

Town of Winchester - City of Winsted
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, September 15, 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, Jess Tessman, and Jamie Coligan. Geoff Green was also in attendance. Absent/excused were Dennis Dressel, Stephen Plumlee, and Eric Richard. Voting rights given to Jamie Coligan.
2. Agenda Review - Motion to approve by Alan Colavecchio, second by Dewey Yeager. 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 5-0-1. Jess Tessman abstained.
4. Public Comment
 - None
5. New Business
 - NHCOG / CT Main Streets Promise Program
 - Brainstorming on who we think would be good to complete forms.
 - Possibly Nils at LRB, someone from the library, Realtors Annie Simard and David Satirana, Rooted Market, Winchester Hardware owners, Noli's operator, George Noujaim, FOMS, AMP, HHC, Pam Dean, Eric Richard, Candy Perez, Ivan, Whiting Mills, Marios, Richards Jewelers, Park Place Hardware-Nick, Winsted/Winchester Police and Fire, Impetus, etc
 - Continue to next meeting and bring your list of names
 - Job Fair 2026 - will be the 5th annual.
 - 22 have signed up and paid; 3-4 more in process
 - Radio spots to start on September 19th
 - Go to .gov to sign up - Shane providing reports on Mondays

- Tom and Gary working on circulation friendly floor plan
- Jess getting welcome packets together for businesses
- Dewey getting water
- Catering - Noujaim's will do it - remind him
- Zoom Call ironed out some last minute items
- 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
- Seek out volunteers from the college as super helpful last year
- 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
 - Constant Contact for invites
 - Northwest Community Bank will work check in table
- What's happening in Town?
 - 508 Main Street - still no demolition permit application
 - Wallens Hill project - project selection discussed in BOS Executive Session on 9/14/26
 - Chamber of Commerce's 125th anniversary
 - Tyler Johnson (bike shop) still considering opening a small space in town
 - Fall Foliage Festival - will help set up where needed
 - Citgo gas station/gasman - looking to have car sales in back
 - Parts Authority - Gary checked and owner mentioned Thrift Shop and Adult Care may want to expand.
 - Cappy's Cleaners sold and still a dry cleaning operation, no tailoring
 - Air bnb's still in discussion if regulations needed and what they would be
 - Former day care building across from LRB is under contract
 - 3 Meadow Street town owned property grant application in on time, capping and paving brownfield site; area to include Eversource gas regulator station
 - 32 Lake Street - new agent supports parking lot across the street, meeting with Paul and Geoff, ideas for space - public/private partnerships
 - Former Gilson space - ambitious plans October/November - a small soccer area in main theater; 2nd floor theater; Padre's space for coffee/crepes; possible gathering space as well
 - Ledgebrook - gave them a lead - Lola's Bagels Torrington looking for bigger location (in from Danbury)
 - Acreage in Barkhamsted to be listed for sale, 50 acres, Winsted/Winchester records in order
- Liaison Updates
 - Safe Streets 4 All (SS4A) - presentation set for October 3, 2026 at Town Hall at 2:00 PM in the Hicks Room - see Town website for details

- PZC/Town Development
 - Meeting this week
- FOMS - need volunteers to help set up for Fall Foliage Festival
 - Vendors to spaces, set up, clean up, car show
- Water Quality - getting back on track
- Sue Grossman Trail
 - Status quo - pieces falling in place, meeting coming up, State Rep back on it and Cardinal Engineering Review
- Business Visitations
 - none
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies
 - Gages Retro Rewind - really busy and she is interested in getting together with the other antique dealers to work on coordinating hours of operation
 - Jessica's Barbershop - no update
 - 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 - September 23rd @ 1:00 pm
- Spotlights
 - Jess to get back on them

6. Communications

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

7. Old Business

- Barkhamsted EDC
 - Will be present at our next meeting
- BAR Grant
 - Reach out to Rista for any updates
- Real Estate Committee
 - See What's happening in town for details

8. Adjournment - 7:44 pm motion by Dewey Yeager, second by Gary Giordano. Vote 6-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,
Jamie Coligan