

WOLFEBORO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
February 1, 1995

Page 1

PRESENT: Shirley Ganem. Chairman: Barbara Jackson, Bill Wiebe, Tony Triolo, Andy Milligan, Pamela Berg, Dennis Plante, John Pernokas

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:37 a.m. in the First NH Bank Conference Room.

REPORT ON "OUR TOWN" PRESENTATIONS - All were pleasantly surprised at the reactions of the Selectmen to the presentation. The committee reported that the press presentation also went well, with good thoughtful questions, especially from Katya Fox of WASR.

Bill Wiebe reported that Belknap County Economic Development Commission has subscribed to the "Our Town" program, although no local community is participating. Preservation organizations in six states are working on programs: Arizona, Kansas, Louisiana, West Virginia, New Hampshire, and Wisconsin.

New Hampshire's association is Inherit New Hampshire, and Wolfeboro's EDC is a member, with Wiebe as representative. He and Andy Milligan are members of the Lakes Region Heritage Round Table, associated with Inherit New Hampshire. Wiebe reported that Jane Sheffield, the executive director of Inherit New Hampshire, will speak in Wolfeboro twice: for the Rotary, and the Couples Club of the Congregational Church.

PLANNING BOARD PRESENTATION - Barbara Jackson suggested that the individual speeches might be shorter - she felt that some people in the audience during the Selectmen's meeting lost interest. It might be better to have just one presenter. The group decided that multiple presenters worked best, but that each talk should be shorter. Also, movie should come first, as it immediately engaged everyone's interest.

Wiebe reminded the group that it was important to assure the Planning Board that EDC was not trying to usurp its role in planning, but was considering the good of the whole town from an economic point of view. He will give examples of successful projects like Wolfeboro's Business Development Corporation, which became the regional Wentworth Economic Development Corporation. EDC's role will be to coordinate projects of limited duration which will encourage talented residents to volunteer. Wiebe continued. The EDC's role will be to protect the visual appeal of the Gateways to Wolfeboro while promoting its economic and social improvement.

D. Plante pointed out that the EDC needs to cooperate with the Planning Board so that the economic implications of its actions are considered. Discussion of the pros and cons of the proposed recreational vehicle park amendment followed.

S. Ganem said that at the beginning of EDC, many residents thought its purpose was to bring in smokestack businesses. Now it is becoming generally accepted that protecting the quality of life is its primary concern. Plante responded that he was concerned that economic improvement

WOLFEBORO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

February 1, 1995

Page 2

seemed to rank #9 on a scale of 1 to 10.

J. Pernokas pointed out that the EDC as a volunteer group can handle projects which the Planning Board cannot. Others agreed that while the Planning Board can establish some regulations (height of buildings, etc.) it cannot follow through with actions to promote visual appeal. There was support for assisting the Village Players in its renovation of the Masonic Hall.

S. Ganem reminded the presenters to explain that "historic preservation" wasn't the same as "historic district, which has acquired a negative connotation in Wolfeboro. The term "antique" means made before 1830; many "historic" buildings worth preserving were constructed in this century.

TRAFFIC PLANS FOR PICKERING CORNER - Mrs. Ganem reported on the N.H. Department of Transportation's public meeting the previous evening. Preliminary plans for improving traffic at the Main Street/Center Street corner were presented. These included a traffic light and third lanes for turning. Members hoped that electric lines would be put underground as well as shoulders improved, bicycle lanes added. They agreed that replacing the blinker with a standard traffic signal was a bad idea..

FUTURE "OUR TOWN" PRESENTATIONS

Lions Club - February 14 at 8:15 at the Windrifter

Chamber of Commerce - March 2 at 7:30 a.m.

Rotary - March 21 - Jane Sheffield will talk about Inherit New Hampshire

Bill Wiebe reported that Barbara Jackson has agreed to keep all the "Our Town" records. act as historian, keep the files. handle scheduling, etc.

DEVELOPMENT MANUAL - Paul Kimball was not present but Tony Triolo, who is on the same committee, said he understood it was completed and he will try to reach Kimball to bring it to the next meeting.

OUTREACH PROGRAM - Shirley Ganem suggested talking with CEOs of big companies who have homes in Wolfeboro to solicit their ideas. which might help EDC. This might include Archibald of Black & Decker, Griebel of COMPAQ, the Marriotts, and the CEO of Wickers.

Bill Wiebe reported that the Lakes Region Historic Round Table, which he and Andy Milligan participate in. is working to develop a trail of all the historic attractions around the lake. with markers and guidebook. Others suggested offering a video tape too. Historical societies of the 8 towns around the lake are identifying their special attractions and sites for inclusion.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m. The next meeting will be on Feb. 14.

Respectfully submitted.

*Erik H. Antander*