

# WOLFEBORO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

May 11, 2010

## MINUTES

**Members Present:** Frank Giebutowski, Acting Chairman, Gene Leone, Vice-Chairman, Linda Murray, Selectman's Representative, Mike Cooper, Dave Tower, Mary DeVries, Denise Roy-Palmer, Tony Triolo, Members.

**Member Absent:** Bob Reid, Member.

**Guest:** Roger Hawk, Hawk Planning Resources, LLC.

**Staff Present:** Lee Ann Keathley, Secretary.

*Acting Chairman Giebutowski opened the meeting at 8:05 AM.*

### **Consideration of Minutes**

March 9, 2010

April 13, 2010

**It was moved by Mary DeVries and seconded by Tony Triolo to approve the March 9, 2010 and April 13, 2010 minutes as submitted. Frank Giebutowski, Gene Leone, Mike Cooper, Dave Tower, Mary DeVries, Tony Triolo, Denise Roy-Palmer voted in favor. Linda Murray abstained. The motion passed.**

### **Discussion Items**

#### **➤ Economic Development Strategic Plan**

Frank Giebutowski stated the public forum would be held on 5/17/10, 6 PM at the Wolfeboro Inn.

Roger Hawk distributed and reviewed the proposed slide presentation, Town of Wolfeboro Economic Indicators; noting the Town is consistent with other towns in the Lakes Region in regard to population change. He stated the point of the public forum is to get people's unfiltered thoughts (brainstorm event); noting he does not want to lead the audience. He stated the slide presentation sets a framework for conversation. He reviewed the average weekly wage; noting such is below the weekly wage for the entire State of NH. He stated the growth in business appears to be slowing down; noting the information pre-dates the current economic situation. He reviewed total covered employment (jobs only covered by unemployment); noting a significant drop from 2005 through 2008. He stated seasonal employment is shown in the figures; noting a seasonal affect to employment. He reviewed the industry of workers in Wolfeboro; noting the need to show the nature of work. He reviewed county business patterns based on zip code.

Denise Roy-Palmer stated the Town has two zip codes; 03894 & 03896.

Referencing the Industry of Workers in Wolfeboro 2000 slide, Linda Murray recommended retrieving additional data and breaking down further the categories of educational, health and social services. He stated there are 91 nonprofit organizations in the Wolfeboro area.

Roger Hawk stated he would take the Chamber of Commerce's list of businesses and link them to the industry categories.

Dave Tower recommended review of population changes; noting it has been reported that growth in NH has stalled.

Mike Cooper asked what kind of story wants to be told with the data in order to guide the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis.

Roger Hawk stated he needs to develop a summary slide. He expressed concern in the seasonality and decline in employer base; noting seasonal employment is affecting in excess of 100 people every season.

Mike Cooper stated the audience may consist of people who need convincing the Town needs economic development and recommended directing the presentation to convince people of the need for such.

Linda Murray expressed concern for the health of the downtown businesses relative to the businesses being taken over by box stores and larger businesses.

Frank Giebutowski stated neighboring towns are open to development that Wolfeboro isn't and questioned the threat of such.

Mike Cooper stated there is a need to understand and track seasonal businesses; noting the need to match the area of development with the hiring of an Economic Development Director and show what the Committee is trying to accomplish.

Roger Hawk stated there seems to be interest in getting away from some seasonal business and stabilize the dips in unemployment.

Gene Leone questioned how to maintain Wolfeboro as a viable community if the Town doesn't have what surrounding towns have.

Roger Hawk stated the Town has a nice viable town center, quality of life and retail market that services the immediate needs of the community on and off season. He stated the question lies with how to grow the Downtown area so it's healthy 12 months of the year and add more diverse employment in other sectors that support the entire community.

**It was moved by Mary DeVries and seconded by Tony Triolo to adjourn the May 11, 2010 EDC meeting. All members voted in favor.**

*There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:27 AM.*

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Lee Ann Keathley*  
Lee Ann Keathley