

WOLFEBORO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, May 8, 2007
MINUTES

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

Staff Present: Lee Ann Keathley, Secretary.

Chairman Reid opened the meeting at 8:01 AM.

Consideration of Minutes
March 22, 2007

It was moved by Tony Triolo and seconded by Denise Roy-Palmer to approve the March 22, 2007 Wolfeboro Economic Development Committee minutes as submitted. Mary DeVries, Mike Cooper, Denise Roy-Palmer, Gene Leone, Bob Reid, Tony Triolo voted in favor. David Tower abstained due to his absence at that meeting. The motion passes.

April 10, 2007

It was moved by Mary DeVries and seconded by Mike Cooper to approve the April 10, 2007 Wolfeboro Economic Development Committee minutes as submitted. Mary DeVries, Mike Cooper, Denise Roy-Palmer, Gene Leone, Bob Reid, Tony Triolo voted in favor. David Tower abstained due to his absence at that meeting. The motion passes.

Discussion Items

➤ **New Member**

Bob Reid informed the Committee that Frank Giebutowski is a member of the EDC. He stated Mr. Giebutowski served on the Economic Base chapter of the 2006 Master Plan update.

➤ **Reorganization of Committee**

Bob Reid stated a chairman has to be designated and the responsibilities related to such are as follows; input regarding Master Plan Implementation and develop action plan to facilitate the Wickers property for economic development (information retrieved from Michael Bergeron). He stated there are a lot of things that will affect the Town's economic development; Town Hall renovation, Huggins Hospital upgrade, new school, water lines and sewer system. He stated the chairman would have direct access to the BOS. He stated it is difficult as a Selectman to be an advocate for the Committee in addition to not having the time to dedicate to being chairman. He stated, at the very least, if he were to remain chairman, he would request a vice-chairman.

It was moved by Tony Triolo and seconded by Mary DeVries to appoint Gene Leone as Vice-Chairman to the Wolfeboro Economic Development Committee.

➤ **Guest: Diane Levin, Wolfeboro Area Chamber of Commerce EDC**

Diane Levin stated the members of the WACC EDC are as follows; Brad Lipe and Jane Milligan. She stated the biggest issue is the frustration of the process for new businesses or existing businesses. She stated the Town has a guide for the permit process and land use approvals however; such information is overwhelming for people to comprehend. She stated a goal of the Chamber of Commerce's EDC is to develop a clear, understandable checklist for the process that would then be distributed by the Chamber. She stated another goal includes tracking businesses that come to Wolfeboro and leave Wolfeboro and gather such information to help understand the perception of the community.

Bob Reid stated there is no centralization to the process and the information to be gathered would benefit the Economic Development Director.

Mike Cooper recommended reviewing national averages and retrieving information from other communities to determine whether Wolfeboro's situation is unique or similar to other towns.

Bob Reid requested continued dialogue between the Committees.

Tony Triolo stated the key is the hiring of an Economic Development Director.

Gene Leone questioned the area for the recommended business park.

Tony Triolo replied Route 109-A / Pine Hill Road.

Bob Reid stated the Public Works Highway Department has outgrown its facility and will have to move in 2-3 years; such would be a prime location because workforce housing is being developed behind the property.

Old Business

➤ **Michael Bergeron, State of NH Business Resource Center**

Bob Reid stated Mr. Bergeron provided distinct recommendations to the Committee regarding economic development and the Wickers building. He stated he spoke to Steve Webster who expressed interest regarding the building (and develops such) and stated he would like to invite Mr. Webster to an EDC meeting.

Tony Triolo stated a primary investor is needed; WEDCO may be interested in being involved. He stated the property could be used as an incubator.

Bob Reid questioned the latter.

Denise Roy-Palmer stated the building could be divided into smaller units in order to meet the needs of smaller businesses with the idea to grow said business.

Bob Reid questioned whether such is publicly funded.

Denise Roy-Palmer replied yes. She stated the Wicker property could easily accommodate four small businesses with its current layout.

Bob Reid questioned whether businesses could intermingle.

Denise Roy-Palmer replied yes.

Bob Reid recommended touring the building with Steve Webster prior to the June meeting.

It was moved by Tony Triolo and seconded by David Tower to adjourn the May 8, 2007 Wolfeboro Economic Development Committee meeting. All members voted in favor. The motion passes.

EDC meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 5, 2007 @ 8 AM at Leone, McDonnell & Roberts office.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:43 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee Ann Keathley