

**Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
Draft-4.28.2020**

Members or alternates present: BOS liaison Linda Murray, Steve Durgan, Dave Maher, Robyn Masteller, Kathy Tetreault, Mary DeVries and Kathy Eaton

Members or alternates absent: BOS alternate Dave Bowers, Bill Petersen, and Craig Gemmell

Staff present: Director of Planning and Development, Matt Sullivan and Recording Secretary, Amelia Capone-Muccio.

Guests: N/A

1. **Call to order:** Being no Chairman Matt Sullivan called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM. Being a Virtual Meeting he conducted a roll call for members present. As also required for a virtual meeting he read the following:

Due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order #2020-04, this Committee is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, this is to confirm that we are:

- a) *Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means;*

*We are utilizing the GoToMeeting platform for this electronic meeting. All members of the Committee have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through the GoToMeeting platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through **dialing the following phone #+1 (646) 749-3112, then enter the access code: 870-687-373, or by video following the directions on the Town of Wolfeboro Website posted on the home page under the Virtual Town Meeting Login Information page.***

- b) *Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting;*

We previously gave notice to the public of how to access the meeting using GoToMeeting, and instructions are provided on the Town of Wolfeboro website at wolfeboronh.us on the Virtual Town Meeting Login Information page.

- c) *Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access;*

If anybody has a problem accessing the meeting via phone or computer, please immediately call 603-391-8489 OR email planningdirector@wolfeboronh.us

- d) *Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting.*

In the event that the public is unable to access the meeting, we will adjourn the meeting and have it rescheduled at that time. Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by Roll Call vote.

e) Meeting Notes

Members of the Committee will be unmuted for the entirety of the meeting. Members of the public will be muted for the meeting with the exception of public comment portions or public hearings.

I'd like to start the meeting with a Roll Call attendance. When each member states their presence, also please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

2. Appointment of Meeting Chair (Vice Chair to serve or Committee's nominee in absence of Vice Chair)

Mr. Sullivan noted the Committee is in need of a Chairperson which can be decided at the next meeting and since Vice Chair Petersen was not able to attend this meeting he suggested appointing someone to Chair the meeting for this meeting only.

It was moved by Kathy Tetreault and seconded by Linda Murray to Kathy Eaton to Chair this meeting Members voted, roll call vote: Kathy Tetreault-yes, Kathy Eaton-abstained, Linda Murray-yes, Dave Maher-yes, Robyn Masteller-yes and Mary DeVries-yes, (Steve Durgan has computer voice issues) the motion passed.

3. Consideration of Minutes: 12/17/19 & 1/21/2020

Kathy Eaton amended page 3, 6th paragraph from the bottom the to read K. Eaton feels there is not enough time for visitors to shop or eat in the two-hour time restriction and that more control of employee parking is needed. She also amended page 3, 2nd paragraph from the bottom, to change to recommend the 2 hour parking stay in place for now.

It was moved by Linda Murray and seconded by Dave Maher to approve the minutes of December 17, 2019 as amended. Members voted, Kathy Tetreault-yes. Dave Maher-yes, Robyn Masteller-yes, Mary DeVries-yes, Kathy Eaton-yes and Steve Durgan-abstained (still had voice issues), the motion passed.

It was moved by Dave Maher and seconded by Dave Maher to approve the minutes of December 17, 2019 as amended. Members voted, Kathy Tetreault-yes. Dave Maher-yes, Robyn Masteller-yes, Mary DeVries-yes, Kathy Eaton-yes and Steve Durgan-abstained (still had voice issues), the motion passed.

3. New Business

a. Yankee Ad Modifications

M. Sullivan stated that the first Yankee Ad for the season has been listed in the current issue and does not have accurate information about the beaches. He noted that the Warrant Article has passed and the Town is currently making revisions to the ordinance based on the Warrant Article. Going forward the ad will be revised to reflect such changes.

Kathy Eaton questioned if the Board has discussed the amendments to the ordinance.

Linda Murray replied that the Board has reviewed the draft ordinance and it will be reviewed again at the next meeting she noted more clarity and interpretation was needed as each article read differently

noting Carry Beach referred to “residents” and the interpretation of that is unclear and it was brought up at the Deliberative Session.

Ms. Eaton questioned the enforcement plan.

Mr. Sullivan replied that during peak hours and season (July/August) the beaches will be monitored and a pass system with an attendant will be the active. Outside of peak demand times the beach will be open without active enforcement.

Mrs. Murray added the attendants will not be enforcing the ordinance, the Police Department will be.

b. EDC Membership Availability

Kathy Eaton noted there are some open positions and noted that the EDC always had 9 positions available.

