

Town of Windham

Economic Development Department Tom Bartell, Director thbartell@windhammaine.us

207.892.1936 voice 207.892.1910 fax

Quarterly Report July 2025

Windham Economic Development Update

Thomas Bartell, Economic Development Director

Windham Economic Development Corporation Summer Meetups

Members of the Windham Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors gathered in North Windham in July to hear about the progress of the North Windham Sewer project and the new North Windham Public Safety building project from Town Manager Bob Burns. We also heard from Steve Puleo, Director of Planning, on new developments coming to the downtown area, as well as from Eric Giguere, owner of the North Windham Shopping Center, on the renovations to the Center as well as the new business tenants we are welcoming to Windham. Another Meetup is scheduled for August.

Windham Outdoors Initiative

Windham's new Economic Development Strategic Plan calls for Windham to become a Premier Outdoor Recreation destination and to attract both outdoor and indoor recreation businesses to our community.

Based on the recreation strategies of the Plan, the Economic Development Department, and the Windham Economic Development Corporation have been working closely with other departments and outside resources to make progress on these initiatives.

Grant progress:

Community Outdoor Recreation Assistance Program

Working along with Parks and Recreation, Windham Economic Development, has engaged Dubois and King Consulting Firm to provide Concept Design and Preliminary engineering for the proposed Presumpscot Riverfront Park, and the connector trail and wetlands walkway from Franklin Drive to the Donnabeth Lippman Park trail network/playground area. There will be a public meeting on August 6th at Windham Town Hall to discuss and get public input on the plan concepts and options for each of these projects.

The design and acquisition of brand specific multilingual kiosk and trail signage within Windham's 5 park areas is ongoing.

Parks and Recreation Interns, and Steve Harmon, Windham GIS Project Administrator, are working to digitize all of Windham's trails and recreation features and are looking to utilize GIS data for Mobile App integration.

Windham Town Hall, 8 School Road, Windham ME 04062

Cumberland County CDBG grant application: Forbes Lane Neighborhood Park

Another collaboration between the Windham Economic Development Department, and Windham's Parks and Recreation Director Linda Brooks, the Town applied for, and received a \$40,000 grant, with a Town match of \$10,000, from the Cumberland County CDBG Program to develop a neighborhood park on a 1.33 acre parcel of land purchased by the Town in 2021. Linda will coordinate the design of the park with neighborhood residents, the Town Council, and Town Staff. Funds for this grant will be available in August or September.

Windham Outdoors Marketing

The WEDC has engaged, along with Windham Communications Director Roger Cropley, and Parks and Recreation Director Linda Brooks, Pine Point Creative to develop branding and marketing materials for the Windham Outdoors Initiative. Linda, Roger and Tom Bartell, Economic Development Director, presented the Windham Outdoors website and various marketing materials to the Town Council at the July Council meeting. The branding and marketing materials have already been used in advertising, and we will be joining the Maine Tourism Association in the upcoming months and will be expanding our marketing campaign to reach the many visitors to Maine to showcase our Windham Outdoors. We will continue to market Windham as a great place for year round recreation as well as for recreation based retail and manufacturing businesses.

North Windham Sewer System

As construction continues on the new North Windham Sewer System, the work to connect the many businesses in the sewer area has begun in earnest. Property information is being gathered, and the contact list is being clarified. An RFQ prepared by Assistant Town Manager Bob Burns, and Town Engineer Mark Arienti has been released, and the contractor will be selected. Individual property Connection Program documents are being prepared. We held a preconstruction meeting with affected businesses and property owners in May. We are planning to have all existing customers ready for hookup to the new treatment plant in April 2026.

Windham Farmers Market

The Windham Farmers Market began its 8th season at 8:30 am on Saturday May 24th, at its location on Turning Leaf Drive, in North Windham. Lisa Fisher, the Market Manager, has been lining up special events for various Saturdays throughout the season that lasts until October 4th. The Windham Economic Development Corporation proudly sponsors the Windham Farmers Market.

Monday Night Food Trucks at Windham Community Park

Monday Night Food Trucks are in full swing after starting on June 2nd at the Windham Community Park and the Public Safety Building on Route 202, Gray Road, in Windham Center. Lisa Fisher, event manager, has been working to line up vendors, and the Parks and Recreation Department is providing support during the evenings with summer staff. The Food Truck Nights run every Monday evening, excluding holidays, through September 29th. The Windham Economic Development Corporation continues its sponsorship of the Monday Night Food Trucks again this year.