

WOLFEBORO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
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PRESENT: Chairman Shirley Ganem; Pam Berg, Andy Milligan, Tony Triolo, Barbara Jackson, Bill Wiebe, John Fernokas, Dennis Plante

GUEST SPEAKER: Alice Rose of Wentworth Economic Development Corporation (WEDCO)

Chairman Shirley Ganem called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m. in the First NH Bank Conference Room and called on Alice Rose who had come to update the group on WEDCO's progress.

WEDCO, a regional grouping which grew out of the Wolfeboro Business Development Corp., includes Brookfield and Wakefield. Barnstead and Alton are also being included in WEDCO's task force.

Ms. Rose discussed the following WEDCO activities:

- \* The block grant for Phoenix Custom Moldings is just getting final State approval and the funds should be available within the next two to three weeks.

- \* A small grant has been received for renovation work on the Garvin Building in Wakefield.

- \* The New Hampshire College-based Institute for Cooperative Community Development (ICCD) and its related programs (Working Capital and Flexible Manufacturing Networks) have approached WEDCO to work with them on their programs.

Shirley Ganem has been recruited to join the "It Takes a Community" task force with funding from the Ford Foundation and the Lakes Region Charitable Foundation. Possible developments from this include:

1. A Business Resource Center or SBDC (Small Business Development Center) which might be located in Wolfeboro.
2. Small loans for businesses
3. A Home Industry Marketing Center which would display and promote cottage industries, and might produce a catalog of their products.

This led to a discussion of Town restrictions on home industries and occupations. There are too many hurdles and expenses. To establish even a very small child care operation under the Children's Center costs a minimum of \$250 for ZBA and Planning Board approval. Sewer and water access fees also inhibit development. Wolfeboro is basically unfriendly to business, all agreed.

The idea of a "small business incubator" was discussed, where kitchen facilities and office support could be provided for growing a small business. Presently costs to equip any food preparation area are

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prohibitive. Tony Triolo's old mill building has often been suggested as a likely site for this use.

Ms. Rose reported that there is ample industrial space available in Wakefield, with fewer restrictions. Development anywhere in the area would benefit Wolfeboro, as workers willingly travel half a hour or more.

OTHER BUSINESS

Wolfeboro, Our Town - Bill Wiebe spoke briefly about design criteria, or "visual appeal." He will be away for the next month. Pam Berg, John Pernokas, and Dennis Plante will do an "Our Town" presentation for WEDCO on May 4. It will be a breakfast meeting at the Clipper Home.

Pickering Corner Committee - John Pernokas, Andy Milligan and Shirley Ganem had met about the proposed traffic light on Monday, April 17, with two representatives from the State Traffic Commission. Their impression was that the State had decided that they are going to improve the intersection by installing a light. When asked if they couldn't improve the intersection without a light, the response was "no light--no improvement."

The lights would not be blinking, but would be on all the time. They said that once they have decided that the intersection is hazardous, they have to put in a light. The State reps did agree that they would check to see if the road could be moved further to the west, which would take fewer parking spaces and preserve the other side. There is more State land on the Brewster side. They would not consider burying the wires. The municipality would have to pay for any of those costs.

Members pointed out that a light at the corner would create problems at Crescent Lake Avenue and at Pine Street, with many drivers trying to avoid the light by going around.

Shirley Ganem said she had given the State's report to Roger Murray, and if anyone could figure out a solution, he could.

It was now 9 a.m. and the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 3.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rosemary Artander*  
Secretary