

**Economic Development Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
APPROVED 2-16-2021**

**Members or alternates present:**

Chairman Kathy Fairman Eaton (member), BOS liaison Linda Murray (member), Bill Petersen (member), Liz Baker McClain (member), Kathy Tetreault (member), Dave Maher (member), Robyn Masteller (member), Mary DeVries (alternate), Carrie Duran (member) and Mike Hodder (alternate)

**Members or alternates absent:**

BOS alternate Dave Bowers and Steve Durgan (member)

**Staff present:**

Tavis Austin, Wolfeboro Director of Planning Beverly Woods, Wolfeboro IT Assistant and Christine Metcalfe Doherty, Recording Secretary.

**Guests:** N/A

- 1. Call to order:** Chair Kathy Fairman called the meeting to order at 8:04 AM  
She read the attached script for the remote portion of the meeting. (See attached)

Roll Call for members present. Kathy Tetreault, present at LRTC office. Robyn Masteller present at home alone. Linda Murray present alone and in my home. Liz Baker McClain present at home alone. Dave Maher present at home alone. Bill Petersen present in my office alone. Kathy Fairman present at home alone. Mike Hodder present at home alone. Carrie Duran present at home alone. Mary DeVries present at home alone.

- 2. Approval of Minutes: January 19, 2021**

It was moved by Robyn Masteller and seconded by Bill Petersen to approve the minutes for January 19, 2021. Members voted, Linda Murray-yes. Bill Petersen-yes, Mike Hodder-yes, Kathy Tetreault-yes, Mary DeVries-yes, Dave Maher-yes, Robyn Masteller-yes, Carrie Duran – yes, Kathy Fairman-yes and the motion passed unanimously.

- 3. Dock Expansion Update**

**A. Deliberative Session**

Ms. Duran: Many people were not comfortable being there and we were not able to make those accommodations. I think this is why the turn-out was so low. Plus, people were not able to vote remotely.

Ms. Murray: The decision was to remove it from the town hall and put it at the Kingswood Art Center to provide the needed space for COVID regulations and they didn't think they had the time to make it available remotely.

Ms. DeVries: Attendance seems to always be low.

Mr. Hodder: Ever since SB2 (Senate Bill 2) attendance at town meetings through the deliberative session has steadily declined. More people are voting since SB2 but are less informed of the bills they are voting on.

Ms. Murray: Change came about in the mid 1990s. I agree with Mike Hodder, we do have more people voting but less informed.

Ms. Murray: There is going to be a Dock Committee meeting on Monday February 22<sup>nd</sup> to review the warrant articles and Phase 2 will be the commercial area and parking lot.

Ms. Tetreault: At the Deliberative Session, the info we brought forward was accepted and we have taken action since then with our letter to the editor of the Granite State News. I think that those who were there had the best interest of what was moving forward on the dock expansion.

Ms. DeVries: They had an opportunity to vote on an amendment on the warrant article to zero out the expansion on the docks.

Mr. Hodder: My arguments were reported fairly on the amendment to zero out the bill. I am opposed to the precipitous schedule of the expansion. But my arguments did not prevail.

#### **B. Letter to the Editor**

Ms. Fairman: We have not voted on this since we first sent the recommendation to the selectmen. We could do that now or let the letter stand as is. Any comments on the letter?

Mr. Hodder: I think we do need to call for a vote on the letter since it has been reviewed by an attorney.

Ms. Fairman: We are definitely going to vote on the letter. Any proposed changes as presented?

Ms. Murray: What will the signature be? From the EDC?

Ms. Fairman: I think it will be nice to put down all the names of members of the EDC.

Mr. Hodder: If you include all the names on the letter you will have to leave mine out as I will be voting against it.

Ms. Murray: I will abstain because I already voted on it.

Ms. Masteller: I agree with Mike to not put all the names on it and just sign it by the EDC chair.

Ms. McClain: Also, not all members of the EDC are present.

It was moved by Bill Petersen and seconded by Kathy Tetreault to accept the letter to the editor. Members voted, Linda Murray-abstain, Bill Petersen-yes, Kathy Tetreault-yes, Mary DeVries-yes, Dave Maher-yes, Robyn Masteller-yes, Kathy Fairman-yes, Mike Hodder – no and Carrie Duran - yes. The vote was 7 to 1 with 1 abstention the motion passed.

(Letter to the Editor – see attached)

#### **4. Business Survey Update**

Ms. Masteller: We had some help from the attorney. This is what we intend to attach either electronically or in the mail. We did discuss on the website there is a Citizen's Action center, Tavis would we be able to attach this survey as a button for a period of time?

