

Town of Winchester - City of Winsted
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 20, 2026 6:00 PM
Lee Ann LaClair Room (Blue Room)

COMMISSION

Thomas Carter, Chairman
Deweese Yeager, Vice Chairman
Gary Giordano, Treasurer
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

Prior to the start of the meeting a moment of silence was held for Commissioner Dennis Dressel who passed away earlier this month.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call - Called to order at 6:00 pm by Thomas Carter. At the meeting were Thomas Carter, Deweese Yeager, Alan Colavecchio, Stephen Plumlee, Eric Richard, Jamie Coligan and guest Lazar Ivanov. Absent/excused were Gary Giordano, Jess Tessman and Geoff Green. Voting rights given to Eric Richard and Jamie Coligan.
2. Agenda Review - Motion to approve by Alan Colavecchio, second by Deweese Yeager. Vote 6-0-0.
3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings:
 - Motion to approve the minutes of October 6, 2026 by Alan Colavecchio, second by Eric Richard. Voted 6-0-0.
4. Public Comment
 - Lazar was inquiring about tips to help him recruit workers for his businesses.
 - Was at the job fair and had some potential candidates.
 - Has flyers that he posts but isn't getting much activity
 - Has incentives as well
 - Reached out to Chamber of Commerce
 - Was suggested that he reach out through Indeed, LinkedIn and other job sites
5. New Business
 - New Commissioner
 - Eric Richard, Alternate with next longest term was asked if he would consider being commissioner. He inquired if there was another alternate who could fill the position as he did not feel comfortable in the position when his business takes him away from meetings during the busy spring/summer season at the lake.
 - Jamie Coligan, Alternate and Secretary was asked and accepted.

- What's happening in Town?
 - 55 Walnut Street - Former Maloney Funeral Home
 - Possible hotel would need zoning change
 - 108 East Lake Street - former nursing home
 - Weathertight but no windows
 - Progress is slow
 - Forsaken Lands - moving ahead despite Lawsuit by neighbor
 - 16 Brook Street - town to sell (vacant land)
 - 58 Main Street former Zen Den space - Tyler Johnson to open bike shop June 2027 if not sooner for Spring 2027 bike season
 - Wallens Hill Project - no updates
 - 508 Main Street - demo permit pulled - no word from CT DOT
 - 115 Main St - Deli and Mini Mart hood inspection complete and dumpster enclosure in the works (former Cumberland Farms)
 - Citgo, AB Davey, 1 Lake Street, 3 Meadow Street, 19 Hill Street, China Delight, Lola's Bagels - no updates
 - 354 Main Street (former Gilson Theater) - demolition complete and laying the sports floor - making good progress
 - Ledgebrook - Lola's Bagels Torrington looking for bigger space - no updates
 - 12 Swanson Road - Acreage in Barkhamsted to be listed for sale
 - 95 Main Street - additional information sent to possible interested party
- Liaison Updates
 - Safe Streets 4 All (SS4A)
 - Members and interested residents participated in a workshop to discuss redesign of Main Street - list of Needs and Wants was created
 - PZC/Town Development
 - Properties covered in What's Happening in Town
 - Rural Gateway Zoning Regulations review
 - Cultural District Commission
 - Lara Green-Kazlauskas resigned as Chair Person
 - FOMS - no update
 - Water Quality - no updates
 - Sue Grossman Trail
 - Cardinal Engineering survey and plan still in progress
- Business Visitations
 - None
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies
 - Kawa & Co - Saturday, November 14, 2026 at 1:00 PM; 58 Main St
 - Jessica's Barbershop, and Park Place Hardware - Tom will check with them
 - Yequob Ahif at Deli Mini Mart in old Cumby space - Dewey will reach out
 - K's Crazy Deals and Steals - toys, electronics, overstock liquidation items located at 450 Main Street opening soon - Jess will reach out
- Spotlights - tabled until next meeting

6. Communications

- NRWIB (Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board)
 - Grant opened June 2026 and runs through December 2028
 - Add to next agenda for discussion
 - Dewey will send information and link to EDC members

7. Old Business

- Air BnB
 - Tom will look into how this topic is handled in other towns
- NHCOC/CT Main Streets Promise Program Targets for survey
 - Tom will get the list over to Rista
- Fall 2026 Function Recap
 - Went well - Alan did a great job as MC
 - Need to figure out name tags
 - Some who signed up did not attend
 - Go back to having it in the Spring for more attendees
 - Nils suggested renaming the award that is presented at the function
- BAR Grant - no updates
- Real Estate Committee - Tom updated the spreadsheet
- Restaurant Week
 - Table discussion for next meeting - is it worth it ?

8. Adjournment - 7:19 pm motion by Stephen Plumlee, second by Dewees Yeager. Vote 6-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,
Jamie Coligan