

Town of Winchester - City of Winsted  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, May 5, 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, Director of Land Use  
and Development

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, Stephen Plumlee, Geoff Green and guest Veronica Zecchin. Carrie Stetson absent/excused. Eric Richard given voting rights for this meeting.
2. Agenda Review - Motion to approve by Dewees Yeager second by Gary Giordano. Vote 7-0-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings:
  - Motion to approve the minutes of April 21, 2026, by Dennis Dressel , second by Alan Colavecchio. Voted 7-0-0
4. Public Comment
  - None
5. Treasurer's Report
  - Balance is \$502.82. Awecast invoices paid.
6. New Business
  - Restaurant Week Recap
    - Only 5 surveys completed
    - Michael to visit those businesses that have not completed it for feedback
    - Hopes to attend next meeting on May 19th with results
  - Officer Nominations - ALL Unanimously Approved
    - Thomas Carter - Chairman
    - Dewees Yeager - Vice Chairman
    - Gary Giordano - Treasurer
    - Jamie Coligan - Secretary
  - Job Fair 2026
    - Connect with sponsors first, check with AMP, Chamber, COG?

- Zoom call in the next week or two
- 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
- Tom did research for payment methods
  - Square no subscription fee, provide tap only device for free, charge \$60 for magnetic swipe/chip reader. Transaction fee percentage based
- Think of initiatives for Fall (October) 2026 function
  - More to follow as we get closer
- What's happening in Town?
  - Skippers had family opening and soft opening - will open May 16
  - Laurel City Gardens will open soon (next to Skippers)
  - 508 Main Street still waiting - Town Manager to reach out to Eversource
  - Wallens Hill project - three options to be reviewed once budget process complete
  - Cumberland Farms being worked on for NYC Deli & Market
  - Parker Benjamin has new contact and EDC has reached out for updates
  - Possible affordable housing on property behind Mad River Detailing
  - Barbarino west river cleanup looks good - will market it
  - 10 Bridge Street included in BAR grant - nothing new to report
  - IGA space continuing with retrofit to make space more marketable
  - Development "fishing" letter resulted in Datin Holdings responding via phone.
  - PZC Public Hearing continued regarding 32 Norfolk Road - potential new home of The Forsaken Lands Haunted attraction
  - Mobile Home park has new plantings, fence and will add three new mobile homes
  - Batcheller School property new site plans submitted and will be reviewed - no start date yet
- 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
    - Potential properties for sale at approximately 20
  - FOMS
    - No updates
  - Riparian Protection Regulation Group
    - meeting postponed
  - Sue Grossman Trail
    - Still on track for "shovel" ready September 2026
    - CT DOT to review plans - Hope to start 2027
- Business Visitations
  - Tom - Jessica's Barbershop - interested in marking 1st anniversary in July
  - Gary - stopped by Mad River Detailing - they were busy

- Manufacturers visits - Dewey put together summary of those visited to date
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies - none scheduled
  - Skippers and Laurel City Gardens & Gifts will be soon
  - Reach out to Park Place Hardware
- Water Quality - no update
- Possible change to when EDC Meets
  - Suggested 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month in the Hicks Room
  - Time remains at 6:00 PM
  - By-laws allow for the change
  - Revisit near end of year as peoples schedules are set with current dates
- Social Media Spotlights
  - Winchester Hardware - maybe just stop in
  - Jess to reach out to Jena Brescia at Parker Benjamin for Edge Works properties promotion

#### 7. Communications

- Public Hearing on Budget set for Monday, May 11, 2026 at 7:00 PM at The Gilbert School Auditorium
- NWCT Main Street Promise
  - 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.

#### 8. Old Business

- Promotional Video Training Session
  - Disappointing turnout
  - Very informative
- Bar Grant - no further updates
  - Kickoff meeting with consultants
    - Discuss how to incorporate public comment
    - What can be done - financial, environmental, feasible
    - Tech advisory committee
- Real Estate
  - Review list of 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
  - Santoro's Cleaners going on the market - Winsted only
  - Axe Works is closed so that space is available

9. Adjournment - 7:02 pm motion by Gary Girodano, second by Dewees Yeager . Vote 7-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jamie Coligan