



**Town of Wallingford**  
**Economic Development Commission**  
**45 South Main Street, Room 311**  
**Wallingford, CT 06492**

**Economic Development Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**June 1, 2026**

**Present:**

**Frank Apuzzo, Vice Chair**  
**John Bau, Alternate**  
**Carl Casper, Commissioner**  
**Gary Gonzalez, Commissioner**  
**Nick Lombardi, Commissioner**  
**Amy Souchuns, Alternate**  
**Susan Gomes, Alternate**

**Absent**

**Anthony Bracale, Chair**  
**Rob Fritz, Commissioner**  
**Austin McAnney, Commissioner**

**Others Present:**

**Don Crouch, Economic Development Specialist**  
**Stacie McCarthy, EDC Secretary**

1. **Call to Order:** Vice Chair Apuzzo called the regular meeting of the Economic Development Commission to order at 6:37PM.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Vice Chair Apuzzo led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Consent Agenda:** Note: All items listed under ‘Consent’ will be enacted by one motion. Commissioners can request to remove an item from consent. (One Motion covers all items)
  - Adopt Meeting Minutes dated May 4, 2026
  - Adopt Monthly Expenditure Reports – April 2026

**Commissioner Bau made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Casper seconded the motion. Consent Agenda was unanimously approved.**

4. **Items removed from Consent:** None

**5. Reports:**

**a. Committee Reports:**

**Retention and Marketing Committee**

Commissioner Lombardi updated the group regarding the recent sale of 33-39 North Main Street and 24-25 Wallace Avenue. Commissioner Lombardi noted that he, Economic Development Specialist Don Crouch and Mayor Cervoni, recently met with the new ownership. Commissioner Lombardi explained that they own another downtown property, and he anticipates a good

46 working partnership going forward.

47

48 Mr. Crouch discussed the recent Business Visit to Novel Aero Inc. noting, Novel Aero and  
49 its President & CEO, Yoganandan “Yogi” Tharinibalan, were recognized as the 2026 National  
50 Small Business Exporter of the Year, an honor presented by the U.S. Small Business  
51 Administration during National Small Business Week.

52

53 Mr. Crouch also provided a recap of the CT Main Street Spotlight on Main that visited Wallingford  
54 on May 7, 2026. He noted there were 60+ attendees from more than 26 communities that  
55 participated in the events of the day including walking tours through downtown. It was a very  
56 successful event, and the Administration received very positive feedback from all who attended.

57

58 Mr. Crouch also updated the group regarding his recent attendance at a Fireside chat with  
59 Deputy Commissioner Matthew Pugliese of the Department of Economic and Community  
60 Development who sat down with CEDAS President Kevin Bielmeier to discuss the areas he  
61 oversees: Real Estate, Capital Projects, Brownfield and Community Development initiatives.  
62 The discussion was followed by a Talk & Tour led by Mark Garilli, CEO of West Hartford  
63 Fellowship Housing. West Hartford Fellowship Housing provides and supports affordable  
64 housing for the elderly and for adults with disabilities.

65

66 **Planning and Zoning Committee**

67 Commissioners Casper and Souchuns updated the group related to the recent items  
68 ‘Resubdivision and Special Permit for 110 Leigus Road’ discussed at May 11, 2026, Planning  
69 and Zoning Commission meeting. They noted that the application for these items was approved.

70

71 Commissioner Souchuns also noted that she attended the May 27, 2026, Plan of Conservation  
72 and Development (POCD) Steering Committee meeting, noting the final public meeting is June  
73 11, 2026, with an anticipated completion date in September 2026.

74

75 **Housing/Workforce Development/Education Committee**

76 Commissioner Gomes updated the group regarding a recent discussion between Wallingford  
77 Works for Housing and the Administration, explaining the group is open to providing support for  
78 other housing opportunities in town, noting they remain committed and engaged to these  
79 initiatives.

80

81 Commissioner Gomes also asked for an update related to Wallingford’s participation with the  
82 Connecticut Municipal Development Authority (CMDA). Mr. Crouch noted that he will be meeting  
83 with David Kooris on June 2, 2026. Mr. Crouch will continue to provide updates as the process  
84 moves along.

85

86 Commissioner Bau provided an update regarding a recent discussion he had with Don Crouch,  
87 Joe Mirra and Jermaine Mitchell, Unit Director – Ulbrich Wallingford Boys & Girls Club, regarding  
88 the opportunity to partner with the Boys & Girls Club to organize site visits for middle school  
89 students to Wallingford manufacturers in support of Manufacturing Month in October. The group  
90 plans to coordinate a “Manufacturing Day Site Visit” plan that would provide transportation for

91 students to visit local manufacturing facilities and learn about potential career paths. More will be  
92 shared regarding this initiative at future meetings.

93  
94 Commissioner Bau also provided an update regarding the recent Career Pathways 101 event  
95 which he attended and was hosted by the United Way of Meriden and Wallingford, Wallingford  
96 Public Schools and the Economic Development Commission. The participating organizations  
97 provided useful and valuable information for attendees.

98  
99 Commissioner Bau also noted Senator Cicarella is hosting the 'Building a Future-Ready  
100 Workforce: An AI Roundtable' on June 4, 2026, at Choate Rosemary Hall which he plans to  
101 attend. He encouraged other Commissioners to attend if available.

102  
103 **Manufacturing Business Roundtables**

104 Mr. Crouch reported that Economic Development staff drafted and mailed outreach letters to  
105 manufacturers throughout town to gauge interest in participating in the Mayor's Business  
106 Leadership Forum. He noted that Novel Aero President & CEO Yogi Tharinibalan was the first to  
107 respond, followed shortly thereafter by Ben Hahn, President of SensorWorx. Mr. Crouch  
108 reiterated the importance of the Business Visits initiative, noting that it has created valuable  
109 opportunities for collaborative discussion between local businesses and the Administration, while  
110 also helping to support the launch of new initiatives such as this.

111  
112 **b. Economic Development Specialist / Staff Report**

113 As Mr. Crouch provided most updates previously, he noted the following:

- 114 - Town Council recently approved the budget at the May 26, 2026 meeting.
- 115 - EDC staff are in early stages of redesigning town website.
- 116 - EDC staff working with vendor to implement Customer Relationship Management System (CRM)

117 **Chairman Report**

118 No update as Chairman Bracale is absent.  
119

120 **6. Old Business:**

121 **a. Manufacturing Roundtable Discussion** – previously discussed during Retention & Marketing  
122 Committee Report.

123 **b. Transit/Trolley Discussion** – no update; however the group noted the overall interest in creating  
124 additional transportation opportunities for businesses and organizations throughout town.

125  
126 **7. New Business:**

127 No Update  
128

129 **8. Commission Around Town**

130 Commissioner Lombardi noted that 144 South Main Street has recently been listed for sale.  
131

132 **There being no further business, Commissioner Casper made a motion to adjourn the meeting at**  
133 **7:40PM.; Commissioner Lombardi seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**  
134

135 Sincerely,  
136 *Stacie McCarthy*  
137 Stacie McCarthy, Secretary  
138