

Town of Winchester - City of Winsted
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 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 6:00 pm by Dewees Yeager. At the meeting were Dewees Yeager, Gary Giordano, Alan Colavecchio, Dennis Dressel, Carrie Stetson, Jess Tessman, Jamie Coligan, Stephen Plumlee, Eric Richard and guests Albert Petrunti, Geoff Green, Director of Land Use & Development and Town Manager Paul Harrington stopped by as well.. Absent/excused was Thomas Carter. Voting rights given to Stephen Plumlee.
2. Agenda Review - Motion to approve with changes to Meeting Minutes date and addition of Treasurer's Report by Alan Colavecchio, seconded by Jess Tessman . Vote unanimous at 7-0-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings:
 - Motion to approve the minutes of February 17, 2026, by Gary Giorndao, seconded by Carrie Stetson. Voted 6-0-1 with Jess Tessman abstaining.
4. Public Comment
 - None
5. Treasurer's Report
 - Balance is \$7,552.82 after payment of \$400 for Restaurant Week expenditures.
 - Departments were asked to cut their budgets by 3% including the EDC
6. New Business
 - Albert Petrunti came to give his thoughts/plans to help promote the town via the town's LinkedIn page
 - Target business communities
 - Backposting of videos and reference EDC FaceBook posts
 - Edit FaceBook posts to fit LinkedIn community
 - Get EDC members involved to promote on own pages
 - Will deploy content regularly and also do business network TV campaign
 - Set meeting with Town Manager to set schedule and begin posting

- Think of initiatives for April/May 2026 function
 - Paul Harrington reached out to CTDOT Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto and is waiting for response
 - Let's reach out to Sean Scanlon, State Comptroller and CT Tourism Director Rachel Lenda.
 - Have Paul Harrington do a "State of the Town" presentation
- What's happening in Town?
 - Geoff gave updates on possible building/business growth in town
 - Wallens Hill Property RFP/RFQ's 3 are in next phase for Fiscal, school and town assessments - possibly 100 homes
 - 508-516 Main Street properties closed on March 5, 2026
 - Permits are being applied for, demolition will commence soon.
 - Working with DPW for sidewalk barriers for construction
 - Possible interest in 176 Torrington Road property
 - Interest in 10 Bridge Street
 - Ground level retail and parking
 - Upper level apartments
- Liaison Updates
 - PZC/Town Development
 - No new updates
 - FOMS
 - No new updates
 - Sue Grossman Trail
 - No new updates
- Business Visitations
 - Ash Family is starting a new enterprise, Asherica, with warehouse space at Rowley and is outgrowing their current HVAC space
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies
 - None scheduled but add Laurel City Gardens & Gifts to the list
- Social Media Spotlights
 - Set up Winchester Hardware in April

7. Communications

- Chamber of Commerce Celebration of Business is Thursday, March 26th at Crystal Peak from 5 PM - 8 PM; RSVP by Monday, March 23rd - info at nwctchamberofcommerce.org
- 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 and Town website

7. Old Business

- Restaurant Week
 - Sip & Savor was a big hit - had over 100 attendees
 - Michael sending out surveys to restaurant participants for feedback
 - Michael to be at the next EDC meeting on Tuesday, April 7, 2026

8. Adjournment - 7:49 pm motion by Gary Girodano, second Carrie Stetson. Voted 7-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,
Jamie Coligan