

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE FEB. 19, 1992

Present: Chairman Shirley Ganem, members Robert Garland, Barbara Jackson, Joan Lovering, Andrew Milligan, Robert Murphy, Eric Piper, Michael Toomey, Anthony Triolo.

Absent: Sharon Severy, Tim Sullivan, Jane Thurston.

Chairman Ganem called the meeting to order at 7:14 PM. She handed out copies of the recently completed Mission Statement of the Committee.

Robert Garland introduced new member Eric Piper as a younger person with young children who would add another viewpoint. Mr. Piper said he owns an awning manufacturing business in Wolfeboro, formerly Eaton Awning and now Image Awning. Most of its output is sold elsewhere. He moved to Wolfeboro because he found it a good place to live and bring up his children.

Paul Kimball moved to accept the Mission Statement as written. Barbara Jackson seconded. Under discussion Joan Lovering suggested the first sentence be sharpened and made more specific to avoid making the Committee sound like the Chamber of Commerce.

Andrew Milligan agreed and said the Committee's aim should include keeping businesses that are already here. He cited Wickers Sportswear, which he said was still being wooed by another town.

Ms. Ganem offered a revised sentence that read: "The Economic Development Committee's purpose is to serve the Town of Wolfeboro by maintaining, developing, and fostering" ... etc. It was voted unanimously to accept the Statement as amended.

Michael Toomey renewed a previous offer to have the Committee meet regularly in the Board Room of the First N.H. Bank. Following a discussion, all agreed to meet at FNHB for the foreseeable future, with the possibility that later on meetings might be rotated among all Wolfeboro banks.

Anthony Triolo offered the use of Wickers Sportswear's Board Room when the new building is completed.

Mr. Triolo reopened the matter of asking Amanda Simpson, town planner, to become a non-voting member of the Committee. Ms. Jackson responded that she had discussed this with Ms. Skinner, who said she could not manage another full schedule of meetings but would be willing to attend every other meeting or when asked to a particular meeting. Mr. Triolo added that he was anxious to hear the results of the Community Survey from Ms. Simpson as soon as possible.

Ms. Ganem said she had planned to invite Ms. Simpson to the next meeting to hear her report on changes being made to the Master Plan. She then reported on her attempts to get the raw data from the Survey for Committee review.

Ms. Ganem opened the question of sub-committee assignments, repeating the names of these sub-committees as previously decided. They were: Land Inventory, Public Education and Media, Infrastructure, and Zoning & Regulations.

Mr. Triolo suggested the Committee invite officials from relevant state agencies to advise them on the direction and kinds of sub-committees to appoint before proceeding. Ms. Ganem responded that they had already made progress by having a Mission Statement and settling down into a working group.

A member mentioned a local newspaper article that said the Committee had spent \$10,610 last year. Ms. Ganem explained that the money, though budgeted under the title of "Economic Development," had gone to a variety of recipients. She said she would ask for a clarification by the newspaper.

Mr. Kimball reported that he and Ms. Jackson had attended a seminar on economic development in Concord recently. He said that he had not been impressed. He referred to the Civic Profiles as yet another example of a state agency making a big project out of something and having it drag on. This

Committee, he added, should set deadlines for itself and collect information as quickly as possible. Some sub-committees have done their jobs and some have not, he said.

Mr. Milligan said that what the Committee needed now is marketing to get a place to put businesses we now have. His sub-committee found out that there is a 37-acre industrial park waiting to be developed. It's already zoned.

A discussion followed on how to proceed on this and other projects. It was generally agreed that an over-view of the type the Committee had previously decided on and action by the sub-committees was a necessary first step.

Ms. Ganem mentioned infrastructure information and a Wolfeboro information packet were particularly urgent. She asked how the infrastructure study was going.

Ms. Jackson responded that she had gotten a map so far. She asked how much more information on infrastructure was needed, pointing out the wide range of things involved.

Ms. Ganem suggested Ms. Jackson sit down with Town Manager McSweeney to get the information. Mr. Kimball said he believed that the town manager had offered overlays of the Wolfeboro map that showed the various utilities when he had appeared earlier before the Committee. Ms. Jackson said she would have to sit down with the town manager in any case to discuss the future of electric rates. This would be a major concern to prospective businesses.

Mr. Triolo recalled having spoken with Denis Bean of the Wolfeboro Electric Department. He said Mr. Bean told him the electric rates would be substantially lower in Wolfeboro than Public Service of N.H. rates generally. This, he thought, would be a promotable advantage.

