

WOLFEBORO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

May 17, 1995

Page 1

PRESENT: Chairman Shirley Ganem; Bob Garland, Andy Milligan, John Catalano, Tony Triolo, Barbara Jackson, Alice Rose (Our representative from WEDCO)

Chairman Shirley Ganem called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. in the First NH Bank Conference Room.

In preparation for a regional economic development meeting in Meredith this evening, Mrs. Ganem was seeking answers to some questions which will be discussed. Andy Milligan will attend the session and represent Wolfeboro.

These were the questions, and the answers given:

Is Economic Development appropriate for a small community like Wolfeboro?
What is the purpose of economic development?

- * Retention and support of existing business
- * Bring in new light manufacturing and service businesses for creation of jobs. Retail will follow.
- * Bring in new talents, and new money from outside which stays here
- * Help the local economy to stabilize and grow
- * Broaden the base - diversify
- * Afford job opportunities to keep young people in town - keep families together

It was pointed out that according to surveys, 22% of Wolfeboro's population want to keep economic conditions just the way they are.

What have we learned in four years? That consensus comes only from education.

What have we accomplished?

- * Built cross-country ski trails on public and private property
- * Gotten three towns to join in an economic development corporation (WEDCO)
- * Helped retain and enlarge two existing businesses: Wickers and Phoenix

J. Catalano stated that EDC still needs a product--something that will grab the public's attention.

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May 17, 1995

Page 2

The group briefly discussed Wolfeboro's perceived anti-business attitude, and needed changes in the regulations. It was also pointed out that more commercial property is needed, and a committee of Barbara Jackson, Andy Milligan, and Bob Garland was supposed to be preparing a proposal to present to the Planning Board.

John Catalano said that the public has no idea of what the Economic Development Committee is or does. He suggested writing a story for the newspapers, inviting comments from readers. The subject will be the purpose for economic development as stated at the start of the meeting:

1. To retain and support existing business
2. To encourage new commercial ventures for the creation of career job opportunities.

Catalano's brief story will list the names and telephone numbers of EDC members, and readers will be encouraged to call them between 7 and 9 p.m. on weekday evenings to talk about economic development.

Alice Rose said that she is EDC's representative from WEDCO, and WEDCO would like to have a representative from EDC. John Catalano was suggested as a good candidate. He agreed to talk with Alice about it.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Arctander
†Secretary

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 7.