

Town of Winchester - City of Winsted
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, May 19, 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, Gary Giordano, Alan Colavecchio, Dennis Dressel, Carrie Stetson, Jess Tessman, Jamie Coligan, Eric Richard, Stephen Plumlee, Geoff Green and guest Anita Garnett. Deweese Yeager absent/excused. Jamie Coligan given voting rights for this meeting.
2. Agenda Review - Motion to approve by Gary Giordano, second Dennis Dressel. Vote 7-0-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings:
 - Motion to approve the minutes May 5, 2026 by Alan Colavecchio, second by Carrie Stetson . Voted 6-0-1. Carrie Stetson abstained as not at that meeting.
4. Public Comment
 - Anita Garnett wondered if there was a building ordinance or some other form on tracking progress on projects in town as some seem stalled for long periods of time. Discussion was had and consensus was no there really isn't a formal course that can be taken.
5. New Business
 - Restaurant Week Recap
 - No updates as no new survey responses received
 - Michael still hopes to visit those businesses that have not completed it
 - Win/Win magnetic stickers - let's order some more. Dennis will see how many we can get for \$400.
 - Job Fair 2026 - will be the 5th annual.
 - Connect with sponsors first, check with AMP, Chamber, COG?
 - Zoom call was held May 19th at 11 AM
 - Two new members to committee - Mimi Madden (AMP) and Jamie Coligan
 - Timelines discussed and next zoom meeting will be mid-June
 - Target date is September 24, 2026
 - Tom did research for payment methods - work in progress

- Think of initiatives for Fall (October) 2026 function
- What's happening in Town?
 - Laurel City Gardens will open soon (next to Skippers)
 - 508 Main Street still waiting on Eversource
 - Wallens Hill project - on hold until budget process complete
 - Cumberland Farms work continues as permits come in 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 property not cleaned up yet - work is stalled
 - Mobile Home Park 2 of 3 new unit pads poured, working on lot line adjustment
 - 10 Bridge Street - siding on back of building on hold for permit
 - IGA fit out continues
 - Development "fishing" letter resulted in Datin Holdings responding via phone.
 - 32 Norfolk Road - potential new home of The Forsaken Lands Haunted attraction continued for more work on site plan - concerned neighbors
 - LaPointe (Winchester Self Storage) - filing for zoning change
 - Highland Lake Apartments making progress - Geoff to check on how it's going
 - Batcheller School and 95 Main Street - no updates
 - Santoro's Cleaners is on the market
 - Hitchcock Refinishing going into 180 Holabird Ave - potential store front also
 - 257-259 Tarringford St - Town won litigation case - owner selling property
 - Agrotourism - maybe town could update farming regulations to include this too as other towns are doing (Seymour)
- Liaison Updates
 - Safe Streets 4 All (SS4A) - next meeting is June 9, 2026
 - Reminder to go on line and complete the survey as it closes end of May.
 - More responses hopefully means more grant money for the town
 - PZC/Town Development
 - Meeting next week so will have an update for EDC June meeting
 - FOMS
 - No updates
 - St Anthony School to reopen for 2027 School Year
 - Water Quality/Riparian Protection Regulation Group
 - Looking for erosion/sediment control engineer
 - Sue Grossman Trail
 - Still on track for "shovel ready" September 2026
 - CT DOT to review plans - Hope to start 2027
- Business Visitations
 - Dewey and Alan to meet with Antique Stores
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies - none scheduled
 - Skippers on May 15th at 4:30 - They were very busy, so brief ceremony.
 - Jessica's Barbershop in July
 - Reach out to Park Place Hardware

- Spotlights
 - Carrie and Jess to meet with Winchester Hardware Tuesday at 10 AM
 - Jess to reach out to Jena Brescia at Parker Benjamin for Edge Works properties promotion.
- Possible change to when EDC Meets hold until end of year for discussion for 2027
 - 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 people's schedules are set with current dates

6. Communications

- NHCOG/NWCT Chamber Economic Development Summit
 - May 28, 2026 from 5-7 PM at Five Points Art Center, Torrington
- NWCT Main Street Promise
 - Second meeting is May 27, 2026 at 10 AM at Town Hall
- NWCT Chamber of Commerce Legislative Panel Friday, May 29, 2026
 - 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM CT State Northwestern Art & Science Building
- Farmers Market at the Tort Museum June 13, 2026 9 AM - 2 PM

7. Old Business

- Bar Grant - no further updates
- Real Estate Committee
 - Recommend that Town sell the 50 acre +/- Barkhamsted Property

8. Adjournment - 6:51 pm motion by Gary Giordano, second by Dennis Dressel . Vote 7-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,
Jamie Coligan