

WOLFEBORO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

October 11, 2011

MINUTES

Members Present: Paul O'Brien, Co-Chairperson, Denise Roy-Palmer, Co-Chairperson, Linda Murray, Selectman's Representative, Mike Cooper, Frank Giebutowski, Bob Ness, Tony Triolo, Members.

Members Absent: Mary DeVries, Charles Wibel, Members.

Staff Present: Dave Owen, Town Manager, Lee Ann Keathley, Secretary.

Co-Chairperson Paul O'Brien opened the meeting at 8:00 AM.

Consideration of Minutes

September 13, 2011

It was moved by Mike Cooper and seconded by Bob Ness to approve the September 13, 2011 Economic Development Committee minutes as submitted. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

Co-Chairpersons Report

➤ **Route 28 Corridor Study Steering Committee**

Paul O'Brien questioned action taken by the BOS regarding such at their 9/21/11 meeting.

Linda Murray stated the BOS approved the section that includes Lehner Street; noting the BOS is supportive of the project.

➤ **Accommodations**

Paul O'Brien stated he is meeting with a representative of the Wolfeboro Inn relative to creating a network with inn keepers.

➤ **Focus Groups**

Linda Murray requested a report to the BOS regarding the status of such.

Denise Roy-Palmer noted a 10% participation rate; noting a variety of businesses present.

Frank Giebutowski stated general comments have been made regarding more communication and connection between nonprofits and businesses. He stated the calendar focuses on retail and questioned how to distribute outside of Wolfeboro.

Linda Murray noted the need to spread tourism.

Discussion Items

➤ **Open House of Commercial Properties for Rent or Purchase**

Paul O'Brien stated there have been 4 responses to the open house invitation. He reviewed the tasks associated with the event.

Linda Murray questioned whether a survey should be available for comments by those who attend the tour.

➤ **Economic Revitalization Zone**

Denise Roy-Palmer stated such is an incentive program for businesses to create new jobs (businesses are eligible for tax credits; noting there is criteria associated with the program). She questioned the applicability of such to the Wickers building and adjacent lots owned by the Bean brothers or the Bittersweet property.

Dave Owen reviewed the criteria associated with the zone.

Paul O'Brien questioned whether the Committee should discuss such with the Planning Board.

Linda Murray stated the Planning Board is considering zoning changes to the Route 28 corridor.

➤ **Town Manager Report / BOS Report**

Linda Murray stated the BOS discussed the Town's electric rates and agreed the rates would not be changed.

Dave Owen stated the BOS compared NHECC and PSNH rates; noting the Town of Wolfeboro's rates are lower. He stated the Town will be going out to bid early because the price of natural gas is very low; noting the contract expires in 2013 however, the intent would be to lock in for 2013-2016.

New Business

The Board questioned whether there is an open member position on the Committee.

Dave Owen stated he would review such.

It was moved by Bob Ness and seconded by Charles Wibel to adjourn the October 11, 2011 EDC meeting. All members voted in favor.

EDC meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 8, 2011 @ 8 AM at the Wolfeboro Inn Ballroom.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:57 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee Ann Keathley

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