

**WOLFEBORO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, March 22, 2007
MINUTES**

Members Present: Bob Reid, Chairman, Tony Triolo, Denise Roy-Palmer, Mike Cooper, Gene Leone, Mary DeVries, Members.

Members Absent: David Tower, Member.

Staff Present: Lee Ann Keathley, Secretary.

Guest: Diane Levin, Chairman, Wolfeboro Area Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Committee

Chairman Reid opened the meeting at 8:04 AM.

Consideration of Minutes
February 13, 2007

It was moved by Tony Triolo and seconded by Gene Leone to approve the February 13, 2007 EDC minutes as submitted. Bob Reid, Tony Triolo, Denise Roy-Palmer, Mary DeVries voted in favor. Mike Cooper, Gene Leone abstained due to their absence at that meeting. The motion passes.

Discussion Items

➤ **Reorganization of Committee**

Bob Reid stated he would be stepping down as chairman of the Committee after next month's meeting. He stated the agenda would include the appointment of a new chairman; nominations for such requested at said meeting. He stated that if no one on the Committee is interested in assuming the position, to notify him of such as it would be necessary to advertise the position.

Denise Roy-Palmer questioned whether the person would have to be a Wolfeboro resident; stating the person should be due to the perception by the public.

Bob Reid replied no. He stated following the adoption of the Master Plan on 4/4/07, the Committee will need to move in the direction of pressuring the BOS and Master Plan Implementation Committee to hire an Economic Development Director in addition to develop a business park and explore suitable business for the Wickers building. He stated the chairman would work with Staff in regard to developing agendas and scheduling meetings. He stated he would remain a member of the Committee. He stated the chairmanship would change yearly. He further stated as a result of the election, there will be an enormous amount of work being done in Wolfeboro; millions of dollars of work (construction) and recommended the Committee take a stand regarding the consideration of hiring local contractors.

➤ **Role of Economic Development Director**

Tony Triolo questioned the amount of salary budgeted for an Economic Development Director.

Bob Reid stated he has not seen a plan yet however, if the position is a department head position, the salary would be between \$65,000 and \$105,000. He stated if there is no energy being created behind the pay and position, the pay could be based on economics. He stated the EDC and Chamber of Commerce's EDC would provide input when the Master Plan Implementation Committee begins to meet.

Tony Triolo questioned when the Implementation Committee is scheduled to meet.

Bob Reid replied there is no schedule to date; such is driven by the Planning Board and would occur following the adoption of the Master Plan update. He stated the Committee would consist of 1 BOS member (Linda Murray, Chairperson) and one representative appointed by the BOS. He requested the EDC recommend a representative to serve on the Implementation Committee and present a written recommendation to the BOS prior to 4/4/07.

Tony Triolo recommended a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

Mary DeVries stated the representative should be a person who volunteered on the Master Plan update.

Bob Reid recommended Frank Giebutowski.

Mary DeVries recommended Chip Maxfield stating Mr. Maxfield had served on the Downtown chapter update.

Bob Reid stated the focus should not be about Downtown rather, the economic development of the Town.

Tony Triolo agreed with Ms. DeVries stating Chip Maxfield is a Wolfeboro resident, not retired, local businessman and served as chairman of the Downtown chapter of the Master Plan update. He stated Frank Giebutowski is retired and not a local businessman. He stated the representative should be from the local business community.

Mary DeVries stated it is an opportunity for the EDC to have a representative from the business community on the Implementation Committee and requested such criteria be considered during the selection process.

Gene Leone and Tony Triolo agreed with Ms. DeVries comments.

Tony Triolo recommended Peter Alden.

Tony Triolo and Mary DeVries volunteered to recruit and recommend a representative(s) to the BOS for consideration of placement on the Master Plan Implementation Committee.

➤ **Wickers**

Bob Reid stated the Committee should drive getting a business into the building. He questioned the marketing of the property and the marketing of the property's potential.

Gene Leone questioned whether the State is marketing the property.

Denise Roy-Palmer replied the property has been placed on the State's website.

Gene Leone stated the State of NH itself probably has the worst income tax system and such is extremely unfair to immobile small businesses; sometimes being taxed up to three times. He stated when the State enacted the Business Profits Tax, the State didn't want to tax anything except corporations however, constitutionally, the State couldn't do such so, instead they developed the Deemed Compensation Deduction (the profits were considered wages therefore, the business did not have to pay a Business Profits Tax). He stated as time went on and the State needed additional money, the State began attacking what they deem to be reasonable compensation; having a low threshold. He stated the State is actively pursuing the reasonable compensation however, there is nothing set in law as to what it exactly is; such is arbitrary. He stated that as the State becomes more onerous to raise money, the State attacks and taxes the small businesses.

Bob Reid verified Mr. Leone is noting a drawback to opening a business in Town.

Tony Triolo stated such is a drawback throughout the State.

Gene Leone stated that, to a large corporation, such would not be an issue rather, it's the smaller businesses and contractors that are affected.

Tony Triolo stated it would be better to have an income tax.

Gene Leone stated such is a long term issue; NH has no income tax however, smaller businesses are taxed and such hurts the small business people in NH that are immobile.

Bob Reid expressed appreciation to Mary DeVries for the Chamber of Commerce's efforts regarding their radio slots promoting the election. He stated 2400 people voted.

It was moved by Tony Triolo and seconded by Denise Roy-Palmer to adjourn the March 22, 2007 Economic Development Committee meeting. All members voted in favor.

EDC meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 10, 2007 @ 8 AM at Leone, McDonnell & Roberts office. Agenda to include reorganization of Committee / appointment of chairman and discussions related to Wickers and economic development with Michael Bergeron, State of NH Business Resource Center representative.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee Ann Keathley