

Town of Winchester - City of Winsted  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, November 18, 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  
William Pozzo, BOS Liaison  
Kevin Bishop, 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, Deweese Yeager, Gary Giordano, Alan Colavecchio, Carrie Stetson, Jamie Coligan, Eric Richards, Stephen Plumlee and guests Veronica Zecchin, Holley Atkinson, and Brittney LaBonte Roviglio and Thuan Nguyen from The Zen Den . Absent/excused were Dennis Dressel, Jess Tessman, and Joseph Santoro. Jamie Coligan and Eric Richard voting for Jess Tessman and Dennis Dressel
2. Agenda Review - Motion to approve by Carrie Stetson, seconded by Gary Giordano. Voted 7-0-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings:
  - Motion to approve the minutes of October 7, 2025, by Deweese Yeager, seconded by Alan Colavecchio. Voted 7-0-0.
4. Public Comment
  - Owners of The Zen Den (Brittney and Thuan) came to speak about their business
    - Holistic and clinical healing starting December 1
    - Membership like a gym
    - Offering daily/weekly before and after work meditation sessions, yoga, reiki, group therapy, young peoples meetings and much more
    - Located at 58 Main Street, Winsted
    - Zen talks every Friday night
    - Free events every day in December
    - Hope to start scholarship fund in memory to help those going into the field
    - December 6, 2025 - private showing for businesses - invitation only
    - Grand Opening December 27, 2025 at 12:00 Noon
    - Check them out on social media
    - Watch for EDC Spotlight in the future

## 5. New Business

- What's happening in Town?
  - Paul Harrington/EDC visits with Manufacturers to continue in the new year
  - Cura Cafe new owners, Kawa Coffee, to open in December - baked goods, coffee, cappuccino
  - Wallens Hill - engineering report back and water and sewer in good shape
  - 508 Main Street - retail/condo - no closing date yet
  - New vape and smoke shop opened on Main Street
  - No news on Cumberland Farms property
  - Noujaim's still operating while for sale
  - Local person looking for martial arts space larger than they currently have access to
  - Toby's Peruvian Restaurant - check with them as not open very often
  - Restaurant Week March 2026 - met today for initial meeting
    - Meeting December 9 at Railway Cafe
    - Michael F to reach out to Crystal Peak for possible kickoff event for night before
    - Prize submissions to change
    - QR Code on all menus along with days of and hours of operation
- Liaison Updates
  - Sue Grossman Trail
    - Tom H asked EDC to write a letter of support for the trail to present to DEEP for grant funding - economic benefits of having a trail
  - Friends of Main Street
    - Decorate the Green on Saturday 2:30
    - Town tree lighting December 13
  - Town of Winchester Website (EDC Page)
    - Work in progress
  - EDC/Planning and Zoning Commission with Town Mgr
    - Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 21
- Business Visitations
  - No new Manufacturing Tour visits scheduled as of now.
  - Sterling & Howmet at the beginning of the new year
  - Northwest Sporting Goods - same owner - business as usual
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies
  - The Zen Den - Saturday, December 27th at Noon
  - Jessica's Barbershop - yes please after the holidays
  - Check with Mad River Detailing, Kawa Coffee, Ash Family, New owners of former Red Rooster
- Social Media Spotlights

- Upcoming Spotlight(s) - stay tuned

6. Communications

- Tom got notice of NW CT EDC meeting on 12/4 at LRB at 2:30 PM and forwarded email to the team
- Dewey got information regarding “bus shelters” being added in various parts of Connecticut and shared with the team
- Alan forwarded an article he received showing Winsted/Winchester in top six small towns in Connecticut to retire to (Torrington, Winsted, Putnam, Plainville, Vernon and East Hampton)

7. Old Business

- Safe Streets for All
  - BOS meeting noted members still needed
  - Speed Cameras are a go on Main Street
  - Next meeting to be determined
- BAR Grant, Lampost Banners and Real Estate Committee
  - No updates at this time
- EDC Newsletter
  - Dewey started a summary, will talk with Jess to include spotlights
  - Updating website - maybe include Newsletter tab

9. Adjournment - 7:12 pm motion by Carrie Stetson, seconded by Gary Girodano. Voted 7-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jamie Coligan