

WOLFEBORO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
October 6, 1993

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PRESENT: Shirley Ganem, Chairman; Tony Triolo, Barbara Jackson, Bob Grott, Bill Wiebe, Andy Milligan

ABSENT: Tim Sullivan, Bob Garland, Paul Kimball

GUEST: Tyler Phillips, Planning Office Student Intern

Chairman Shirley Ganem called the meeting to order at 7:40 a.m. in the Planning Office Conference Room, and Bill Wiebe passed out copies of the Strategic Planning Committee report. Early discussion focused on the leadership role that the Selectmen should take in planning for Wolfeboro. There needs to be a single uniform vision for the Town, with all pulling together for a common objective. The Selectmen need to buy into this vision for the Town as a whole.

Wiebe asked for some feedback on his reports, and would like to get some written comments.

There was general discussion on how to get people to buy into a single vision. The problem is the changing political climate year by year, especially as the Selectmen change. The world (and Wolfeboro) is changing so fast now that unless we keep up with the changes we will go downhill. We need to keep hands on.

Wiebe, Ganem and Grott will meet again to prepare a report to the Selectmen, which will probably be given at their first meeting in November.

ROUTE 28 COMMITTEE REPORT

Barbara Jackson reported that the Committee expected to have a draft of its ordinance by October 15, and copies would be sent to the Planning Board and the EDC. They will meet with the Planning Board and the Economic Development Committee on October 26 at 7 p.m. at the Wolfeboro Library. Rick Chellman will make the presentation.

It was suggested that the new Town Manager be invited to the EDC's next meeting.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Andy Milligan reported several resignations from his Board: Donna King Cooper has resigned, and Bill Sweeney is reportedly about to. The Selectmen's representative, Paul Hatch, has never attended a meeting. Their goal was to put together a presentation for the Selectmen for Oct. 20.

Milligan reported that he had met with the DOT about access to the Industrial Park area and they told him that the only possible way to get

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into it was directly across from Beach Pond Road. That approach involves crossing a minor wetland area, and acquiring a little triangular piece of land. It will also involve moving a big telephone and power line connection point.

The BDC has identified 12 projects, which is has reduced to 5:

1. Develop a program for the transfer and development of this land to the BDC in time for this Town Meeting in March.
2. Identify and develop relationships with sources of funding, and develop guidelines for BDC loan program.
3. Develop a program to promote and support growth of existing businesses including a study of the existing labor pool. (People present felt this really should be a function of the EDC, not the BDC.)
4. Establish links with State and regional development groups, planning groups, and BDCs etc.
5. Establish a small business "incubator" for new starter businesses (inexpensive office space, equipment, etc. to help new business get started). Tony's old mill building was mentioned as a possible location for this.

There was discussion of possible new members for the BDC. Suggestions included Jackie Brackett, Jeb Bradley, Bob Grott, Tony Triolo, David Rines, and Ken MacDonald (if Paul Hatch doesn't wish to serve). Others mentioned were Greg Roarke, Bob Simoneau. Of these possibilities, Greg Roarke was nominated and approved for membership. Simoneau of Brewster was second choice, or someone from Brewster, as they seem to be developing good programs to market the school.

Bill Wiebe suggested that EDC was going to need to provide education and consulting service to help businesses improve their appearance. There was discussion of the role of Town administration in nurturing new businesses. Strong, powerful leadership gets things done, but our processes seem to drag on. The Town has got to help in getting that Industrial Park ready to go. The basic development has to be done, otherwise the costs to a new business will be prohibitive.

Shirley Ganem pointed out the the EDC has not spent all its budget. There was money set aside for a marketing program, which hasn't been used. Discussion of the budget will be the first item on the Agenda for our next meeting, which will be October 20 in the Planning Office Conference Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erik H. Arctander
Secretary