

Town of Winchester - City of Winsted
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, April 7, 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, Dennis Dressel, Jess Tessman, Jamie Coligan, Eric Richard and Stephen Plumlee. Absent/excused was Carrie Stetson. Voting rights given to Eric Richard.
2. Agenda Review - Motion to approve by Dewees Yeager, seconded by Alan Colavecchio/Gary Giordano . Vote 7-0-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings:
 - Motion to approve the minutes of March 17, 2026, by Alan Colavecchio, seconded by Dennis Dressel. Voted 6-0-1 with Tom Carter abstaining.
4. Public Comment
 - None
5. Treasurer's Report
 - Balance is \$7,552.82.
6. New Business
 - Job Fair 2026
 - Reach out to business community to see if it makes sense to do again this year
 - Possible September date - check with college to see if available
 - Think of initiatives for April/May 2026 function - lets hold off until fall
 - CTDOT Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto not available
 - Paul Harrington working on budget so not available
 - Let's reach out to Sean Scanlon, State Comptroller and CT Tourism Director Rachel Lenda.
 - What's happening in Town?
 - East Lake Street Nursing Home conversion making progress

- 508 Main Street needs Eversource to move the power lines then can begin their project
- Wallens Hill project finalizing review of proposals
- No action at former Cumberland Farms building
- Parker Benjamin has new contact and EDC has reached out for updates
- Facebook had map from SS4A survey circulating
- Liaison Updates
 - Safe Streets 4 All (SS4A) has a survey up on the town website. Please follow the link and complete the survey - map shows trouble spots - add narrative if you have had issues - if problem area already noted please add to those comments
 - PZC/Town Development
 - Wallens Hill decision to come soon
 - Five town owned properties are up for sale
 - Habitat for Humanity is looking for a place to build in town
 - 115 Old Robertsville Rd property purchased by Winchester Land Trust
 - Water Quality no update
 - FOMS
 - No new updates
 - Sue Grossman Trail
 - Sue Grossman Trail project moving along, Cardinal Engineering chosen, should be shovel ready by September
- Business Visitations
 - Sterling Sintered visit went well with large group of attendees
 - Sprawling space, family business, sintered metals processing/forming
 - Andy's Attic
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies
 - None scheduled but add Laurel City Gardens & Gifts and Skippers to list
- Social Media Spotlights
 - Revisiting list and will update soon

7. Communications

- Master sheet - work in progress
- CTRides Sara Roy mentioned an effort to drive less in Connecticut challenge - will be posted to web pages
- Northwest Hills Salvation Army lunch May 13, 2026 at Crystal Peak to promote its 140th anniversary.

7. Old Business

- Restaurant Week
 - Sip & Savor was a big hit - had over 100 attendees
 - Michael mentioned only 3 participating restaurant surveys had been received, met with and delivered prize packs to winners, hopes to attend 4/21/26 meeting

- Bar Grant
 - Eight applicants received, down to five interviewed and chose Haley Ward
- Real Estate
 - Identified 28 town-owned properties with potential to sell, mostly for housing.
 - Very busy with tracking town properties to fit needs of business inquires
- Motion made by Dennis Dressel to approve expenditure for Awecast marketing campaign to promote video/LinkedIn as presented. Second Dewees Yeager. Vote 7-0-0

8. Adjournment - 7:28 pm motion by Gary Girodano, second Dennis Dressel. Voted 7-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,
Jamie Coligan