

WOLFEBORO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

March 8, 2011

MINUTES

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

Members Absent: Gene Leone, Vice-Chairman, Linda Murray, Selectman's Representative.

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

Guests Present: Bob Ness, Diane Levin, Chamber of Commerce EDC.

Acting Chairman Giebutowski opened the meeting at 8:02 AM.

Consideration of Minutes

February 8, 2011

It was moved by Denise Roy-Palmer and seconded by Tony Triolo to approve the February 8, 2011 Economic Development Committee minutes as submitted. All members voted in favor. 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 would have a presentation for the April meeting. She stated the Chamber of Commerce held a candidate forum; noting a question posed to BOS and Budget Committee candidates was "How would you bring more business and jobs to Wolfeboro?" She stated overwhelmingly the candidates looked to the Chamber of Commerce and Town's EDC to do such; noting they would work cooperatively with those groups. She stated one Budget Committee candidate stated that if the EDC did not have an inventory of businesses and such would be requested.

Tony Triolo questioned whether the candidate inquired about an inventory for existing or available businesses.

Mary DeVries stated he did not specify.

Denise Roy-Palmer questioned the ownership status of the red building at the bridge in Wolfeboro Falls.

Diane Levin stated following reconstruction of the bridge, the ownership reverted back to its previous owner.

WIFI

Dave Owen questioned whether there is an inventory of businesses that provide Wi-Fi.

Mary DeVries replied the Country Bookseller, Downtown Grill Café and the Wolfeboro Public Library.

Frank Giebutowski stated the current status is that commercial entities take advantage of available services to attract customers.

Dave Tower stated the commitment by Fairpoint to invest in hardwire has ceased and would provide the information to the Committee.

Denise Roy-Palmer stated if there is a need for a significant number of users in the Town such should be looked at.

Mike Cooper stated Brewster Academy recently increased its band width.

Frank Giebutowski questioned if there has been any discussion of band width at the Lakes Region Planning Commission level.

Dave Owen replied not that he is aware of.

Frank Giebutowski stated he would contact LRPC regarding such.

Bob Ness stated more people are becoming users.

Granite State College (Higher education component)

Denise Roy-Palmer distributed an invitational flyer to be distributed to employers and agencies to discuss educational and training opportunities (accredited classes, workshops, enrichment programs, boot camp series, etc.); scheduled for 3/24/11, 9:15 AM at WEDCO. She stated Granite State College is interested in providing services to the Wolfeboro area in a cooperative effort/partnership.

Develop focus groups

No update.

➤ **Government involvement / role**

Frank Giebutowski stated the Committee needs a clearer understanding of what the government can and will do so the Committee can understand its bounds.

Dave Owen stated the tools to work with in NH are limited. He stated the EDC established a Mission Statement, as noted in the minutes of 4/15/1992. He read said statement and reviewed the history of the Town government's involvement in Economic Development; noting the Town established its own electric utility in 1897. He explained the BOS have authorized him to pursue the option of engaging in a strategy called "blend & extend" which allows the Town's current contract to be extended for 3 years and blend the pricing into the existing contract; noting such could lower the electric rate by two cents per kWh. He stated the Town has engaged in a number of planning efforts and recognized the Town's Master Plan having an economic development aspect. He stated the Committee should advocate for certain projects and priorities such as the development of Filter Bed Road to provide for an alternate egress from Downtown and provide for an area for economic development. He questioned whether the Committee would pursue the second phase of the study.

Frank Giebutowski stated if there is no activity within the next 12 months based on Phase I of the study then the information is lost because the data will be outdated.

Dave Owen stated the EDC is appointed by the BOS therefore the EDC can define its role and has the authority to do such. He stated if the EDC needs additional Town staff he could make such available. He recommended the Committee build on the hospitality sector.

Frank Giebutowski thanked Dave Tower for his work and efforts as a member of the EDC; noting Mr. Tower will not be requesting reappointment to the Committee.

It was moved by Tony Triolo and seconded by Mike Cooper to adjourn the March 8, 2011 EDC meeting. All members voted in favor.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:08 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee Ann Keathley
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