

Town of Winchester
Cultural District Commission

June 25, 2026, 7:00pm

Initial meeting notes.

Kevin Bishop. Welcome. Call meeting to order.

Committee members in attendance:

Debra Jablonksi, Lara Green-Kazlauskas, Steve Larson, Annie Trepanier, John Noone

guests introduced.

Alla Kravchenko (did earlier work towards Cultural District)

Melissa Bird (American Museum of Tort Law).

Jamie Coligan. Economic Development Committee liason.

Stacy Whitman. Curious Cat bookstore owner. Lives in Torrington.

Kevin (observer).

intros

Debra, real estate background. Wants to help get cultural organizations together and collaborate. Community development.

John Noone. About 15 years in town. Owns various properties including some potential performing arts spaces (dance hall, and a theater/music venue). Wants to bring more performing arts to Winsted.

Kevin Bishop. Selectman. Musician. Music business. Non-profit board member (Cuatro Puntos).

Lara. CT department of development. Photographer. Antique dealer in New Hartford. Secretary for CT board of directors for Economic Development, Office of Tourism.

Steve. Musician, teacher. Avery Ensemble (non-profit based in Winsted).

Annie. Musician, teacher. Avery Ensemble (non-profit based in Winsted).

Debra nominated Lara as Chair. Annie seconded.

Passed unanimously.

Debra nominated Steve as Secretary. Annie seconded.

Passed unanimously.

Kevin Bishop. Presentation about what a Cultural District Commission is and requires.

See pdf.

Map will be added to shared folder later.

Research should be done to know where the officially designated historical districts in town are located.

We need to create a catalog/inventory (see examples from New London).

Monuments, parades, museum, historic buildings, creative businesses, historic churches & traditions, cultural events at different religious etc. etc.

There was a public input meeting back in 2023 as part of passing the ordinance.

Annie volunteered to spearhead creating inventory.

Contact Virginia Shultz-Charette.

Town clerks office. Main street listings.

Beardsley library. Friends of Main Street.

CT state requires our board to meet certain requirements. We still need a local cultural council member – Northwest CT Arts Council. John will reach out to them.

Melissa Bird will help find a museum organization. John will ask whether we need a specific person, or whether one organization can send different people depending on who is available for meetings.

Tort museum or AMP. Jan Roy at Historical Society?

Beardsley Library. Kevin will let us know if they are owned by Winchester or are a separate non-profit (they get funding from Winchester and 2 other towns).

Candace Bouchard would be one of the main contacts for Friends of Main Street (funded primarily through the town; and fundraiser Bubbles and Truffles). Lara will contact Fran Delaney.

The committee's most important next step is to create the application. See pdf. eventually:

Website. Town website, events. Facebook.

NW CT Arts Council. Post and event. State hub. Single login to send info out to various channels state-wide.

Kevin reiterated that we need to first focus on completing the state application.

Kevin will help revise text for the Committee webpage on the town website.

Steve motioned to set meetings on 4th Thur of every month at 6pm (July will be cancelled).

Debra seconded. Passed unanimously.

Minutes of past meetings need to be submitted to committee members before next meeting.

Lara and Steve will work on agenda for next meeting.

Steve will set up a Google Drive folder to help with collaboration.

Steve motioned to adjourn. Debra seconded. Passed.