

WOLFEBORO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
January 14, 2014
APPROVED MINUTES

Members Present: Zachery Tarter, Chairman, Dave Bowers, Selectmen's Representative, Linda Murray, Selectmen's Alternate, Alan Harding, Mary DeVries (arrived late), Kathy Eaton, and Mike Connolly

Members Absent: Denise Roy-Palmer, Vice Chairman, Charles Wibbel, Cindy Patten

Staff Present: Dave Owen, Town Manager, Rob Houseman, Director of Planning & Development, Anne Marble, Acting Recording Secretary.

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

Approval of Minutes
November 12, 2013

Kathy Eaton would like to strike her comment on page 5, line 9.

Kathy Eaton would like to replace the word use with Wolfeboro on page 6, line 3.

Kathy Eaton would like to strike her comment on page 7, line 1.

It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes as revised. All approved.

Old Business

3a. Town Website Update

Rob Houseman stated that all changes to the website are up and running. The reports on tracking is not set up yet.

Mr. Harding asked what a QR code is.

Rob explained that a QR code is like a bar code. It would be available on the kiosk and you can look up events with your smart phone.

Dave Bowers wanted to know how to measure a response.

Kathy Eaton said it was for marketing and tourism.

3b. Union Leader Article

There was a discussion about the article. Article is attached to the minutes.

3d. State of NH EDC Collaboration (Cindy Harrington) Action Plan

Chairman Tarter was explaining about the event going on at Pease, which everyone was going to. Four days before the event we were told we were not invited. Cindy Harrington apologized. They are not as far along as they expected. It was suggested to work with North Conway.

Dave Owen understood that they didn't want to expand their group to include us. He learned that at the meeting in Meredith.

Kathy Eaton said they wanted us to look at our own region and maybe Rochester could be a part of us.

Linda Murray discussed that this area has 3 counties that come together, Belknap, Strafford and Carroll. We might want to be a bedroom community

Dave Bowers said people probably are not going to put a factory here but we have tourism on the lake.

There was a discussion about being a bedroom community.

Kathy Eaton was discussing the UPS Export Council. Also was discussing the Stay, Work & Play program for young professional that is associated with the Nashua Chamber of Commerce.

Zach was discussing educational facilities.

Alan discussed the possibility of financial assistance to potential employers and could the Town sell buildings and land that it owns.

Dave Owen said the Town does not have any property for sale. The Town does sometimes sell property taken for taxes but the Town has to wait for 3 years.

The committee discussed the expansion of the Boat Museum which is 3 years out.

The committee discussed possibly having a satellite program for nursing and the Hospital would be interested.

Alan asked about the Municipal Electric Building for leasing purpose and was told that this site is a hazardous waste site.

Mary DeVries arrived.

3c. First Night Report

Mary reported that First Night was a success. We had excellent sales with close to 3,000 buttons sold. The parade at 8:00 PM down Main Street was packed and then they stayed for the fireworks. They will be in the black. The Chamber received inquiries from all over the state and outside the state. Ms. Chase will chair the event for 1 more year. Most of the venues were standing room only.

3e. Advertising Update

Kathy Eaton discussed the advertisement in the Hippo. Advertisement for the First Night Wolfeboro is attached to the minutes.

Kathy discussed the article that appeared in the Yankee Magazine. This article is attached to the minutes. The deadline is coming up to be in the Yankee Magazine. Can we spend the money for advertising?

Linda stated that there is x amount of money in the budget, even if there is a default budget.

It was agreed that a commitment can be made.

3f. Staff Support – Recruiting of new Recording Secretary – Ongoing

Dave Owen stated that no one has applied for the position.

Kathy and Zach may know of someone.

New Business

4a. Wolfeboro Public Library Foundation

Alan Harding said a foundation has been formed for a new library. He suggested inviting the officers to come to the next meeting. They want to know what the people want in a library. He is on the committee.

Zach asked if anyone is opposed to having them come to the next meeting for a short introduction with questions and answers.

Dave Owen said the Library is proposed for 2016 and the Town Hall will be on the warrant in March.

Dave Bowers would like to hold off a little until the Town Hall is decided. Should hold off until after March.

Alan said this is a Library feasibility project. We understand about the Town Hall and we have never attached a number to the project. We are not competing with the Town Hall.

Mary DeVries moved that we invite both the Friends of the Town Hall and Wolfeboro Public Library to our February 11th meeting with the understanding that both parties that we would ask in advance of that meeting a question posed to this group for consideration before that February meeting and that we offer them a 10 minute presentation.

Kathy Eaton seconded.

Linda Murray stated that the Town Hall Project there is nothing I know of that they are asking from this committee.

Alan stated that he just wanted to inform the committee.

Rob Houseman said there is value seeing the Town Hall's plans.

Kathy withdrew her second.

Mary withdrew her motion.

Zach said the Town Hall presentation will be at next meeting and the Library will be the next month.

Zach wanted to know when the committee will like to meet in March. It was discussed and found that March 18th will work. The Library will be invited to attend.

Town Manager/Selectmen's Representative Report

Dave Owen brought in a comparison showing that Wolfeboro has the lowest electric rate in the region. The new rate took effect on January 1st. The Deliberative Session will be February 4th at 7:00 PM at the Kingswood Art Center. The Town Election will be March 11th.

Linda Murray - January 21st is the primary election to replace Ray Burton.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne C. Marble