

Town of Winchester - City of Winsted  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, December 16, 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  
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, Dewees Yeager, Gary Giordano, Alan Colavecchio, Dennis Dressel, Carrie Stetson, Jamie Coligan, Eric Richard, and guest Veronica Zecchin. Absent/excused was. Stephen Plumlee. Joseph Santoro resigned.
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 November 18, 2025, by Dewees Yeager, seconded by Alan Colavecchio. Voted 5-0-2. Dennis Dressel and Jess Tessman abstained.
4. Public Comment
  - None
5. Treasurer's Report - no changes
  - Balance is \$7,952.82
6. New Business

Thank you Joseph for your years of service to the Board.

  - What's happening in Town?
    - Kawa & Co is busy getting space ready - hope to open by end of month
    - 508 Main Street (and other properties including Wallens Hill/Mountainside) moved to town meeting to approve sale is set for January 20, 2026 at 6:00 PM in the Hicks room
    - Cumberland Farms - no update (site has been quiet)
    - The new smoke/vape shop across from Cumberland is open
    - Noujaim's buildings and restaurant business are for sale as wants out of

- restaurant business to focus on manufacturing side
  - Cannavo property on Winsted Road is for sale - approximately 7 acres and there is water and septic near/on the property
  - Parker Benjamin reached out to Town Planner looking for recs on businesses to move into the remaining Winsted Edge Tool Works building.
  - Landscaper in Torrington looking to move his business to Winsted
  - Mountaintop Trucking is looking to renew materials permit
  - Former Red Rooster property is coming along - mostly outdoor venue
  - Nursing Home Conversion to start up in the Spring
  - Auto Detailer on Meadow Street to reach out to Gary to set up Grand Opening
- Liaison Updates
  - PZC - Highland Lake Regulations
    - Tom, Planning Dept, HLWA, Conservation, Public Works, Chief of Police attended discussion on watershed regulations, buffer between lawn and lakefront and others
  - FOMS
    - Bubbles & Truffles event February 7, 2026
    - Storefront contest on the 18th - QR Code on FOMS website
  - Sue Grossman Trail
    - EDC composed support letter for additional funding
    - Engineering firms have responded and tours have been given
    - Rhodes has not yet responded regarding preliminary easement
- Business Visitations
  - Jess reached out to Community Health and Wellness - how can we help
    - They would like to expand with networking events
    - New mobile clinic van in 2026
  - Jess reached out to Rooted Market
    - They have great Gluten Free selection, homemade treats including their “Sidekicks” bites, and the cheesecake bites are delicious
  - YMCA postponed 12/17/25 meeting to sometime in January 2026
  - Ledgebrook Liquors noted Marshall’s not having much of an impact on his business
  - Whiting Mills open house attended by Dewey, a few open storefronts in there but otherwise busy, it has new owners - need contact information
  - EDC Webpage in process - business mastersheet in transition
  - EDC information updates included on Town Website
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies
  - The Zen Den - December 27th at 1:00 PM
  - Jessica’s Barbershop and Ash Family Heating sometime in January
  - Auto Detailer (Mad River Detailing) on Meadow Street - tbd
  - Park Place Hardware - once new signs go up then Grand Reopening

- Social Media Spotlights
  - Upcoming Spotlights hoping for Winsted PD, McGranes, Andy's Attic, Rooted Market, Railway Cafe, YMCA
  - Real Estate on hold

#### 7. Communications

- Tom attended NWCT EDC meeting at LRB - good networking event
- Bus Shelter Initiative - pilot program nothing in our area; but main program will include our area
- Lions Club Winter Meeting - Terry sent Tom info including a pamphlet/booklet that goes out. Relatively inexpensive to advertise in it.

#### 8. Old Business

- Manufacturer's Expo - AMP - 10/23/25 2:30 - 6:30 PM - Tom, Dewees and Stephen attended.
- BAR Grant - slightly delayed: two months down the road
- Safe Streets for All
  - No new updates - question as to whether it's active any more
- Real Estate Committee
  - Status quo
- Promotional Video Marketing
  - Looking for a plan
  - Media venues to get it out there
  - 10-15 short videos - possibly through LinkedIn
- Restaurant Week
  - Soliciting Sponsors now
  - Kickoff event happening
  - Where - LRB or Crystal Peak
  - When - Wednesday or Thursday
  - Sip n Savor - appetizers, cocktail/mocktail prizes for best

9. Adjournment - 7:29 pm motion by Gary Giordano, second Carrie Stetson. Voted 7-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jamie Coligan