

WOLFEBORO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Tuesday, October 14, 2008
MINUTES

Members Present: Frank Giebutowski, Acting Chairman, Gene Leone, Vice-Chairman, Kristi Ginter, Selectmen's Representative, Mike Cooper, Mary DeVries, Tony Triolo, Dave Tower, Denise Roy-Palmer, Members.

Member Absent: Bob Reid, Member.

Staff Present: Lee Ann Keathley, Secretary.

Acting Chairman Giebutowski opened the meeting at 8:03 AM.

Consideration of Minutes

September 9, 2008

Corrections:

Page 2, 2nd paragraph; strike "agreed to put money in the budget for a study" & insert "suggested to put a placeholder figure in the budget for a study".

September 30, 2008

Corrections:

Page 1, 2nd paragraph; strike "WEDCO" & insert "ELRHC".

It was moved by Tony Triolo and seconded by Kristi Ginter to approve the September 9, 2008 and September 30, 2008 Wolfeboro Economic Development Committee minutes as amended. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

Discussion Items

- **Zach Tarter, Chairman, Chamber of Commerce's Community Betterment Committee; present current information on efforts to enhance the beautification of Wolfeboro, specific to Project 1 area of the Town's Downtown Streets Projects**

Zach Tarter stated the Committee believes that if a more village character feel is provided to the Downtown core then it would spur economic growth and make people stay longer. He stated that as a result of the Downtown Streets Project Forum (March 2008) and public opinion survey (April 2008), the results set as a priority the burying of utility wires on Lehner Street, and the area between the Library and the Wolfeboro Inn in addition to a continuous design. He noted the funding for such was not incorporated into the engineering plan. He stated the Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors intend to ask the BOS to postpone Project I (Lehner Street, Glendon Street, School Street) of the Downtown Streets Project until next year so that the engineering plan for the burying of utility wires could occur.

Kristi Ginter stated Dave Ford, Director of Public Works, is not recommending a delay in the project for the burying of utility wires on Lehner Street due to extensive infrastructure issues.

Zach Tarter stated the drainage issue has been around for years and the whole plan should be reviewed.

Frank Giebutowski questioned the cost for engineering.

Zach Tarter stated he doesn't know.

Frank Giebutowski questioned the engineering costs associated with Project I.

Zach Tarter stated he doesn't know.

Frank Giebutowski questioned whether the money for Project I has been allocated.

Kristi Ginter replied yes.

Frank Giebutowski questioned whether the money has been spent.

Denise Roy-Palmer replied no.

Zach Tarter stated the Committee requested the CIP Committee to review the plan and the response given was no. He stated the Town came to the people and asked what they wanted; the people want the conduit buried. He stated the Chamber of Commerce could lobby to vote down the budget however, such would not be a proper course of action rather, the proper course of action would be for the Town to delay Project I.

Kristi Ginter stated she would be reviewing the issue of want versus need.

Zach Tarter stated there are other communities that bury wires in their Downtown village core.

Mary DeVries stated that ideally, they are not wanting the project to be delayed however, the plan did not include the cost of burying the conduit and it should have. She stated the BOS should respond to what the community has requested.

Kristi Ginter stated Mr. Ford is supportive of the concept however, not for Project I rather, for the Downtown corridor.

Tony Triolo agreed with the Chamber of Commerce's position and the enhancement of the Downtown village core.

Frank Giebutowski questioned how critical Project I is to the balance of the project.

Kristi Ginter stated the drainage issues in the Project I area are critical.

Zach Tarter stated Paul Zimmerman owns the largest parcel of land located in the Project I area and noted that Mr. Zimmerman supports the Chamber of Commerce's request.

Frank Giebutowski questioned how the request for a delay for Project I would affect the other projects.

Zach Tarter stated all are individual projects.

Mary DeVries stated the Chamber of Commerce requested the Planning Board not move forward on Project II (as noted in the CIP) however, voted to accept the CIP as written.

Frank Giebutowski stated he believes Lehner Street is secondary at this point.

Kristi Ginter recommended the Chamber of Commerce focus on Project II.

Mary DeVries stated the Chamber of Commerce BOD would be writing a letter to the BOS requesting the delay in Project I and requested the EDC support their request and letter (in the form of a letter from the EDC to the BOS) in addition to being vocal and physical at the BOS meeting when the Chamber of Commerce presents the request.

Zach Tarter stated the original Our Town project spoke to continuous design.

Gene Leone questioned what would happen if the project was delayed for one year.

Kristi Ginter stated such is a question for Mr. Ford.

Mike Cooper stated an option to focus on Projects II & III exist.

Gene Leone questioned the number of respondents for the survey.

Zach Tarter stated he is unaware.

Frank Giebutowski questioned whether economic development opportunities exist on Lehner Street.

Denise Roy-Palmer stated the market study could determine such.

Frank Giebutowski requested further response and a vote via email regarding the issue. He requested Ms. DeVries forward the letter from the Chamber of Commerce BOD to the EDC members and noted the EDC should support the Chamber of Commerce in their efforts.

Kristi Ginter stated she would abstain from the vote.

Dave Tower requested more definitive engineering costs.

➤ **Bid Matrix / Review & discussion of RFP's for Economic Development Strategic Planning**

Frank Giebutowski requested the members submit their matrix, via email, to Staff no later than 10/23/08 for compilation.

➤ **BOS budget meeting; 10/22/08**

Frank Giebutowski distributed a draft PowerPoint presentation for the BOS budget meeting scheduled for 10/22/08. He requested review and comment / changes to be submitted by Noon on 10/15/08.

It was moved by Kristi Ginter and seconded by Mary DeVries to adjourn the October 14, 2008 Economic Development Committee meeting. All members voted in favor.

EDC meetings scheduled for Tuesday, November 11, 2008 @ 8 AM at the Offices of Leone, McDonnell & Roberts.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:04 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee Ann Keathley