

Town of Winchester - City of Winsted
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, September 1, 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 5:56 pm by Deweese Yeager. At the meeting were Deweese Yeager, Gary Giordano, Alan Colavecchio, Jamie Coligan, Eric Richard and guest Steve Longpre. Absent/excused were Thomas Carter, Stephen Plumlee, Dennis Dressel and Jess Tessman. Voting rights given to Jamie Coligan and Eric Richard.
2. Agenda Review - Motion to approve by Gary Giordano, second by Alan Colavecchio. Vote 5-0-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings:
 - Motion to approve the minutes of August 18, 2026 by Alan Colavecchio, second by Gary Giordano. Voted 4-0-1. Eric Richard abstained as not at the meeting.
4. Public Comment
 - NCHIC - Steve Longre made his presentation
 - Original plan was to rework existing building to house veterans medical care, housing units, entrepreneur space, and advanced training center
 - Showed a 3D printed model of what new building will look like and described the space configurations
 - More cost effective to take down the current building and build new - also able to unlock grant money to help defray costs
 - Housing will be open but still focus on veterans
 - Technology/Innovation center will have multi facets, work with local schools and colleges and businesses for training
5. Treasurer's Report
 - Beginning balance \$9,250 and we're advised that balance is now \$4,300. Gary to check as there was a PO for \$5,495 for Awecast and \$420 for Job Fair which would then make the balance \$3,335

6. New Business

- NHCOG / CT Main Streets Promise Program
 - Rista presented the Commission members with the Downtown Engagement & Interest Form at the last EDC meeting.
 - Asked for members to think of key businesses and individuals in town to have complete the forms to get their thoughts on how to enhance the town
 - Continue to next meeting and bring your list of names
 - Thoughts - Police, Fire, Realtors, former Town Board/Commission members
- Job Fair 2026 - will be the 5th annual.
 - Alan has the flyer ready to go, signs ordered today and set them out week before
 - Radio spots to start on September 19th
 - Go to .gov to sign up - Shane providing reports on Mondays
 - 18 have signed up so far
 - Tom and Gary working on floor plan
 - Jess to get Constant Contact going after labor day & do welcome packet
 - Catering - Noujaim's will do it - remind him
 - Next Zoom call is Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 11:00 AM
 - Reach out to those who responded "reserve me a table" but need to pay
 - Separate room for eating set up in the student lounge
 - Gary will work on parking signs again this year
 - AMP not participating in actual Job Fair, but will be promoting the event
- Fall 2026 Function is on Tuesday, October 13th from 5:00-6:30 PM
 - At Little Red Barn Brewers
 - Get a flyer together for distribution
 - Paul Harrington to give State of the Town address
 - See if CT Rides, LiveGreen CT, FOMS, Cultural Committee, Awecast, SBA, Score, Eversource are interested
 - Northwest Community Bank will work check in table
- 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
 - Chambers 125th anniversary
 - Tyler Johnson (bike shop) still considering opening a small space in town
 - Fall Foliage Festival - do we want a table again or just help FOMS set up
 - Citgo gas station/gasman - looking to have car sales in back
 - Parts Authority is gone - Gary to check with building owner on space status
- Liaison Updates
 - Safe Streets 4 All (SS4A) - nothing new except map is still open for entries
 - PZC/Town Development
 - Short term rentals being discussed - possible regulations in the works as Connecticut leaves it up to each town on how to handle (airbnb, etc)
 - A/V Davey video services company looking for a large tract of land

around 20-30 acres

- FOMS - no updates
- Sue Grossman Trail
 - Waiting for Cardinal Engineering to determine DOT rights of way for Rhodes, Lippincott and Noad properties - if DOT won't need easements
- Business Visitations
 - none
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies
 - Laurel City Gardens & Gifts - well attended, including Jay Case
 - Noli's Restaurant - excellent lunch provided, small but enthusiastic attendance
 - **Gages Retro Rewind - Saturday, September 12th at 11:00 am**
 - Jessica's Barbershop - Tom will reach out
 - Reach out to Park Place Hardware
 - Yequob Ahif at Deli Mini Mart in old Cumby space will reach out once close to opening
 - Knick Knack Nook - some time in September
- Spotlights
 - Awecast to begin promos again

7. Communications

- Tom Heuschel mentioned that the Town was seeking a Brownfield grant for the remediation of 3 Meadow Street and a letter of support would be helpful.

7. Old Business

- Barkhamsted EDC
 - Barkhamsted to discuss at their next meeting and reach out to Dennis afterwards
- BAR Grant
 - Reach out to Rista for an updates
- Real Estate Committee
 - Geoff Green was contacted by A/V Davey - see Liaison Updates

8. Adjournment - 7:38 pm motion by Gary Giordano, second by Eric Richard. Vote 5-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,
Jamie Coligan