

Town of Winchester - City of Winsted
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 21, 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 6:00 pm by Thomas Carter. At the meeting were Thomas Carter, Dewees Yeager, Gary Giordano, Alan Colavecchio, Dennis Dressel, Jess Tessman, Carrie Stetson, Jamie Coligan, Stephen Plumlee and guests Candy Perez, Veronica Zecchin, Holley Atkinson with special guest speaker Albert Petrunti. Absent were Eric Richard and Joseph Santoro.
2. Agenda Review - Motion to approve by Dennis Dressel, seconded by Alan Colavecchio. Voted 7-0-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings:
 - Motion to approve the minutes of October 7, 2025, by Carrie Stetson, seconded by Jess Tessman. Voted 6-0-1. Thomas Carter abstained.
4. Public Comment
 - None
5. New Business
 - Electronic Marketing 101 with Albert Petrunti
 - Set a strategy for who and what types of businesses to come to town
 - Get a “game plan” drawn up - aka map of priorities - Albert to help
 - Work with real estate committee as to properties available for types of business identified
 - Look into publications ie CBIA, Hartford Business Journal to promote town
 - Get current video out to more people - explore LinkedIn, Facebook and other sites including the Towns Facebook page
 - Work on shorter more focused videos to attract views with funnel to full video
 - What’s happening in Town?
 - Paul Harrington/EDC visits with Manufacturers to continue
 - Cura Cafe sold - Becky moving to a food truck

- Sacred Beauty - Shana waiting to see how sale of Cura will affect her plans
- Wallens Hill - lots of interest
- 508 Main Street - on the market - lots of interest (retail/condo)
- LIVE going with smaller footprint
- Restaurant Week March 2026 - initial meeting with Michael Ferreira set for 11/11
- Liaison Updates
 - Sue Grossman Trail
 - Meeting this week
 - Waiting on word of easements and next steps
 - Friends of Main Street
 - Window decorating contest coming up
 - Bubbles and Truffles scheduled for February 2026
 - Town of Winchester Website (EDC Page)
 - Work in progress
 - Planning and Zoning Commission
 - October meeting discussed need for another school in town as well as several upcoming residential projects.
- Business Visitations
 - H-O Products occurred Monday, October 20 - Met with Chris Olson and his team. H-O is an interesting niche manufacturer with 19 employees.
 - Already visited Hubbell, Fairchild, Cadco
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies
 - Domino's Pizza earlier today - well attended, large crew, Franchise owner and corporate representative were there.
 - Jessica's Barbershop - will check in and get a date set
 - Marshall's October 23, 2025
 - NW Soup and Sandwich - check back in with them, also see if they got a grant to get ac.
- Social Media Spotlights
 - Upcoming Spotlight(s)
 - No new updates at this time

6. Communications

- We would like to give a special thank you to Candy Perez for all of her support during her years as our liaison as well as all of her hard work and championing for the Town of Winchester. We wish her all the best going forward.
- EDC Outlook email
 - Needs to be changed to Tom. Dewey will look into it.
- EDC Page on Town Website

- Dewey and Jess met with Evan Dobos.
- Long awaited changes should happen within a few weeks.
- Master sheet will be kept there

7. Old Business

- Manufacturers Expo - AMP - 10/23/25 - 2:30 - 6:00 PM
- Small Business Seminar - CSCC @ Norfolk Hub - 10/29/25 - 5:30 PM
- Real Estate Committee - updates as needed going forward.
- BAR Grant
 - Rista discussed structure
 - Study to start in January (12 month process)
- Lampost Banners
 - No update at this time

9. Adjournment - 7:50 pm motion by Carrie Stetson, seconded by Dennis Dressel. Voted 6-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,
Jamie Coligan