

Town of Winchester - City of Winsted
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, August 4, 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
Stephen Plumlee, Commissioner

ALTERNATES

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, Stephen Plumlee and Jamie Coligan. Absent/excused was Jess Tessman. Absent was Eric Richard. Voting rights given to Jamie Coligan.
2. Agenda Review - Motion to approve by Gary Giordano, second by Dennis Dressel with the addition of the Awecast Proposal added to Old Business. Vote 7-0-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings:
 - Motion to approve the minutes of July 7, 2026 by Dewees Yeager, second by Stephen Plumlee. Voted 7-0-0. Meeting of July 21, 2026 canceled due to severe weather threat.
4. Public Comment
 - Frank Oliveri would like to put a plaque on the street sign at the corner of Main and High Streets in honor of Carrie Stetson and have it say Carrie's Way
5. Treasurer's Report
 - Balance is \$9,250 pending payment of \$420 PO for job fair table rental
6. New Business
 - Restaurant Week
 - Dewey and Michael Ferreira talked today and Michael will be out to visit a few of the restaurants that have not completed their feedback forms as he only received 5.
 - Kick-off was noted as a general success - some participants said it was a lot of work and their restaurants weren't that busy after the event - possibly people thought that was the event ?
 - Check with other towns to see how their kick-off was received and traffic in

- restaurants after
 - Need to make decision in the next couple of months if we do it again in 2027
- Job Fair 2026 - will be the 5th annual.
 - Alan got the flyer done - great team effort
 - 14-15 have signed up so far
 - Payment method set up via town's website (.gov) Shane to send report on Mondays
 - Jess hopes to get the flyer out to Companies this week
 - Catering - Noujaim's will do it
 - Next Zoom call is Tuesday, August 18, 2026 at 11:00 AM
- Fall 2026 Function is on Tuesday, October 13th from 5:00-6:30 PM
 - At Little Red Barn Brewers
 - Paul Harrington to give State of the Town address
 - See if CT Rides, LiveGreen CT, FOMS, Cultural Committee are interested
 - Alan reached out to NWCB and they are sponsoring with \$2500 contribution
- What's happening in Town?
 - 508 Main Street has applied for demolition permits and looking for contractor
 - Wallens Hill project - proposals still in negotiation process with the town
 - Noli's has a new owner - check out the great food and homemade desserts
 - Winchester Antiques going out of business
 - 24-26 Center Street - not big enough for Trinity Health for offices
- Liaison Updates
 - Safe Streets 4 All (SS4A) - nothing new except map is still open for entries
 - PZC/Town Development
 - July meeting was cancelled
 - FOMS - no updates
 - Sue Grossman Trail
 - Last two meetings canceled as waiting for Cardinal Engineering to determine DOT rights of way for Rhodes, Lippincott and Noad properties - if DOT won't need easements
 - NWCT Housing and Innovation Center (old hospital site)
 - Impressive website
 - Alan to check and see if they will give us a tour
- Business Visitations
 - Dewey - Antiques - A Step Back in Time has been there 17 years and interested in getting all antique dealers together in the fall
 - Dewey visited Noli's and Laurel City Gardens
 - Laurel City Gardens and Gifts owner asked who put up the Welcome to Town sign and did the flowers and why is the old sign still up
They would like to maintain the sign and have a lead on lighting
Also, they'd like to see the old sign removed. Dewey talked to Paul and the permit to remove the sign is in the works.

- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies
 - Laurel City Gardens & Gifts - Friday, August 21st at 4:00 pm
 - Noli's Restaurant - Saturday, August 22nd at 11:30 am
 - Gages Retro Rewind - Saturday, September 12th at 12:00 pm
 - Jessica's Barbershop - Tom will reach out
 - Reach out to Park Place Hardware
 - Reach out to New Deli in old Cumby space once open
 - Knick Knack Nook - some time in September
- Spotlights
 - Jess trying to do some things while in TN for work

6. Communications

- Barkhamsted EDC
 - Dennis will reach out to see about having a joint meeting
 - Start with open meeting for introductions and can we help each other
- Should we also reach out to other neighboring towns?
- NHCOC will be at next meeting to discuss Main Street Promise Program

7. Old Business

- BAR Grant
 - Zoom meeting held for downtown revitalization market and feasibility study for Commission/Committee members
 - Member Sub Groups meeting last night (8/3 at 6:00 pm) to discuss zoom findings and what the town would like to focus on
 - Member Wrap-up meeting to be held Thursday August 6th
- Real Estate Committee – no update
- Awecast Proposal for next six months of promotional video was presented
 - Motion to approve and submit PO for \$5,495 for payment made by Dennis Dressel, second by Gary Giordano. Vote unanimous 7-0-0

8. Adjournment - 7:29 pm motion by Gary Giordano, second by Dewey Yeager. Vote 7-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,
Jamie Coligan