

WOLFEBORO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
October 5, 1994

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PRESENT: Chairman Shirley Ganem, Barbara Jackson, John Fernokas, Bill Wiebe, Tony Triolo, Bob Garland, Dennis Plante, Pamela Berg

GUEST: Alice Rose, Vice-Chairman of WEDCO

Chairman Shirley Ganem called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. in the First NH Bank conference room, and introduced Alice Rose, who had come to talk about WEDCO.

She explained that the State favored regional economic development groups, with three contiguous towns to start. Wakefield had a going organization (Wakefield Economic Development Corp.) with headquarters, director, stationery etc; Wolfeboro had the grant application, and Brookfield in between was also interested. They decided to become Wentworth Economic Development Corp., so the stationery etc. was still usable. There will be a maximum of 12 on the board of directors, and at present there are four from Wolfeboro, two from Brookfield, and three from Wakefield. Jim Tully of Wakefield is Chairman, and Alice Rose of Wolfeboro is Vice-chairman.

The regional area might in the future be enlarged, perhaps to include Farmington and other more southern communities. The Federal Government is thinking in terms of economic development for individual towns or cities, while the State of New Hampshire is pushing regional development.

In the letters of agreement, our area is described as "the greater Southern Carroll County Area." Presently Ossipee seems to be working with Freedom and Effingham on their economic development plans. The Office of State Planning has asked WEDCO to write a description of how this regional organization was formed, to help other areas who would like information on how to go about it.

Statistic were presented on employment: 1500 people who live in Wolfeboro work here, 800 go out of town to work, and 1200 come into Wolfeboro to work. Ms. Rose said that the CDEG for \$253,000 for Phoenix Molding has been approved, and the contracts are presently being worked out. The Town has an administrator for this particular grant.

Actually each of the three towns could apply for its own Community Development Block Grant. As the loan is repaid, the money comes back to the Town, and WEDCO can loan the money out again to another applicant, or the Business Finance Authority of the State will buy back the paper to provide immediate funds. WEDCO is actually like a bank for high-risk loans. They can also apply for other loan funds - from banks, Ford Foundation, and similar sources. The EDC is to handle the development (identify businesses needing assistance) and WEDCO will handle the funding.

Present members of the Board of Directors are Bill Hoodlet, Jim Tully and Fred Hall of Wakefield; Andy Jacobson and Peter Lamb of Brookfield; and

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Alice Rose, Amanda Simpson (who is resigning), Tom O'Dowd, and Kelley Nickerson of Wolfboro. New members are appointed by the Board itself.

Alice Rose left at 8:05.

While some members waited for a new pot of coffee to drip, there was a discussion of the need (or lack of it) of office space in Town, as the bank is considering adapting their bottom floor and offering it for rent as office space.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANUAL - Paul Kimball was absent, and no one knew its status. It was suggested that Town officials might have certain designated hours daily when the public could find them in their offices and sit down and talk with them.

STRATEGY FOR MAINTAINING, ASSISTING, AND GROWING EXISTING BUSINESSES IN WOLFEBORO - This is the booklet that Bob Grott and Sharon Severy put together, which had been passed out at the last meeting. The group discussed it, and the following points were covered:

- * EDC needs to convince the Chamber of Commerce and the Business Community that EDC is trying to help them.

- * Consumers in Town need to be aware that a healthy business community is very important. When you live in a small town there are some things you can't find locally and you have to travel for. But it's worth it for the many advantages you get from living here. Maybe there should be a relocation guide prepared to spell this out for new residents.

- * What employment base is presently available in town and what employee training is available for potential new businesses? Would private colleges establish local programs?

- * Training in the work ethic is really needed, in the Voc Ed program at the high school. Their advisory committee has declined to offer it. Barbara Jackson will find how to get on the advisory committee, who's on it now, and how to persuade them.

- * Apprentice programs could be developed, in addition to the culinary arts program which has one.

- * A SCORE group in Town would be helpful.

- * The Town survey done several years ago developed information on what customers in Wolfboro wanted or didn't want. That should be looked at again.

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Dennis Plante will meet with Sharon Severy to talk about developing a public relations campaign.

MAIN STREET PROGRAM - Bill Wiebe spoke very briefly and showed the printed materials he had. John Pernokas said he would try to get additional copies of their brochure for everybody.

The next meeting will be on the 19th of October. This meeting adjourned at 9 a.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Rosemary Arlander
Secretary

