

Town of Winchester - City of Winsted
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, April 21, 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
Geoff Green,

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, Carrie Stetson, Jess Tessman, Jamie Coligan, and guest Veronica Zecchin. Absent/excused Stephen Plumlee and Eric Richard.
2. Agenda Review - Motion to approve by Dewees Yeager with amendment to show Fall 2026 function in lieu of Spring 2026 function, seconded by Gary Giordano. Vote 7-0-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings:
 - Motion to approve the minutes of April 21, 2026, by Carrie Stetson, seconded by Alan Colavecchio. Voted 6-0-1. Carrie abstained
4. Public Comment
 - None
5. New Business
 - Officer Nominations
 - Thomas Carter - Chairman Nominated by Gary, seconded by Dewey
 - Dewees Yeager - Vice Chairman by Dennis, seconded by Tom
 - Gary Giordano - Treasurer by Dennis, seconded by Jess
 - Jamie Coligan - Secretary by Carrie, seconded by Jess
 - Vote at next meeting, May 5, 2026
 - Job Fair 2026
 - Connect with sponsors first
 - Reach out to business community to see if it makes sense to do again this year
 - Target date is September 24, 2026 - check with college to see if available
 - Timeline at next meeting
 - See about payment with Square - Carrie to reach out to Terry Hall

- Think of initiatives for Fall (October) 2026 function
 - More to follow as we get closer
- What's happening in Town?
 - East Lake Street Nursing Home conversion continues to make progress
 - One wing completed and hope to open soon for tours prior to renting
 - 508 Main Street still waiting on Eversource
 - Wallens Hill project - three options to be reviewed now budget process complete
 - Cumberland Farms building status quo
 - Parker Benjamin has new contact and EDC has reached out for updates
 - Possible affordable housing on property behind Mad River Detailing
 - Mad River Detailing - reach out to see when open
 - 10 Bridge Street included in BAR grant - haven't heard back from potential investor
 - 95 Main Street tour of building - Chestnut beams are beautiful - remediation has been done
- Liaison Updates
 - Safe Streets 4 All (SS4A) reminder to go on line and complete the survey. Please follow the link - map shows trouble spots - add narrative if you have had issues - if problem area already noted please add to those comments. If already completed, add any other issues you have had since initial entries
 - PZC/Town Development
 - Meeting postponed
 - FOMS
 - Is looking for a secretary
 - Riparian Protection Regulation Group
 - meeting postponed
 - Sue Grossman Trail
 - Sue Grossman Trail may have meeting Thursday
- Business Visitations
 - Tour of Edge Tool Works building 11:30 tomorrow (4/22) - set up Spotlight
 - Still trying to meet with Howmet
 - Antique store's facade fell - no one was hurt
 - Brewery hosted Tip-A-Cop event
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies - none scheduled
 - Check with Skippers and Laurel City Gardens & Gifts
 - Jessica's relocation - Tom to check back
 - Reach out to Park Place Hardware
- Water Quality - postponed until 3rd week in May
- Possible change to when EDC Meets
 - Suggested 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month in the Hicks Room
 - Time remains at 6:00 PM
 - Check the by-laws
- Social Media Spotlights
 - Winchester Hardware - maybe just stop in

- Tom has a list

6. Communications

- NWCT Main Street Promise - hold until next meeting
 - First meeting is May 27, 2026 at 10 AM approximately 2 hours
- Northwest Hills Salvation Army lunch May 13, 2026 at Crystal Peak to promote its 140th anniversary.

7. Old Business

- Restaurant Week
 - Michael unable to attend; waiting for info and hopes to come to next meeting
 - Michael mentioned only 4 participating restaurant surveys had been completed
 - Sip and Savor participating restaurants seemed to like it but was a lot of work
- Bar Grant
 - Kickoff meeting with consultants
 - Discuss how to incorporate public comment
 - What can be done - financial, environmental, feasible
 - Tech advisory committee
- Real Estate
 - Identified 28 town-owned properties with potential to sell, mostly for housing.
 - Discuss at next PZC meeting Wednesday 4/22/26
 - Very busy with tracking town properties to fit needs of business inquires
 - Batcheller School project modification - additional units conditional approval, updated site plan

8. Adjournment - 7:39 pm motion by Dewees Yeager, seconded by Carrie Stetson . Vote 7-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,
Jamie Coligan