

Town of Winchester - City of Winsted
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, July 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
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, Stephen Plumlee and Eric Richard. Voting rights given to Stephen Plumlee after Agenda Review motion made and seconded.
2. Agenda Review - Motion to approve by Dennis Dressel, second by Dewees Yeager. Vote 6-0-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings:
 - Motion to approve the minutes June 16, 2026 by Alan Colavecchio, second by Gary Giordano. Voted 7-0-0.
4. Public Comment
 - None
5. Treasurer's Report
 - Budget for Fiscal 2027 has been set at \$9,300
 - Invoice presented for table rental for September 2026 Job Fair
6. New Business
 - Need to fill vacant commissioner seat due to Carrie's passing
 - Usually ask Alternate who has been there the longest if they would like to become full time commissioner - Stephen Plumlee was asked and he accepted
 - Next step is to go for approval through town channels - ie Town Manager/BOS
 - Restaurant Week Recap
 - No updates.
 - Win/Win magnetic stickers - 100 ordered - Dennis has them.
 - Maybe bring some to the Smart Energy Living Presentation at Tort Museum on 7/8/26 - Also need an EDC speaker on electric vehicles- perhaps Tom?; other attendees may be Gary, Stephen, Dewey.....

- Job Fair 2026 - will be the 5th annual.
 - Zoom call held today - next is July 28th at 11:00 AM
 - 10 reservations so far
 - Still working on payment method
 - Alan working on flyer and just about ready
 - Albert unable to attend due to prior engagement
 - Catering - reach out to Nicole and Ben first, then others - think about who to ask
- Think of initiatives for Fall (October) 2026 function
 - State of the Town Address by Paul Harrington
 - Cultural District Commission perhaps can speak on their efforts
 - Tuesday in October at LRB
 - Reach out to NWCB
- What's happening in Town?
 - 508 Main Street power has finally been cut and have "donated" the building to the Fire Department for training then will tear down
 - Wallens Hill project - proposals in negotiation process with the town
 - Cumberland Farms new sign is up
 - Highland Lake Apartments work seems to have slowed down a bit but still going
 - Torrington bicycle shop employee still looking for space
 - 24-26 Center Street - looking for new lessee - may be Trinity Health for offices
 - Hitchcock Refinishing looking for new work space - Unit in Klebe new building on Rowley Street/Route 800 - awaiting Zoning approval; and perhaps display space in Andy's Attic
 - Alan attended Innovation Center Open House up at old hospital
 - Now all building will be coming down as more cost effective
 - Focus will be on affordable housing with Veterans as priority
 - Also 3D printing, Makers Space
- Liaison Updates
 - Safe Streets 4 All (SS4A) - public meeting June 25 at 5 pm in Hicks Room
 - Meeting not as well attended as thought it would be
 - Feedback positive for the most part - Main Street is biggest concern
 - Reminder still able to go online and add information
 - More responses hopefully means more grant money for the town
 - PZC/Town Development
 - Meeting has been cancelled.
 - FOMS - no updates
 - Sue Grossman Trail - no updates
 - Water Quality/Riparian Protection Regulation Group - No updates
- Business Visitations
 - 450 Main Street: people are working - antique shop to open in August - want ribbon cutting
 - Change name from Antique Row to AAW - Antique Association of Winsted
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies - none scheduled

- Laurel City Gardens & Gifts - reach out for new date
- Jessica's Barbershop in July
- Reach out to Park Place Hardware
- Reach out to New Deli in old Cumby space once open
- Knick Knack Knook (spelling) coming to Andy's Attic in August
- Spotlights
 - Video trends (AI Lyrics); tik tok; for town highlights?
 - Try and schedule Laurel City Gardens, Community Health & Wellness, Mad River Detailing - Gary has contact info
 - New Hartford Business Council - maybe collaboration things

7. Communications

- EDC Letter of Support for Wallens Hill Project read at BOS meeting last night
- Smart Energy Living
- NHE3 Grant Program

8. Old Business

- Bar Grant - no update - September/October
- Awecast Statistics of video broadcasting presented to BOS
 - Well received and happy with how many views received
 - Working on two additional spots - check in soon for progress
 - Ask for plan going forward through end of year
- Real Estate Committee
 - No updates

9. Adjournment - 7:27 pm motion by Jess Tessman, second by Dewees Yeager. Vote 7-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,
Jamie Coligan