Mr. Austin: I will look into that.

Ms. Masteller: Once the survey cover letter is approved and the letter to the editor is published, we will need to meet to discuss the reaction.

Ms. Fairman: I am hoping it will be in this week or next week's paper.

Mr. Hodder: My one concern is referring to Attorney Puffer's letter concerning town employees assisting in the survey?

Ms. Fairman: That has to do with some couple of Facebook groups I think we may be able to put this out on.

Ms. Duran: I would have to put them on Facebook from my personal account as we don't have an EDC Facebook page. This is another reason I think we should have an EDC Facebook page.

Ms. Murray: The town has a Facebook page so Tavis can check with the Town Manager to put on the page.

Mr. Hodder: If there is a weblink to the survey and the draft letter, I would be happy to post to the Wolfeboro Facebook pages I am a member of.

Ms. Fairman and Ms. Masteller would both post the link as well.

Ms. DeVries: Is there a deadline to the survey?

Ms. Masteller: No

Ms. DeVries: The Chamber could promote it as an event if we had specific dates.

Ms. Fairman: We should probably have a deadline and we can build a news release about that.

Ms. Mastellar agreed and the Survey Committee will meet soon to consider both.

It was moved by Mike Hodder and seconded by Robyn Masteller to approve the survey cover letter. Members voted, Linda Murray-yes. Bill Petersen-yes, Kathy Tetreault-yes, Dave Maher-yes, Mary DeVries-yes, Robyn Masteller-yes, Mike Hodder-yes, Carrie Duran-yes and Kathy Fairman-yes, the motion passed unanimously.

(Survey Cover Letter– see attached)

## **5. Project Committee #1**

Ms. Tetreault: I did share with Robyn and Mary the spreadsheet I keep my notes on for our progress. My next action for our plan is to set up a meeting time when we can pull together some of the stake holders to move toward the second part of our objectives.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **6. "Support Local" Campaign**

Ms. Fairman: There is a campaign the State of NH started and maybe we could piggy back on that for Wolfeboro.

Ms. DeVries: Supporting local businesses is not a new concept. What the State's goal is to recognize more people who are not traveling this year and to reach that audience. They are trying to develop a more online presence as well. I've always wondered, for the Wolfeboro area community it would be ideal if we had a way to reach the families in our school district to introduce or re-introduce what businesses are in the area.

Ms. Tetreault: LRTC has just put up a Facebook and Instagram account to get info out. They could facilitate or help us out in putting that together.

Ms. Baker McClain: Is this the "support local" that USA today is running nationally? We can just register our town and we will have access to their info.

### **7. Selectmen's Report**

Ms. Murray: Voting for new board members will be held on March 9<sup>TH</sup>. Temporary event permits are coming in. We don't know what the summer will hold with COVID so I think it is a

good time to get a committee together to figure out summer events ie; parade and Smith River Canoe race.

The warrant article # 13 asks voters to change the way we pay for large capital expenses to Pop Whalen. We have a major repair for the roof which user fees would not be able to cover. The warrant article is asking taxpayers to pay for the major repairs. A change was made to Article 35 35 pertaining to restricting use of Brewster Beach. The word “not” was added and they added a sentence that directs the Board of Selectmen to commission a committee to study the beaches in town.

Mr. Hodder: I would urge all members of EDC to read over Article #13 looking into the Pop Whalen enterprise fund and support Article 13. It is one of the biggest draws the town has bringing in thousands of people.

Ms. Fairman: We did not add a section for the Director of Planning, Tavis Austin. Do you have anything you would like to add?

Mr. Austin: A new sub-committee is being put together to discuss drive through restaurants. The understanding I have right now is to discuss the specifics and to gather public sentiment. There is not a warrant article already planned, they are just looking for information. The Planning Board has a separate sub-committee on short-term rentals and how they impact the town, community, and residents.

Ms. Fairman: It was about this time last year this was brought up and it was suggested a member of the EDC be part of that committee was.

Mr. Austin: The meeting will be on the February 22<sup>nd</sup>. I will talk to the chair of that committee and see what that process will look like.

Ms. Fairman: Does anyone have anything else to discuss?

Ms. DeVries: Everyone is invited to attend meeting the candidates on Wednesday Feb 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm at the Kingswood Art Center. Questions can be submitted to me for the moderator to ask. Spread the word so people know.

Mr. Hodder: Is this an in-person meeting?

