

WOLFEBORO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

June 11, 2013

MINUTES

Members Present: Zach Tarter, Chairman, Dave Bowers, Selectmen's Representative, Linda Murray, Selectmen's Alternate, Mary DeVries, Alan Harding, Charles Wibel, Cindy Patten, Bob Ness, Kathy Eaton, Members.

Members Absent: Denise Roy-Palmer, Vice-Chairman, Mike Connolly, Member.

Staff Present: Rob Houseman, Director of Planning & Development, Lee Ann Keathley, Recording Secretary.

Staff Absent: Dave Owen, Town Manager.

Zach Tarter opened the meeting at 8:00 AM at the Huggins Hospital Board Room.

Consideration of Minutes

May 14, 2013

It was moved by Linda Murray and seconded by Mary DeVries to approve the May 14, 2013 Economic Development Committee minutes as submitted. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

Discussion Items

➤ **Pathways Committee**

Jim Eisenhower, George Vanderheiden, Co-Chairs

George Vanderheiden stated a key strength of the Town of Wolfeboro is its opportunities for recreational activities. He stated the Master Plan speaks to pedestrian and pathway travel with an objective to develop a bike and pedestrian plan that considers lanes, sidewalks, shoulders, etc.; noting the plan has not been done.

Jim Eisenhower stated such a plan would expand recreational in the Town and at the same time drive economic development. He stated such a plan involves process and a meeting with stakeholders is necessary.

Bob Ness stated the need to decouple traffic that is going through town from traffic that lives in the town or is staying in town (an observation made when visiting the Cape).

Rob Houseman stated the Pathways Committee met with Ethan Hipple, Dave Ford and he and discussed connecting existing recreational areas. He stated the Pathways Committee is seeking endorsement in the development of a bike and pedestrian plan (to include short, medium and long range plans). He stated the plan would address people who are uncomfortable riding on the road. He noted NHDOT owns the road therefore, he recommended engaging them in a proactive manner.

Linda Murray stated the BOS' 2013-2014 work program includes promoting a four season town therefore; the Committee has the BOS' support.

Dave Bowers stated the more cars the better for economic development and noted that once a bypass was put in for Pittsfield the center of the town went dead.

Charles Wibel stated the same occurred in Hillsboro.

Cindy Patten stated it is a balancing act.

Rob Houseman spoke to how to address connecting assets and provided examples of the process. He noted the Town has added 17 miles of pedestrian and bike improvements since he arrived in the Town and in the last four years 4 bike racks have been installed.

Jim Eisenhower stated support is critical in order to spur economic development in the Town and the support will legitimize efforts by the Pathways Committee.

Charles Wibel questioned other communities that have incorporated such a plan.

Jim Eisenhower stated NY put in a bike path and the percentage of retail visitors increased.

Mary DeVries stated the demographic has been identified therefore, recommended the Committees find a better way to accommodate that demographic.

George Vanderheiden stated that people are not going to use bikes if bike paths are not available.

Rob Houseman stated the Town has key assets that could be connected (The Nick, Town beaches).

It was moved by Zach Tarter and seconded by Cindy Patten to support and partner with the Pathways Committee in expanding pedestrian and bike paths with the Town of Wolfeboro. All members voted in favor. The motion passed.

Jim Eisenhower stated the EDC would be included to participate in meetings held by the Pathways Committee.

Alan Harding, Zach Tarter and Cindy Patten volunteered to assist the Pathways Committee in their efforts.

Old Business

➤ Economic Revitalization Zone

Rob Houseman stated the BOS voted to approve the ERZ designation for Lehner, Pine and Center Streets as proposed by the EDC (not including Paul Zimmerman's request to expand the boundaries of the zone).

➤ EDC Webpage Content

Rob Houseman stated the goal relative to the Demographic Profile is to reduce the content to four pages. He stated the drive shed map is complete.

Zach Tarter asked if the webpage would be up for next month.

Rob Houseman stated the framework of the webpage would be made available for the Committee within the next month.

➤ **NHES Community Profile Worksheet**

Rob Houseman reported the worksheet was updated and submitted to the State; noting such would be placed on the Economic Development webpage.

➤ **Focus Group Update Meeting**

Mary DeVries stated representatives from the Town and Chamber of Commerce's EDC will present an update to the BOS, place an article in the newspaper highlighting accomplishments since 2013 and an update meeting would be scheduled for October 2013.

Other Business

Rob Houseman stated Wolfeboro hasn't embraced, in a proactive way, motorcycle week. He suggested an escort ride and reviewed other options to become active in the event. He stated Laconia Bike Week magazine rallies as far north as Conway and the Mount Washington auto road.

Kathy Eaton stated the map for motorcycle week ends half way around the lake; noting Alton, Tuftonboro and Wolfeboro are not included on the map. She recommended getting on the map and tying an event with a charity.

Mary DeVries stated she will follow up with the owner of the Naswa (Weirs Beach) regarding the map issue; noting the owner is the president of the Motorcycle Week Association.

Dave Bowers recommended putting up a sign that welcomes bikers.

The Committee agreed to market motorcycle week and support the efforts of the Chamber of Commerce to promote motorcycle week.

Town Manager/BOS Report

None.

It was moved by Alan Harding and seconded by Mary DeVries to adjourn the June 11, 2013 EDC meeting. All members voted in favor.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:06 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee Ann Keathley

Lee Ann Keathley