

Town of Winchester - City of Winsted
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 3, 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, Dewees Yeager, Gary Giordano, Alan Colavecchio, Carrie Stetson, Jess Tessman, Jamie Coligan, Eric Richard, Stephen Plumlee, guests Griff Travaglin and William Hester. Absent/excused was Dennis Dressel. Eric Richard voting for him.
2. Agenda Review - Motion to approve by Dewees Yeager, seconded by Carrie Stetson. Voted 7-0-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings:
 - Motion to approve the minutes of January 20, 2026, by Jess Tessman, seconded by Dewees Yeager. Voted 5-0-2. Carrie Stetson and Alan Colavecchio abstained
4. Public Comment
 - Griff Travaglin spoke about his new venture at the old Red Rooster property
 - Seasonal outdoor eatery - named Skippers with seating for 60
 - Farm to table concept
 - Staple menu of various burgers, chicken, wings, etc throughout the week
 - Thursday evening through the weekend more special items like steaks, salmon, whole belly clams, etc
 - Live music on weekends as well as BYOB
 - Fall and Winter will have seasonal items on weekends
 - Hope to open Spring (April/May) - weather permitting
5. Treasurer's Report - no changes
 - Balance is \$7,952.82
6. New Business
 - Year in Review Newsletter
 - Looks great - super job Jess - posted to Facebook, town website and others

- Think of initiatives for April 2026 function
 - Reach out to State Comptroller Scott Scanlon
 - Ask Paul Harrington to reach out to CTDOT Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto
 - Reach out to CT Tourism Director Rachel Lenda
 - theme/name Growth of Winsted/Winchester or similar
- What's happening in Town ?
 - Cumberland Farms - no activity
 - Donut Station
 - Not ready to jump in yet; but still considering it
 - Wallens Hill Property RFP/RFQ's under review
 - Highland Lake Apartments at former nursing home property adding a few more parking spaces. Can't wait to get the project going once weather permits
 - 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
 - Possible housing
 - Mad River Detailing ok with granting access
- 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 put out word for Restaurant Week on their handout
 - On Board CT (Live at Home) to supply charcuterie plate(s); Winsted Wines & Spirits to provide beverages
 - LRB, Legitimus and Norbrook Breweries will be there
 - Sue Grossman Trail
 - \$630,000 in next year's town budget for sewer extension south on Route 800. Could positively affect trail development.
- Business Visitations
 - Manufacturers
 - Howmet postponed due to weather.
 - Sterling - Gary needs dates
 - Dewey in contact with SKF - stay tuned
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies
 - Mad River Detailing on Saturday, January 31, 2026 went well
 - Good crowd
 - Amazing renovation of the space
 - They have a gathering space upstairs - max occupancy 14 (for now)
 - Regular hours were to begin Monday, February 2, 2025

■ Check out their Website

- Social Media Spotlights
 - Winchester Hardware rescheduled for this week
 - Axe Works, Tyler FX, Park Place Hardware, McGranes, Northwest Corner Farm in the works

7. Communications

- Website - 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 it's 140th anniversary.
- Ignite Grant information on EDC Facebook page
- CT Paid Leave information posted on EDC page
- Tom sent a letter from the EDC to support a part time Planning Department Hire.
- Jess to attend tourism conference Friday, February 27th at Mohegan Sun that runs 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM

8. Old Business

- BAR Grant - need to see where this now stands
- Safe Streets for All
 - To be continued as work is being done - await next meeting date
- Real Estate Committee
 - Kevin of Winsted Wines & Spirits looking for income property in town
- 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
 - Restaurant Menus are due a week from Friday, 2/13/26
 - At the kickoff event vote for your favorite appetizers and cocktail/mocktail
 - Down slightly in restaurant sign ups from last year - no word yet from McGrane's, Padres, Gilson, Shah's or Papas Market
 - Jess to contact Michael about promoting on Facebook - have him do it - just get an invoice from him for the cost
- Promotional Video
 - Alan meeting with Albert on Wednesday
 - Need to edit previewed clips to say logo in proper order
 - LinkedIn is one possible venue to put it out on
 - Thinking of others as well

9. Adjournment - 7:16 pm motion by Gary Giordano, second Carrie Stetson. Voted 7-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,
Jamie Coligan

