

WOLFEBORO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

February 8, 2011

MINUTES

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

Member Absent: Linda Murray, Selectman's Representative.

Staff Present: Lee Ann Keathley, Secretary.

Acting Chairman Giebutowski opened the meeting at 8:06 AM.

Consideration of Minutes

January 11, 2011

Corrections:

Page 1, Tasks & Assignments; add "Mary DeVries" to Wi-Fi and add "Denise Roy-Palmer" to Education

It was moved by Denise Roy-Palmer and seconded by Mike Cooper to approve the January 11, 2011 Economic Development Committee minutes as amended. Frank Giebutowski, Gene Leone, Mike Cooper, Mary DeVries, Denise Roy-Palmer, Tony Triolo voted in favor. Dave Tower abstained. The motion passed.

Discussion Items

➤ **Review of tasks and assignments**

Information re: "showcase" in Laconia (open house of available rental space in the town)

Mary DeVries stated she spoke to Kevin Sullivan, Realtor, who spear headed the event. She stated the event was a fantastic networking event, scheduled for 2 hours, lunch served, SBD and banks present. She recommended the EDC formulate and promote a similar event. She recommended advertising available commercial real estate and questioned whether the event should be a physical open house event or a virtual open house.

Mary DeVries & Dave Tower to develop a plan for such.

Inventory vacant commercial space

Denise Roy-Palmer reviewed the number of for sale and for rent/lease properties available; noting a price range of \$129,000 - \$2 million.

Tony Triolo noted supply is not the problem.

Develop questionnaire for Implementation of Visitation Business Program or development of focus groups

Gene Leone stated he and Dave Tower do not believe a survey of businesses would be productive and questioned what would be gained by such. He stated he is unsure if the Town has the political will.

Frank Giebutowski stated the Business Visitation Program is a huge effort with minimal return.

Referencing Meredith and Laconia, Dave Tower stated revitalization came from the business community and not government. He stated there needs to be an effort to understand the challenges; noting a general discussion for such.

Gene Leone stated the original Master Plan did not include development for the Back Bay area; noting the area grew regardless and grew as a result of the community and not government.

Mike Cooper stated the best place for economic development is with the current business community; recommending improvement of what currently exists rather than trying to add to it. He stated he is opposed to a Business Visitation Program and recommended that if the Committee engages in focus groups the Committee partner with the Chamber of Commerce's EDC.

Gene Leone & Dave Tower to contact Diane Levin, Chamber of Commerce EDC.

➤ **Attendance Policy**

Frank Giebutowski stated Linda Murray submitted language relative to such and read the following excerpt; "Regular attendance is required of Economic Development Committee members. If unable to attend a meeting, it is the responsibility of the Committee member to notify the Chairman. A committee member will be asked to resign if he or she misses three meetings without notifying the Chairman."

It was moved by Tony Triolo and seconded by Denise Roy-Palmer to adopt the following language relative to attendance of committee members; "Regular attendance is required of Economic Development Committee members. If unable to attend a meeting, it is the responsibility of the Committee member to notify the Chairman. A committee member will be asked to resign if he or she misses three meetings without notifying the Chairman." All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

It was moved by Mike Cooper and seconded by Mary DeVries to adjourn the February 8, 2011 EDC meeting. All members voted in favor.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:59 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee Ann Keathley

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