

Town of Winchester - City of Winsted
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 20, 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 6:00 pm by Thomas Carter. At the meeting were Thomas Carter, Deweese Yeager, Gary Giordano, Dennis Dressel, Jess Tessman, Jamie Coligan, Eric Richard, Stephen Plumlee and guests, Veronica Zecchin and Kevin Bishop, BOS Liaison. Absent/Excused were Alan Colavecchio and Carrie Stetson. Voting for absent members are Eric Richard and Jamie Coligan.
2. Agenda Review - Motion to approve by Dennis Dressel, seconded by Gary Giordano. Voted 7-0-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings:
 - Motion to approve the minutes of January 6, 2026, by Jess Tessman,, seconded by Deweese Yeager. Voted 7-0-0.
4. Public Comment
 - None
5. New Business
 - Year in Review Newsletter
 - Looks great - send it out - Constant Contact, Facebook, Website, leave some on the info table in Town Hall
 - Jess and Dewey reviewing Constant Contact info for accuracy
 - Think of initiatives for April or May 2026 function
 - Perhaps State Comptroller could come to speak
 - If you think of someone let us know
 - What's happening in Town ?
 - Traffic speed cameras public hearing held and town taking next steps
 - Tom composed letter indicating EDC support of this initiative and sent to Town Manager
 - Donut Station in Ledgebrook still a possibility

- 508 Main Street
 - EDC support letter of the proposed project for this property sent
- Cumberland Farms - no activity
- Wallens Hill Property RFQ's under review - no change
- Cannavo property at 158 ½ Winsted Road is for sale - no change
- Parker Benjamin reached out to Town Planner looking for recs on businesses to move into the remaining Winsted Edge Tool Works building - no update
 - Get ideas to Geoff Green on what businesses might fit in that space
- Landscaper in Torrington looking to move his business to Winsted - no update
 - 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 - no change
 - 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 (Highland Lake Apartments)
 - Looking at 53 parking spaces - up from 45 but there is room for the extra
 - Will be market rate
 - No tax incentives given
 - Want to invest in other properties in town
 - FOMS - no update
 - Bubbles & Truffles event February 6, 2026 at Crystal Peak
 - Sue Grossman Trail
 - Meeting this week
 - Grant for additional \$750k in funding looks hopeful but may face shortfall - reach out to private and/or corporate donors to make it up
 - DOT has a year to review everything and if approved construction can begin
 - Shovel ready September 2026; Construction could begin on 2027
- Business Visitations
 - Dewey visited Ash Smoke Shop - looks well outfitted for what it is, added to contact sheet
 - YMCA
 - Jess met with them and suggested they attend more town events and asked to speak in spotlights section, maybe use constant contact to recruit new members as membership is down, price increased
 - Approach businesses to team up with - employee incentives to join.
 - Manufacturers

- Dufrane Technologies on 1/13/26, keeps expanding business and adding to the work force - also stores items for other manufacturers
- Howmet Monday (Gary and Paul) and Sterling in the works
- Dewey to track down contact info SKF and others and get them going
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies
 - Mad River Detailing - Saturday, January 31, 2026 at Noon on Meadow Street
 - Park Place Hardware, Ash Family Heating and Jessica's Barbershop on radar
- Social Media Spotlights
 - Winchester Hardware needs to reschedule
 - 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

6. Communications

- Website - work in progress
 - Add master sheet and show pertinent info and call it directory
 - Google workspace team ownership
- 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

7. 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 2/3/26 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
 - Received a couple of shorts to review - look good
 - 10-15 short videos almost ready
 - Dennis and Alan to meet with Albert in the near future
 - LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram are targeted venues to put it out on

9. Adjournment - 7:15 pm motion by Gary Giordano, seconded by Dennis Dressel. Voted 7-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,
Jamie Coligan