**Economic Development Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Draft-11.19.2019**

**Members or alternates present:** BOS liaison Linda Murray, Alan Harding, Chairman, Steve Durgan, Peter Cooke, Alana Albee, Robyn Masteller, Denise Roy Palmer, Kathy Tetreault, Mary DeVries and Kathy Eaton

**Members or alternates absent**: A BOS liaison alternate Dave Bowers, Dave Maher, 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:** Chairman Harding called the meeting to order at 8:0?? AM. He noted a quorum was present.

# 2. Consideration of Minutes: 10/15/19

***It was moved by Kathy Eaton and seconded by Robyn Masteller to approve the minutes of September 17, 2019 as amended. Members voted, Mary DeVries-abstained, all others in favor, the motion passed.***

**3. New Business**

a. **Police Chief Dean Rondeau on Parking**

M. Sullivan introduced the topic on…..

1. Harding questioned his opinion on how to correct the problem with downtown parking.

Chief Rondeau replied that revenues are a way to offset expenses and stated when he goes on vacation to other places, he expects to pay for parking. He stated that meters have been replaced with parking kiosks stations. He thinks the time has come to address the issue even if they just have paid parking in the summer months.

1. Harding questioned why the parking limits is only 2 hours.

Linda Murray replied that the ordinance was a 4 hour limit but the Chamber had requested to decrease it to 2 hours several years back to allow for more turnover in the spaces.

Chief Rondeau stated that they get many unhappy complaints regarding parking tickets, more than anything else. He noted if the Mt. Washington cruise is longer than 2 hours it doesn’t make sense to have 2 hour parking at Dockside, he feels there is a better way to handle this problem and that if parking is charged the revenue helps to offset the expense.

1. Harding questioned how much it would cost to install the kiosks.

Chief Rondeau replied that he cannot answer that but maybe Public Works could provide that info.

R. Masteller questioned if there is signage at Dockside.

Chief Rondeau replied that yes, there is plenty of signage downtown and the Public Works Department does a great job with that.

Peter Cooke questioned the percentage of tickets given out.

Chief Rondeau replied 10% and noted mostly on North and South Main Streets.

R. Masteller questioned how this affects the business owners.

Chief Rondeau replied no, they are included in the two hour limit if they park in that area.

Alana Albee questioned the overnight parking and how enforced primarily pertaining to the Libby Museum.

L. Murray replied that there is a sign at the Libby that is not corresponding to the ordinance and that should be discussed with the Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen. She asked Chief Rondeau to speak to the Department’s philosophy in the change of the summer patrol.

Chief Rondeau stated that yes under Chief Chase’s administration, they changed the model from using the summer enforcement officers, typically Criminal Justice students, that they trained and rarely retained to the next season to using Part-Time Certified Police Officers that are hired used primarily in the summer months in the downtown core but can be used at other times of the year to offset gaps in coverage.

Peter Cooke questioned if the kiosks would make enforcement less labor intensive, such as marking tires.

Chief Rondeau replied he feels it will create efficiency as most people comply with the law and will use the parking kiosk limited the need to enforce. He stated a Supreme Court decision has now make it illegal to mark tires.

K Eaton noted that the two hour time limit is too restrictive and also noted an example of a business owner who prefers to pay the ticket to park all day, it is worth it to be close. She is in favor of charging for parking as it has more pros than cons.

Chief Rondeau noted that they can still continue to provide the free parking all day in the municipal lots. He feels that meters letting those choose how long they wish to park is a great option, it could be a half hour or four hours.

Mrs. Murray stated that it will be up to the Board of Selectmen to determine how to proceed with parking and feels that a parking committee would be helpful in that process and untimely the voters should decide what would be the best way to address the parking downtown.

1. Harding stated they need a cost analysis of the parking meters, who would provide that?

Chief Rondeau replied that would come from the Board but suggested looking at Portsmouth model. He really does not see paying for parking as an issue most people expect to pay for parking.

M. Sullivan suggested taking a look at the plan from 2004 and sees this as addressing a parking management issue vs. a revenue issue.

M. DeVries stated that a lot has changed since 2004 and noted that the Mount Washington has never expressed concern with the time limit of parking in Wolfeboro and in fact added a cruise to Wolfeboro’s schedule. \*She excused herself from the meeting.

