

WOLFEBORO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
April 5, 1995

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PRESENT: Shirley Ganem, Chairman; John Pernokas, Bill Wiebe, Bob Garland, Barbara Jackson, Andy Milligan, Tony Triolo, Dennis Plante, John Catalano

GUEST: Doug Cady

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:33 in the First NH Bank Conference Room, and introduced Doug Cady to those present. Cady, who is manager of operations for Ed Sutherland at Relay Testing Services, had come to talk about the Bandstand Project.

He reported that an ad hoc committee had become incorporated as the Friends of the Bandstand. As an independent organization, they plan to fund and build the bandstand, provide for its long-term maintenance, and have money available to provide a regular series of concerts. The bandstand itself will be donated to the Town when it is completed in July.

The design is in place, the contractor has been hired, and the schedule is set to start work early in May. The foundation will be in and backfilled before May 20, which is the date of the Smith River Canoe Race when the park is in use. It will be completed and ready for its first concert on the Fourth of July.

Wood Visions of Derry, NH is building the bandstand. They have built many in New England, most recently in Boothbay Harbor. Cady showed plans of the site and the bandstand. It will be set in the lower corner of the park, close enough to the water so that people can sit in their boats and listen. It will be easily accessible from the parking lot and handicap accessible, but no parking spaces will be lost. It will have a wooden deck on top of the concrete foundation and will be constructed with cedar posts. There will be 16 recessed lighting fixtures in its nine-foot ceiling.

Cady reported that the committee has presently raised more than \$5,000, and Andy Milligan offered an additional \$5,000 on behalf of Rotary. The total cost will be about \$35,000. He has been working as a committee of one, but has had a lot of support. The community's response has been very positive, Cady reported. The EDC members agreed that the bandstand will be very good for the Town both culturally and economically. Downtown businesses should really benefit from the concert crowd, as do the businesses in Alton Bay, when their bandstand hosts concerts.

Barbara Jackson suggested that Pat Smith of the Libby Museum was planning some summer activities that could also take place at the bandstand. This is to be called "The Wolfeboro Community Bandstand," and it is to belong to the Community.

Cady reported that Wolfeboro once had a bandstand, located where Sound Spectrum is now. Old timers remember it as ugly. He said that at one time a company located the Odd Fellows Hall is now, made the corner brackets used in all the local porches. He hopes to find some typical ones which could be used in the bandstand. Dennis Plante said that Don Goodrich had

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made reproductions of many Wolfeboro architectural features, and could probably make these. This would tie in with the Wolfeboro Heritage Plans. Cady said that he hopes to involve the Garden Club in plantings around the bandstand. Sue Glenn and Wes Flierl have been working closely with him. This completed Cady's presentation, and all agreed that he was doing an outstanding job.

8:00 PRESENTATION - WOLFEBORO, OUR TOWN

GUESTS: John Bosa, John Burt, David Senecal, Jerry Coogan, Roger Murray II, Joseph Santoro, Larry Keniston, Stan Stevens, David Ford, Judy Breuninger. (This may not be a complete list of all who attended.)

Dennis Plante made a few introductory statements, and presentations were made by John Pernokas, who spoke for Pam Berg, who was in Florida, on the Economic Aspects. He then spoke on Visual Appeal. Andy Milligan's topic was the Promotional Aspects.

Mrs. Ganem pointed out that a special need was for indoor promotional events that could be held in the winter, or in bad weather. First Night was cited as an outstanding success. Judy Breuninger pointed out that the skating rink is a covered space and skating programs could be a great drawing point. It could also be used for events in the summer as it is a covered space.

Bill Wiebe then tied up the discussion with a presentation on organization, and developing community support. He emphasized that this has to be a public/private partnership with widespread community support with project teams. He cited the Bridge-Falls Path, or the Community Bandstand, as typical projects.

The "Main Street at Work" video was then shown. After the video, Plante spoke briefly, emphasizing that Wolfeboro is not just looking at the downtown area, but at the whole community. We need industrial and commercial jobs, not just retail and service jobs.

Judy Breuninger spoke about Franklin, Tennessee, a community she has visited which had done a lot of revitalization. They put their light industry and apartment buildings out on their equivalent of Route 28. They raised money with a promotion whereby people could contribute money and buy bricks or sidewalks in certain areas "in honor of" or "in memory of" someone. She also hoped there could be some focus on design integrity of old and new buildings.

John Burt asked the purpose of inviting the budget committee to this presentation, and was assured that it was not to ask for money, but to provide information, so they would know what was going on.

Bill Wiebe explained that the committee has been making presentations to

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many Town boards and community organizations. Next was Chamber of Commerce, then cultural-type organizations like the Friends of Music, Governor Wentworth Arts Council, First Night. He said he had met with the Village Players who were planning what to do with the Masonic Hall which they have just purchased. The facade of that building is classic New England architecture. An integrated design for Wolfeboro is very important, Wiebe continued, so a customer (tourist, visitor) knows what to expect when he comes to Wolfeboro. It has to be a comprehensive plan, and the whole Town needs to know about it.

There was general discussion about guidelines for appearance without going into design review, and without any confrontational approach. Most businesses which want to come into town want to fit in and look appropriate to the other architecture in Wolfeboro.

Bill Wiebe ended the meeting with the statement that this kind of discussion was a good start for the Our Town program. Everyone needs to get involved.

The next EDC meeting will be held on April 19. This meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Erik H. Antander*  
Secretary