Matt Sullivan noted they have a list of memberships of where they stand now and noted that currently alternates can move up to full board members.

K. Eaton also thought the Board of Selectmen representative was a voting member.

L. Murray replied that she believes that the Board members are liaisons, and not voting members but will get clarity from the Town Clerk.

Dave Maher and Robyn Masteller both stated they wish to be moved to full members.

K. Eaton noted they need to check with Craig Gemmell if he wishes to remain a member and if not he could send someone else to represent Brewster Academy.

Steve Durgan suggested reaching out to the construction companies as he feels they are missing that portion of the community being represented on this committee.

Mr. Sullivan agree that there is more contracting business going right now than the retail section.

K. Eaton replied but they are still missing a retail representative since Cindy Patten left the Committee, the problem is getting someone who can commit the time.

Mary DeVries stated she has some ideas of folks in mind and agreed an article about the EDC may help the public understand the Committee’s role.

R. Masteller replied she knows of two retailers in Wolfeboro she could ask.

c. COVID-19 RoundTable Discussion

M. Sullivan stated that during the last 8 weeks of social distancing the Town has continued operations in a social distancing manner and have changed and adapted to each revision of the orders given by the State. He stated some feedback they have received is, is there a way to provide the returning residents/guests with a one page flyer that helps them to quarantine for the suggested 14 days; with information on where can they get take out, how to get groceries, etc.

Steve Durgan replied that he does not feel they have been adapting or sending the right message to the residents that are returning, but more a tone that is shunning them. He suggested taking a look at Alton's message board that has a much different tenor to it.

K. Eaton agreed the EDC does need to do more listening and address the issue with our summer residents coming back.

Mary DeVries stated that she also agrees and this committee is tasked with focusing on Economic Development and the crisis should not take away that focus. She noted there is a lot of information and it changes all the time and because of that the Chamber directs people to the State website to get the most up to date information.

K. Eaton stated that Molly the Trolley will be opening Memorial Day weekend and will be adjusting the start date of the new park and ride trolley to July 1st. She stated she will be contacting all the sign holders regarding their purchase. She stated that many of the hotels/motels and business including her rely on the wedding business which is greatly impacted by this shutdown. She stated we have to be open and optimistic. She questioned any changes to restaurant capacity for the summer.

Matt Sullivan replied that they are encouraging discussion on outdoor seating and noted they have been flexible with enforcement, for example the sign ordinance, and allowing the Nick's positive message fundraisers signs to be displayed.

L. Murray agreed with S. Durgan that they do need to address the tone for the summer community and that the Board of Selectmen have implemented task forces on how the summer in Wolfeboro will look including for the businesses and extra space for take-out etc. They will discuss relaxing the rules to help the businesses and the plans for doing this will begin at the April 29th meeting.

S. Durgan questioned who from the Town is tasked with communicating with the Governor?

M. Sullivan replied the Town staff does not communicate with the Governor, the Legislative Officials do.

R. Masteller suggested an article in the GSN and putting a more positive vibe on the summer residents, she noted at the bank they are doing a great job welcoming back the summer residents it has really been received very well.

K. Eaton asked if any local business have applied for the loans.

R. Masteller replied yes in the first round that had close to 500 applications and approved 400 including many in Wolfeboro. They just started the second round.

D. Maher stated he echoes S. Durgan's comments and that he sees a silver lining in this as many people are working remotely, they are now working where they live and play which is a plus for the Town. Cooperate America is working remotely and who wouldn't want to and he sees this as a huge opportunity for small town America.

K. Eaton questioned the status of the internet upgrades in Wolfeboro.

M. Sullivan replied that the Cable TV Advisory Committee had their first meeting last night and that discussions are happening on expanding to rural areas and hopes of getting the network built to capacity.

Mary DeVries replied she is glad to hear that she has computer issues and lives right in town. She stated she has some concerns about the wedding impact on the summer economy and that she knows one bed and breakfast will not be reopening.

K. Eaton stated such is unfortunate as there usually 60-70 private events in the summer she relies on and will impact businesses as well. She also noted there are many camps in the area, which will affect summer business. She stated there is so many unknowns and uncertainty. She stated hopefully they will know more next week. She stated they need to journey forwards have positive vibes and welcome our summer residents back.

M. Sullivan stated this has been a good discussion and suggested another virtual meeting in a few weeks to check in on the changes.

L. Murray questioned if the meeting is being recorded and if Elissa Paquette could get a copy.

M. Sullivan replied it is being recorded.

Being no further business before the Committee, Chairman Eaton asked for a motion to adjourn.

It was moved by Dave Maher and seconded by Steve Durgan to adjourn. Being all in favor, the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Amelia Capone Muccio