

WOLFEBORO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

February 14, 2012

MINUTES

Members Present: Denise Roy-Palmer, Co-Chairperson, Linda Murray, Selectman's Representative, Tony Triolo, Charles Wibel, Mike Cooper, Frank Giebutowski, Mary DeVries, Bob Ness, Members.

Member Absent: Paul O'Brien, Co-Chairperson.

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

Co-Chairperson Denise Roy-Palmer opened the meeting at 8:00 AM.

Consideration of Minutes

January 10, 2012

Corrections:

Page 2: change "SWAT" to "SWOT" & strike "locus"

Page 2, 2nd paragraph; strike "member" & replace with "nonmember businesses"

Page 3, New Business, 1st paragraph; add "and the State of" before "Texas" & remove the "h" from "Pittsburgh"

It was moved by Frank Giebutowski and seconded by Mike Cooper to approve the January 10, 2012 Economic Development Committee minutes as amended. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

Discussion Items

➤ **Business Focus Group Findings Progress Report**

Denise Roy-Palmer stated a public presentation would take place in mid March.

Frank Giebutowski questioned whether a progress report would be prepared for Linda Murray to present to the BOS.

Linda Murray requested such in an email.

➤ **NH Economic Development Association Quarterly Meeting**

Denise Roy-Palmer stated their interest is in what economic initiatives the community taken. She stated she informed them of the efforts to expand the season, Workforce Housing project, renovations to Huggins Hospital and the construction of the Arts Center at Kingswood High School.

Linda Murray questioned what is being presented by the Committee.

Charles Wibel recommended highlighting the focus groups and what is being done. He stated one complaint he has heard repeatedly is the request for more broadband and interconnectivity to the internet.

Denise Roy-Palmer noted the need to increase band width.

Mike Cooper stated such is available through local providers at a cost.

Dave Owen noted improved recreational offerings and assets provided by the high school and middle school.

Linda Murray noted the Town provides childcare services for parents to work.

Mary DeVries noted Brewster Academy's enhancements to their property and arts center.

Frank Giebutowski asked who is hosting the meeting.

Denise Roy-Palmer replied WEDCO would develop the presentation.

Dave Owen noted the Mount Washington has increased their trips by 35%.

Mary DeVries stated the Mount Washington decreased trips to other ports last year however, is increasing the number of trips to Wolfeboro this year.

➤ **Marketing**

Referencing The Inn & Spa at Mill Falls Magazine advertisement, Mary DeVries stated she received a copy of the ad and thanked Bob Ness, Derrie Saunders and Russ and Judy Sabanek for photographs. She requested the Committee write a thank you letter to those individuals.

Linda Murray requested Dave Owen to write the letter.

Denise Roy-Palmer questioned whether the article about Wolfeboro is available.

Mary DeVries replied no, the article has not been distributed. She stated the Chamber of Commerce is hosting a meeting to introduce the slogan "Jewel of Lake Winnepesaukee" as a marketing tool.

➤ **Real Estate Open House**

Denise Roy-Palmer questioned whether the Committee will host a commercial open house in the spring; noting the open house previously scheduled for the fall of 2011 was cancelled.

Tony Triolo recommended waiting on such and review the market conditions in the spring.

Charles Wibel stated there is no huge demand in commercial real estate at this time.

Linda Murray stated the Town is losing the arts segment (Cornish Pottery, NH League of Craftsman).

Mary DeVries stated the Chamber of Commerce has a relationship with some of the bus operators; noting they are not hearing that people are missing the arts rather, the groups are more interested in food and drink.

The Committee agreed to hold off on the commercial open house.

Selectmen / Town Manager Report

Linda Murray reviewed the Glendon Street Parking Lot and Downtown Streets project warrant articles.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to write a letter to the Editor endorsing the warrant articles.

It was moved by Mary DeVries and seconded by Tony Triolo for the EDC to endorse the Glendon Street Parking Lot and Downtown Streets Warrant Articles. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

Dave Owen reported he sent to the Co-Chairpersons information regarding economic development websites being developed in the towns of Bow and Franklin by Virtual Town Hall (Town of Wolfeboro's website developer).

Frank Giebutowski questioned whether Virtual Town Hall would assist in the development of the content.

Dave Owen stated they would assist in the structure however, the Town would provide the content.

Denise Roy-Palmer stated she would forward Dave Owen's email regarding such; noting she would also include information she has received.

Charles Wibel, Denise Roy-Palmer and Bob Ness volunteered to assist with the development of the content.

Other Business

➤ Vacant Member Positions

Denise Roy-Palmer stated she and Paul O'Brien met with Alan Harding; noting Mr. Harding has submitted a letter of request for appointment. She stated Paul O'Brien has also spoken to Les MacLeod regarding his interest in the Committee.

Linda Murray questioned whether an alternate position exists.

Dave Owen replied no, however the BOS could create an alternate position.

It was moved by Bob Ness and seconded by Charles Wibel to adjourn the February 14, 2012 EDC meeting. All members voted in favor.

EDC meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 13, 2012 @ 8 AM at the Wolfeboro Inn Ballroom.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:03 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee Ann Keathley

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