

## WOLFEBORO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

July 9, 2013

### MINUTES

**Members Present:** Denise Roy-Palmer, Vice-Chairman, Dave Bowers, Selectmen's Representative, Mary DeVries, Alan Harding, Cindy Patten, Mike Connolly, Kathy Eaton, Members.

**Members Absent:** Zach Tarter, Chairman, Linda Murray, Selectmen's Alternate, Charles Wibel, Member.

**Staff Present:** Dave Owen, Town Manager, Rob Houseman, Director of Planning & Development, Lee Ann Keathley, Recording Secretary.

*Denise Roy-Palmer opened the meeting at 8:01 AM at the Huggins Hospital Board Room.*

#### **Consideration of Minutes**

**June 11, 2013**

Corrections:

Page 1, Pathways Committee, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph; change "recreational" to "recreation"

Page 1, Pathways Committee, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph, 1<sup>st</sup> line; change "he" to "himself"

**It was moved by Alan Harding and seconded by Dave Bowers to approve the June 11, 2013 Economic Development Committee minutes as amended. Mike Connolly, Mary DeVries, Kathy Eaton, Cindy Patten, Dave Bowers, Alan Harding voted in favor. Denise Roy-Palmer abstained. The motion passed.**

#### **Old Business**

➤ **Economic Revitalization Zone**

Dave Owen stated he received notice of approval of the ERZ designation for Center, Lehner and Pine Streets from the State of NH Department of Resources and Economic Development. He distributed the letter and map depicting the ERZ. He recommended sending the letter to the properties within the zone and inform the owners of their eligibility for tax credits. He stated following the approval of the Business Park ERZ, WEDCO hosted an informational meeting with the property owners with representatives from DRED present.

Denise Roy-Palmer stated she would contact Robert Barry and schedule a date/time for the informational meeting and mail the invitation to all property owners.

Kathy Eaton recommended placing an ad in the Granite State News.

Cindy Patten recommended forwarding a letter to local realtors regarding the establishment of the ERZ.

Mary DeVries stated the Chamber of Commerce will publish the information in its newsletter and send an email to the members.

Denise Roy-Palmer stated Laconia has an ERZ as well and does radio advertising regarding such. She stated WEDCO is considering advertising with WLNH and will be discussing implementing an advertising plan.

➤ **EDC Webpage Content**

Rob Houseman stated he is working with the consultant and had hoped to present a model webpage for review by the Committee. However, as of this morning the webpage was not up yet. He stated Bill Letski, Virtual Town Hall, is altering the static view of the webpage. He noted there will be a button on the webpage that provides employments statistics and available commercial properties.

Referencing the Demographic Profile, Denise Roy-Palmer stated there are pages that are not necessary to include and will forward her recommended revisions to Rob Houseman. She reviewed the housing characteristics.

Dave Owen verified the Economic Revitalization Zones would be placed on the webpage.

Cindy Patten questioned how the webpage would be reviewed and analyzed.

Rob Houseman stated Google Analytics would be utilized for such.

➤ **Focus Group Update Meeting**

Mary DeVries stated the presentation to the BOS has been made and the Chamber of Commerce will be updated on 7/11/13. She stated a press release will be published in the 7/18/13 publication of the Granite State News.

**Old Business**

Mary DeVries stated she contacted Cynthia Makris, Manager, Naswa Resort and NH Motorcycle Association, who is thrilled that Wolfeboro wants to be more involved with Motorcycle Week. She stated they would be meeting in a couple of weeks to talk about how Wolfeboro can become more involved with activities during Motorcycle Week.

The Committee discussed having an antique car show during the same time of the motorcycle ride and using Brewster Academy as a start/stop location.

**New Business**

Alan Harding stated following review of the EDC Mission Statement, specifically higher education, he stated the Town lacks such and recommended pursuing a satellite education center in the Town. He stated it could be a technical school and recommended contacting the State Education Commissioner with regard to the relocation of higher learning institutions.

Denise Roy-Palmer stated she met with representatives from Granite State College a few years ago and at that time they stated there was not enough interest for them to pursue it further.

Mary DeVries noted the Committee never connected with the Education Commissioner.

Dave Owen stated UNH is looking for a fishery location.

Alan Harding stated he would contact the Commissioner.

Cindy Patten recommended Mr. Harding speak with Charles Wibel because he has contacts at UNH. She stated the face of education is going to change and recommended evaluating the ability to connect through the internet; noting her daughter took 7<sup>th</sup> grade classes through VLAX as a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Crescent Lake School. She recommended evaluating the quality of internet services to residents.

Dave Owen stated LRPC is conducting a survey of communities' needs for internet services. He stated most of the Town is served by Metrocast and Fairpoint is in the process of installing new equipment to improve internet services. He noted some areas of Town still have dial up.

Kathy Eaton stated any post secondary education would be a huge benefit to the Town.

Mary DeVries asked which cell phone services are available in Wolfeboro.

Rob Houseman stated AT&T is upgrading their communication and converting from 3G to 4G in the Downtown core. He stated Verizon has 4 towers throughout the Town. He discussed the EB5 Visa Program which allows for wealthy internationals to make a contribution (\$1 million) in exchange for a permanent green card into the country. He stated the contribution money goes towards job creation, bringing back lost jobs or an investment in infrastructure and noted the person making the contribution has no control over the expenditure of the money. He stated Jay Peak used the funds to create an indoor water park in 2010; noting Vermont is the only state in New England that has been designated as an EB5 Region. He stated he would forward the information to the Committee.

Mike Connolly stated statistics show that 7% of the people coming out of medical school are going to rural settings due to the debt load of loans. He stated there are less graduating physicians, specifically primary care physicians.

#### **Town Manager/BOS Report**

- **Electric Rates**

Dave Owen stated the BOS will review and approve the new electric rates at its July 17<sup>th</sup> meeting; noting such will be decreased by 3 cents per Kilowatt hour effective 1/1/14.

Mike Connolly asked if there is a distinction between residential and commercial electric rates.

Dave Owen replied yes, but the new lower generation charge will apply to both.

Mike Connolly questioned if the decrease is for both residential and commercial.

Dave Owen stated it is an overall decrease in the generation charge.

- **2014 Budget Guidelines**

Dave Owen stated the BOS will discuss the 2014 Budget Guidelines at their July 17<sup>th</sup> meeting and recommended the Committee review its budget at the August meeting. He recommended discussion regarding the billboard.

**It was moved by Alan Harding and seconded by Dave Bowers to adjourn the July 9, 2013 EDC meeting. All members voted in favor.**

*There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:56 AM.*

Respectfully Submitted,

*Lee Ann Keathley*

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