Ms. Ganem asked if financing should be part of the Committee's concerns. It was decided that it should be, under the assignment of the Public Education & Media sub-committee.

Mr. Garland suggested that the work of the four sub-

committees should be coordinated so that no one source of information would have to deal with several sub-committees simultaneously. He mentioned the town manager as an example.

Ms. Ganem replied that she saw no problem, since each sub-committee would need multiple sources of information and there would be little overlap among these sources. She gave examples.

Ms. Ganem then asked for volunteers to serve on the four sub-committees. (Those not present were tentatively assigned.) They were:

Land Inventory- Robert Garland (chmn.), Robert Grott, Joan Lovering, Eric Piper.

Marketing- Robert Murphy (chmn.), Shirley Ganem, Andrew Milligan, Sharon Severy, Jane Thurston, Michael Toomey. (As explained later, this sub-committee replaces the original Public Education & Media one.)

Infrastructure- Barbara Jackson (chmn.), Paul Kimball.

Zoning & Regulation- Tim Sullivan (chmn.), Anthony Triolo.

Mr. Toomey suggested that only one person should speak for the Committee, to avoid confusion. After a discussion, it was decided that Robert Murphy, as chairman of the Marketing sub-committee, should be that spokesman.

Mr. Murphy responded that the other members of his sub-committee should also be authorized to make statements in his absence. He added that it's customary to have a marketing sub-committee, of which public education and media is a part.

Following a discussion it was agreed to create a marketing sub-committee that would include the original public education and media sub-committee. Mr. Garland suggested that the new marketing sub-committee should work with both existing and new business prospects.

This led to another discussion and a suggestion by Mr. Milligan that the director of the Chamber of Commerce be invited to join the Committee. It was moved by Mr. Kimball and

seconded by Mr. Milligan that Director Bruce Dreisbach be asked to join the Committee. Approved unanimously.

Ms. Jackson mentioned an apprenticeship program in Moultonboro that she had read about. She suggested this might be worthwhile for Wolfeboro. The Committee, she pointed out, had discussed ways of helping young people.

Mr. Milligan disagreed strongly. He explained that he had run the only federally approved apprenticeship in the state of New Hampshire (at N.H. Pewter) for manufacturing. It was unruly, he said, and the federal regulations ran to 102 pages. It set beginning wages and required predictions of future wages for the next 10 years, for example.

Mr. Triolo described his experience trying to set up an apprenticeship program with the Governor Wentworth Regional School District for his Wickers Sportswear factory. The Vocational Education director, he said, had told him there was no need for such an apprenticeship program and that Voc-Ed directed its efforts where the needs were. As a result, Mr. Triolo said he had set up his own in-house training program.

After a discussion, Ms. Ganem said she would set up an appointment for a special meeting between the Committee and Voc-Ed Director Carl Contois for March 10, 1992 at 11:30 AM in the Skylight Room of the Voc.-Ed. Center to re-open the question of a school-supported local apprenticeship program.

Mr. Murphy indicated that the Committee had not accomplished as much over the past year as it might have. He said that to behave responsibly the Committee members needed to commit themselves to spending 10 to 15 hours a month outside of meetings to accomplish its work. He added that if this were not possible, the Committee or sub-committee

chairman should bring in more people to help. However, he would prefer to keep the Committee relatively small.

A discussion followed on the problems that had faced the new Committee in getting started. It was asserted that the process of settling down and getting organized was now over and that future progress should occur more rapidly.

Mr. Murphy then urged that each meeting end with a list of action items to keep the Committee members more focussed on its immediate objectives.

These items were listed for accomplishment by the next regular meeting:

- Report of the Land Inventory sub-committee.
- Report of the Infrastructure sub-committee.
- Report on the results of the Community Survey by Amanda Simpson, town planner.
- Compilations of Community Survey data by Mr. Mayberry.

There was a discussion of the nature of the sample obtained from the Community Survey. There was some skepticism that those who responded included a representative number of lower-income people. This suggested that the data should be interpreted with care.

Several members mentioned the possibility that the Committee might want to conduct its own survey later on, considering the possibility of attitude changes and a better way to obtain a representative sample. In conclusion, one member said that the existence of the Committee appears to have influenced the Town's actions.

The next regular meeting of this Committee will be on March 25, 1992 at 7:00 PM in the Wolfeboro branch of First N.H. Bank. Entry is through a door on the street-side corner of the back of the building, near the drive-in teller booth.

Ms. Ganem adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Erik H. Arctander

Secretary