

WOLFEBORO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
February 16, 1994

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PRESENT: Chairman Shirley Ganem; Andy Milligan, Tim Sullivan, Tony Triolo, Bill Wiebe, Bob Garland, Bob Grott; Town Manager Paul J. Skowron

Chairman Shirley Ganem called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. in the Planning Office Conference Room.

On a motion by A. Milligan, seconded by S. Ganem, the Committee voted to delete all reference to Wickers Sportswear from the minutes of the January 26 meeting.

There was discussion of exactly what should be included in the minutes. If specific businesses are discussed, should that information go into the minutes?

Milligan made a second motion, that when the Committee discusses a specific business, the minutes should merely state that a discussion of that business was held, and not get into any specifics, unless otherwise directed. Bob Grott seconded the motion. In the discussion which followed, Tim Sullivan pointed out that this would almost amount to a violation of the right to know law. When put to a vote the motion failed, but it was agreed that in the future discretion should be used as to what was discussed at EDC meetings, and how it was reported.

EDC MEMBERSHIP - Are additional members needed?

The Chairman asked how members felt about continuing to serve on the Committee for another year. Tim Sullivan said that he was discouraged and ready to drop off. Tony Triolo also said he was frustrated, but willing to continue. Bill Wiebe would like to continue. Bob Garland and Bob Grott are willing to stay on. Paul Kimball was not present to state his intentions. This puts the present Committee membership at 7, two less than the desired number of 9.

A marketing person is needed, and someone from the financial community. Names suggested were David Wright, Bob Simoneau, Ray or Pat Merena, Greg Roark, John Bridges. There are two committees presently meeting to focus on revitalizing the Downtown, and perhaps one of their members might work with EDC.

There was discussion of refocusing EDC's goals, and the following ideas were brought out:

- * New enthusiastic people are needed
- * EDC should set the tone for the Town. The Selectmen adopted our vision statement, and we should build on that.
- * The people who ran the UNH workshop on Marketing Your Community

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which a number of us attended, were tremendously impressed with our ideas, and asked for copies of them to use.

* Perhaps we should concentrate on a smaller goal, like just helping existing businesses.

* A silent minority in Town who do not want economic development keep blocking any change, while the majority who do want change are unwilling to challenge them and to come out to meetings.

* There was discussion of possible redevelopment schemes for Downtown, encouraging mixed use, perhaps with businesses downstairs, and apartments or condos upstairs. For senior citizens, that would be ideal.

* Downtown is in crisis

* Franchise businesses would be all right, if they can fit into the character and appearance of the Town. We have no design review protection.

UPCOMING BUSINESS SEMINARS AND PLANS

1. Seminar (with Wakefield) on Workman's Compensation. Speakers from State office.
2. Seminar on the Economic Vitality of Wolfeboro
3. Possible Breakfast meeting with staff of the Belknap County Business Development Corporation
4. Proposed Economic Summit

Time ran out before any of these could be discussed.

The next EDC meeting will be on March 2.

These minutes were written from a tape of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Erik H. Artander

Secretary