Ms. DeVries: Yes and it will be moderated by Randy Walker. It will be presented under the COVID guidelines of the school and all of its facilities.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **8. Next Meeting Tuesday March 16, 2021 – Virtual**

### **9. Adjournment**

It was moved by Mike Hodder and seconded by David Maher to adjourn. Members voted, Linda Murray-yes, Bill Petersen-yes, Liz Baker McClain-yes, Kathy Tetreault-yes, Dave Maher-yes, Mary DeVries-yes, Robyn Masteller-yes, Mike Hodder-yes and Kathy Fairman-yes, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Metcalfe Doherty

## **Dock Repairs/Extension Will Benefit Wolfeboro Economy**

To the Editor:

The Town of Wolfeboro's Economic Development Committee supports Warrant Articles # 9 and #11 to repair and extend the Recreational Town Docks on Wolfeboro Bay.

The Town Docks provide access to our downtown core from Lake Winnepesaukee for local townspeople, visitors, and waterfront residents, which in turn helps support our town's economy by providing many jobs for our local citizens. The Town Docks area is a "Go To" place for those of us who live in the area as well as for our many visitors. EDC members support the repair and maintenance of this important town asset for its continued and viable use as proposed in Article #9.

The EDC also supports the passage of Article #11 to extend the docks identified and mentioned several times in the Town of Wolfeboro Ten Year Plan as middle docks B, C, D and E. Currently on many summer days we often see boats circling the nearby area or in front of the docks waiting for a place to tie up. The addition of 18 to 24 dock spaces as proposed by this plan will allow more people access to our downtown businesses, which we feel will be good for the town's economy.

An analysis done by the EDC last fall took into account the fact that there are over one hundred businesses in the downtown Wolfeboro area directly impacted by local residents, tourism and the vacation home industry. If each business employs an average of four people during the boating season that's four hundred local families that could feel the benefit of the investment each year. Many of our local businesses hire and employ more than four people each season. From the analysis done last year the anticipated \$300,000 cost to extend the docks will be made up by bringing additional revenue to the local economy in one season. The revenue projection is based on the extended spaces being full on weekends and holidays. You can read the full report on the town's website under the Economic Development Committee page for more information.

We would like to add that our town's 2019 Ten Year Master Plan calls for expansion of the Town's Docks under two sections. Under Economic Development there are notes that say, "to increase boat parking capacity and increase economic growth" and in the area of Transportation "to provide access to the Wolfeboro Village core by boat." The Master Plan is also available on the Town of Wolfeboro website.

Importantly, an added benefit of having visitors and residents arrive by boat is that they will not be coming in by car helping ease parking and traffic congestion. Extending and repairing the Town Docks will give us all a better opportunity to find space. It will also be helpful to our island residents when they come into town.

The EDC recognizes the importance of the dock repairs and extension as an added benefit to our town's revenue. We agree with Public Works Director, Dave Ford who said at the Deliberative Session of the Town Meeting on February 2, 2021 that he is really excited about this project.

The Wolfeboro EDC was established by the Board of Selectmen in 1992 to serve in an advisory role with respect to economic development in Wolfeboro. It serves as an unofficial bridge between the public and private sectors in Wolfeboro and the members are appointed by the Selectmen.

Respectfully,  
Kathy Fairman Eaton, Chairman  
Wolfeboro Economic Development Committee

DRAFT COVER LETTER TO ACCOMPANY MAILED SURVEY

February 16, 2021

Dear Wolfeboro Business Owner,

The Wolfeboro Economic Development Committee (EDC) is requesting your assistance in gathering information regarding the impact of the tourism and vacation industry on Wolfeboro's economy.

We anticipate the information gathered will be helpful to the Town and local businesses in considering future projects that the Board of Selectmen, the EDC and our citizens deem appropriate.

**Here's how you can help: fill out the enclosed survey asking how many people you typically employ during two different periods of the year. This will demonstrate how many jobs are created each year by the tourism/vacation industry.**

This information will help the town for years to come.

Please mail the survey to Wolfeboro EDC Survey, PO Box 629, Wolfeboro, NH 03894 or fill it out online at:

<https://www.wolfeboronh.us/economic-development-committee>.

The Wolfeboro EDC was established by the Board of Selectmen in 1992 to serve in an advisory role with respect to economic development in Wolfeboro. It serves as an unofficial bridge between the public and private sectors in Wolfeboro and is appointed by the Selectmen.

Sincerely,

Kathy Fairman Eaton, Chairman  
Wolfeboro Economic Development Committee