LRB on October 8, 2025 at 5:00 PM
 - Dennis to talk with Albert regarding AMP
- Job Fair - 2025
 - Event Date: Thursday, September 25th, 3:00 pm - 6:30 pm.
 - Location: Greenwoods Hall Gym, NCCC.
 - Next zoom meeting Tuesday, September 9
 - 14 employers responded - keep sending out reminders.
 - Responses needed by September 19, 2025 to reserve a table.
 - Flyers are done, Look into lawn signs and radio to promote it
- Magnetic Stickers
 - Give to BOS members evening of premier
- Community Night
 - Looking for EDC to sponsor
 - See if Chamber is interested
- Fall Foliage Festival
 - Tom secured table in front of Town Hall (next meeting set schedule)
 - Jess has tent and tent weights
 - Door Prize, candy, apples, Jess to see what promotional items are available
- Real Estate Committee
 - Work in progress - tweaking as we go
 - Zoning information added
- Lampost Banners
 - Online pricing \$40-\$55 each
 - Local quotes in the works
 - Decide on size, brackets, and placement
 - Still including shop local?

9. Adjournment - 7:37 pm motion by Dennis Dressel, seconded by Carrie Stetson. Voted 7-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,
Jamie Coligan