

Town of Winchester - City of Winsted
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 17, 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 6:05 pm by Thomas Carter. At the meeting were Thomas Carter, Dewees Yeager, Gary Giordano, Alan Colavecchio, Dennis Dressel, Carrie Stetson, Jamie Coligan, Stephen Plumlee and guests Ted Shafer of the Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce and Brittany Skorupski-Williams of Parker Benjamin. Absent/excused were Jess Tessman and Eric Richard. Bill Hester and Paul Harrington stopped in for a bit.
2. Agenda Review - Motion to approve by Dewees Yeager, seconded by Carrie Stetson. Vote 7-0-0 with Stephen Plumlee voting for Jess Tessman.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings:
 - Motion to approve the minutes of February 3, 2026, by Alan Colavecchio, seconded by Gary Giordano. Voted 6-0-1. Dennis Dressel abstained.
4. Public Comment
 - Ted Shafer of the Chamber of Commerce stopped by with a “King Cake” for Fat Tuesday
 - Wednesday, February 18th there is a Young Professionals Organization event inviting local 21+ young professionals to the free networking event
 - February 19th 2026 at 8 AM Caffeine & Connections event at Advanced Physical Therapy in Torrington
 - Mentioned a SAVE THE DATE for March 26, 2026 for the Chamber’s celebration of business - Achievement and Impact - at Crystal Peak from 5 PM - 8 PM
 - RSVP by March 23rd
 - Information at nwctchamberofcommerce.org
 - Brittany Skorupski-Williams introduced herself
 - She’s now back in the area and working for Parker Benjamin
 - Working to get the empty spaces in the Edge Works Axe House building leased
 - Reaching out to real estate brokers to see if they know of interested parties
 - Scanning Loopnet, MLS

- If you know of someone looking for space let her know

5. New Business

- Think of initiatives for April 2026 function
 - Ask Paul Harrington to reach out to CTDOT Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto
 - Reach out to CT Tourism Director Rachel Lenda, and or Sean Scanlon State Comptroller and any others you think would like to speak
 - Theme/Name: “Growth of Winsted/Winchester” or similar?
- What’s happening in Town?
 - Highland Lake Apartments at former nursing home property adding a few more parking spaces. Work has resumed on the building
 - Paul Harrington and Bill Hester stopped in with some news prior to the Board of Selectmen meeting
 - Wallens Hill Property RFP/RFQ’s 3 are in next phase for Fiscal, school and town impact study information
 - 508 Main Street and adjoining properties to close soon
 - Condominiums to be called The Hope
 - Interest in approximately 3.5 acre piece of property along the Mad River at the north end of town with access from Meadow Street and Hubbard Street
 - Non Profit out of Waterbury is interested
 - Possible affordable housing
- Liaison Updates
 - PZC/Town Development
 - No new updates
 - FOMS
 - Bubbles & Truffles event February 6, 2026 at Crystal Peak went well
 - Secretary is stepping down
 - Sue Grossman Trail
 - Meeting was cancelled last week
 - \$635,000 is a federal grant that has been earmarked for developing sewer extension south on Route 800. Will positively affect trail development.
- Business Visitations
 - Manufacturers
 - Howmet postponed due to weather. - maybe in March
 - Sterling Sintered scheduled for tomorrow - February 18th at 10 AM
 - Dewey in contact with SKF & Schaeffler
 - Dewey stopped in at Willow Street Building - MyEyeDoctor, Haley Ward, Law offices and C&W Dentistry still there - Gilbert Trust moved out and into half of dorm building
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies
 - None scheduled
 - Reached out to Ash Family but no response - will keep trying
- Social Media Spotlights - no updates

6. Communications

- Website - work in progress
- Master sheet - work in progress
- 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.
- Northwest Hills Salvation Army lunch May 13, 2026 at Crystal Peak to promote its 140th anniversary.
- Ignite Grant information on EDC Facebook page
- CT Paid Leave information posted on EDC Facebook page - need link to be available from Town website as well
- Jess to attend tourism conference Friday, February 27th at Mohegan Sun that runs 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM

7. Old Business

- BAR Grant - need to see where this now stands
- Real Estate Committee
 - Kevin of Winsted Wines & Spirits looking for income property in town
 - Tom updated list
 - Geoff noted Town Gateway Properties about 100 or so
- Restaurant Week
 - Meeting 2/17/26 at Railway Cafe around 4:45-5:30 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 - shooting for 100 or more attendees
 - At the kickoff event vote for your favorite appetizers and cocktail/mocktail
 - Down slightly in restaurant sign ups from last year - McGranes not participating,
 - Jess contacted Michael about promoting on Facebook - just need an invoice from him for the cost
- Promotional Video
 - Alan meeting with Albert on Wednesday
 - Once seen where do you go for information
 - LinkedIn most viable option (EDC/Town)
 - Albert will show members how to use it effectively
 - Boosting and sharing capabilities to get it out to more people
 - Need to edit previewed clips to say logo in proper order
 - Thinking of others as well
 - Motion made by Dennis Dressel to approve the cost for Awecasts Marketing Campaign Proposal. Second by Carrie Stetson. Voted 7-0-0

8. Adjournment - 7:39 pm motion by Carrie Stetson, second Dennis Dressel. Voted 7-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,
Jamie Coligan