

Winchester Cultural District Commission meeting minutes, Aug.27, 2026

Committee members in attendance:

Lara Green-Kazlauskas, Chair
Steve Larson, Secretary
Debra Jablonski
John Noone
Annie Trépanier
Stacy Whitman

Not present: Theresa Cannavo (last minute emergency)

BoS Liaison: Kevin Bishop (non-voting)

Mimi Madden (AMP Collaborations Director), who is in the process of being added a committee member, was also present but did not vote on resolutions.

Guests:

Jennifer Chrein (AMP, Executive Director)
Virginia Shultz-Charette (historian & author, Soldiers Monument Commission & History Commission)
Janice Roy (Winsted Historical Society. Long time resident.)
Stacy Whitman (Curious Cat bookshop owner)
Fran Delaney (West State Mechanical in Torrington. President of Friends of Main Street in Winsted)
Lynn Skokan (Historical Society)

Unfortunately Steph Burr from NWCT Arts Council was not present.

Call to order.

Introductions.

Annie motioned to approve the June meeting minutes. John seconded.
Vote 5-0-1. Passed.

Lara talked about the Advisory Board and has asked the following guests to join the Advisory Board.

Lynn Skokan
Virginia Shultz-Charette
Jennifer Chrein
Fran Delaney
Janice Roy

All said yes.

Discussion about whether to stream meetings by video. No one thought it was necessary.

Steve moved to change the Nov. meeting to Nov.12 and the Dec. meeting to Dec.10.

Vote: 6-0. Passed. Lara will communicate that to the town.

Since Steph Burr was not present, she did not do the expected presentation. Kevin explained that our CD application to the state goes through NWCT Arts Council as our Designated Regional Service Organization (DRSO), so it is important for her to advise us as we get the application ready.

Updates from Kevin Bishop.

Ordinance: The CD map was set by ordinance. If we want to change that, we have to give the change to Kevin to take it to the BOS for the first of 4 meetings before it can pass.

Clarification about CDC committee vs advisory board. Advisory board members do not vote on committee resolutions. They are encouraged to contribute in any way they can, but are not expected to attend all meetings.

Open meeting laws. No in depth discussion with a quorum of committee members outside of meetings either in person or by communications. Scheduling and deciding agenda items is fine. CDC has a specific goal: to submit the application to the state. Later to administer and maintain the CDC designation.

Lara described the extent of the current CD map.

Discussion about whether the current map meets the state definition. Currently it includes a large length of Main Street as well as a number of residential streets. There is a lot of historical significance in this large area, but some committee members felt that the current CD map didn't match the state's expectations. It was discussed that the CD designation does not mean that there are no points of interest outside of the official CD area.

Debra moved to table further discussion on this topic until a future meeting with Steph Burr.

Annie seconded.

Vote 6-0. Passed.

Virginia invited participation in Sept.19-20 historic event.

Annie motioned to adjourn. Stacy seconded.

Vote 6-0. Passed.