L. Murray stated that she sees this as an issue that needs to be discussed, educate the public then ask the voters.

Chief Rondeau added that Central Dispatch has had 42,000 calls for service to date, the Police Department reports 320 arrests to date and that since he was hired in 1996 when he was added as the 13th officer, the department only now employees 14 officers. He explained that two positions were re-designated to an SRO and a Detective position, which leaves them with less patrol officers.

1. Harding thanked the Chief for the information and will keep in touch on this subject moving forward.

\*P. Cooke excused himself from the meeting.

A. Harding stated that this item will need to be on a future meeting.

L. Murray noted the Board of Selectmen should discuss the next step in this process.

**b**. **Trolley Shuttle Program**

# K. Eaton stated this last season is the worst she has seen regarding parking and lack of. As stated at the last meeting she stated she was in the process of purchasing another Trolley to offer a park and ride from Kingswood. She has presented it to the School Board who are in favor of the idea and she is seeking the support of the EDC for when she goes before the Board of Selectmen to request additional signage to note of the park and ride.

R. Masteller questioned if people would be able to purchase a book for the season.

K. Eaton replied that she will have season passes available and those who purchase signs on the Trolley will receive some season passes for their business/employees use.

***It was moved by Denise Roy Palmer and seconded by Linda Murray to for the Economic Development Committee to support the Wolfeboro Trolley Company’s request to the Town of Wolfeboro for additional signage for the Park and Ride program. Members voted, Kathy Eaton-abstained, all in favor, the motion passed.***

S. Durgan stated he has a problem with this request and that he is not prepared to take a vote today.

1. Harding replied that he is not sure why he would disagree, it’s just a request from a private business for support.

S. Durgan stated he feels they should have an exit strategy.

A. Harding replied that is up to the business they are just supporting the request for additional signage.

# c. Marketing Sub-Committee update

K. Eaton provided a brief update on that has been spent for marketing/advertising to date and noted they have $200 left to expend and the sub-committee is recommending to expense those funds with two ads in the Seacoast Scene.

L. Murray noted her only suggestion with the information for the ads is note whether they are online or not.

***It was moved by Kathy Eaton and seconded by Linda Murray for the EDC to expend $200 to run two ads in the Seacoast Scene November and December editions. Members voted, Steve Durgan-abstained, all in favor, the motion passed.***

# d. Libby Museum Letter of Support

M. Sullivan stated that Alana Albee has requested a letter of support for the Libby Museum renovation/expansion proposal which will be discuss Wednesday evening at the Board of Selectmen’s meeting and is seeking a letter of commitment from the EDC, specific to their grant application.

1. Harding questioned if this is timely issue or can it wait until the next meeting.

M. Sullivan replied it is a timely issue as the application is due next month.

S. Durgan stated they need to stop being a rubber stamp and look at things more carefully. The cost of this project is unknown and they should have more information before endorsing it.

R. Masteller asked what the cost of the project is.

M. Sullivan replied it is estimated at $2.4 million but he believes that has increased and will be discussed more at the Board of Selectmen meeting.

L. Murray stated the Board will be discussing the project tomorrow night including the site plan that address the parking. She explained that the Board of Selectmen are the Trustees to the Libby museum which makes the Town of Wolfeboro the owner of the building and its contents, thus the Town is required to maintain the building.

R. Masteller replied they should at least have the cost of the project in order to endorse the project.

M. Sullivan clarified he believes today’s request is to support the Libby applying for the Northeast Heritage Grant.

***It was moved by Robyn Masteller and seconded by Denise Roy Palmer for the Economic Development Committee to approve a letter of support for the North East Heritage ? grant application.  Members voted, Alan Harding-abstained, all in favor, the motion passed.***

**e. Board of Selectmen Update**

Mrs. Murray stated the Board of Selectmen and the Town Manager have been reviewing the Departments budgets.

**f. Other Business**

M. Sullivan stated the Planning Board has been reviewing the budget, Dockside Restaurant, Wright Museum and reviewing the Pickering House this evening.

K. Eaton stated she has a thought with regards to Albee Beach and the discussion on the increased use and maybe like a Ski Area, you close when it reaches capacity and no more will be allowed in.

D. Roy-Palmer stated the UNH Main street session went well.

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

***It was moved by Kathy Eaton and seconded by Denise Roy-Palmer to adjourn. Being all in favor, the motion passed.***

The meeting adjourned at 9:54 AM.

# Respectfully submitted,

Amelia Capone Muccio