

Town of Winchester - City of Winsted
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 6, 2026, 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 6:02 pm by Thomas Carter. At the meeting were Thomas Carter, Dewees Yeager, Gary Giordano, Dennis Dressel, Carrie Stetson, Jess Tessman, Jamie Coligan, Eric Richard, Stephen Plumlee, guest Holley Atkinson and BOS liaison Kevin Bishop. Absent/excused Alan Colavecchio. Jamie Coligan to vote on behalf of Alan Colavecchio.
2. Agenda Review - Motion to approve by Jess Tessman, seconded by Carrie Stetson. Voted 7-0-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings:
 - Motion to approve the minutes of December 16, 2025, with correction to add Jess Tessman as attending and note that Wallens Hill and Mountainside are separate entities, by Dewees Yeager, seconded by Carrie Stetson. Voted 7-0-0.
4. Public Comment
 - None
5. Treasurer's Report - no changes
 - Balance is \$7,952.82
6. New Business
 - Year in Review Newsletter
 - Edits in the works
 - Anything to add/tweak reach out to Jess and/or Dewey
 - Think of initiatives for April 2026 function
 - What's happening in Town ?
 - Traffic speed cameras public hearing held and town taking next steps
 - EDC to write letter in support of this initiative
 - 508 Main Street
 - EDC to write in support of the proposed project for this property

- Cumberland Farms - no activity
- Wallens Hill Property RFQ's under review
- Cannavo property at 158 ½ 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
 - Get ideas to Geoff Green on what businesses might fit in that space
- Landscaper in Torrington looking to move his business to Winsted
 - Could be 18 months out
 - 142 and 156 Colebrook River Road are possible locations. 158 ½ Winsted Road is another possibility.
- Mountaintop Trucking is looking to renew materials permit
 - Nearing completion of material production
 - Keep property on radar for future development once completed
- Liaison Updates
 - PZC/Town Development
 - Develop regulations for waterways
 - Start discussions on what to look at for consideration
 - Developers of East Lake Street (former nursing home project) looking to invest elsewhere - perhaps 10 Bridge Street or Capital Products building
 - FOMS
 - Bubbles & Truffles event February 6, 2026 at Crystal Peak
 - They would like to use our master sheet to select business invitees from
 - LIVE to supply charcuterie plate(s); Winsted Wines & Spirits to provide beverages
 - Sue Grossman Trail
 - Meeting this week
 - Grant for additional \$750k in funding looks hopeful to bring to total needed of \$3.25M
 - May not need easements as still have not gotten word from DOT on their right of way
 - One property owner has not yet responded regarding preliminary easement, all others have given their consent.
- Business Visitations
 - Manufacturers
 - Five visits completed and five to go
 - Sterling and Howmet (Gary) in the works
 - Dewey to track down contact info SKF and others and get them going
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies
 - The Zen Den, Kawa Coffee and Sacred Beauty went well on December 27th
 - Jessica's Barbershop and Ash Family Heating sometime in the next few months
 - Mad River Detailing and Park Place Hardware are also in the near future

- Social Media Spotlights
 - Winchester Hardware this Friday (1/9) or next (1/16)
 - Axe Works and YMCA next up
 - Tyler FX - maybe for his spring sculpture classes
 - Others to consider - Park Place Hardware once new sign goes up, McGranes, Northwest Corner Farm, etc

7. Communications

- Website - work in progress
 - Add master sheet and show pertinent info and call it directory
 - Promo video on first page of Town's website
 - Google account - access needs to transition
- Lions Club is having Palm Sunday breakfast March 29, 2026 at St. Joseph's Franciscan Center on Oak Street. Tickets available at the door. Will have a raffle as well
- Dewey reached out to Donut Station owner to see if still interested in coming to Ledgebrook Plaza and was advised still thinking about it
- Interested party for possible new coffee shop in town in part of the old IGA building on Main Street

8. Old Business

- BAR Grant - slightly delayed: two months down the road
- Safe Streets for All
 - To be continued as work is being done - await next meeting date
- Real Estate Committee
 - Continues to hone in on what types of businesses could fit on parcels available
- Restaurant Week
 - Meeting 1/7/26 at Railway Cafe around 4:30 to discuss
 - Event is March 5th - 15th, 2026
 - Kickoff: Sip n Savor event March 4, 2026 at Little Red Barn Brewers at 32 Lake Street
 - At the kickoff event vote for your favorite appetizers and cocktail/mocktail
- Promotional Video
 - Plan is in the works and almost complete
 - 10-15 short videos almost ready
 - LinkedIn is one possible venue to put it out on
 - Thinking of others as well

9. Adjournment - 7:27 pm motion by Carrie Stetson, second Gary Giordano. Voted 7-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,
Jamie Coligan