

Wolfeboro Economic Development Committee

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Huggins Hospital Board Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes – Draft

Members present: Chair Kathy Eaton, Vice Chair Denise Roy-Palmer, Lisa Lutts, Mike Roush, Cindy Patten, Alan Harding, Selectmen's Representative Linda Murray

Members absent: Mary DeVries, Dave Bowers

Staff present: Town Manager Dave Owen, Director of Planning and Development Rob Houseman, Recording Secretary Larissa Mulkern

Call to order: Chair Eaton called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the December 8 meeting were approved as amended.
2. **New Business:**
 - **Business Retention & Expansion Survey:** The committee will host a survey results reception on January 14, Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at the Wolfeboro Inn.
 - **Business turnover in the downtown core:** Denise Roy-Palmer thought it noteworthy to bring up several business closures downtown, i.e., Spectrum Photo replaced by a real estate office, and Winnepesaukee Chocolate closing a showroom on North Main Street. Members discussed the reasons for the closures, and the market forces/challenges that online sales have on downtown retailers. The BR&E survey was done in part as an effort to retain local businesses downtown and to encourage expansion.
 - **Business Assistance:** Denise said WEDCO is working on a business assistance program, with topics such as how to sell a business, succession planning, liquidation, and transferring ownership. A panel discussion with Q&A will be held in the spring in the Great Hall.
3. **Old Business:**
 - **Fisherville:** Kathy exhibited a paper model of a five-foot by five-foot bob house in the shape of Molly the Trolley. She will speak with Mike at the Lakes Region Technology Center to get the building trades students involved. Linda said the Fisherville weekend is set from March 4-6. If the lake does not freeze the event will be held at Dockside. Retailers are invited to sell items during the event.

- EDC Vacancy: Lisa Lutts' appointment fills in one of two vacancies. Her term is to 2018. Lisa is the director of the New Hampshire Boat Museum.
 - Google project update: Rob said the Wolfeboro Chamber of Commerce is hosting a workshop on Google verification, a technique to increase a business's visibility on the Internet. Rob is in the process of getting certified by Google and is taking webinars. He has ordered a certification kit from Google that includes promotional materials such as notepads, t-shirts and pens. He is also looking into getting the Great Room at Town Hall WiFi connected.
4. **Town Manager/Selectmen's Representative Report:** Mr. Owen reported that the Town's deliberative session would be held on Feb. 2 in the Great Hall. Articles on the warrant up for discussion include one regarding the establishment of a Heritage Commission, adoption of the RSA 79-E tax relief credit, and others. A PowerPoint presentation on the proposed Heritage Commission is on the Town's web site. Denise Roy-Palmer said the Wakefield Heritage Commission has done wonderful job in that town, helping to preserve historic buildings and the development of a Heritage Centre and Park in Union, among other projects. Mrs. Murray reported the presidential election primary would be held Feb. 9th at All Saints Church. The Board of Selectmen approved a request from PerformIt to use the Great Hall for nine days. Another group, Global Awareness Location Action (G.A.L.A.) will be hosting contra-dances at the Great Hall starting in January.
 5. **Other:** Kathy Eaton reported the town sign at Dockside is getting redone; Rob added that he and Mary DeVries met to discuss what to include on the Kiosk. Rob said there is a lack of understanding with all the things the Town does in the town, such as install the Christmas tree, decorate with lights, the fireworks shows twice a year. It's a cooperative effort, he added, made possible by the fact the Town has its own line crew. The town provides the Chamber a discounted rent. There had been a vote to put all the businesses on the kiosk map whether they were chamber members or not. Regarding the Pickering House, Rob said there was a person with a full cash offer, and a second offer from an individual who would seek a historic renovation of the property. This person has recently completed a renovation project in Newmarket.

There being no other business, a motion was made, seconded and voted on in the affirmative to adjourn at 8:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:
 Larissa Mulkern
 Recording Secretary