**Economic Development Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Draft-9.17.2019**

**Members or alternates present:** BOS liaison Linda Murray, Chairman Alan Harding, Steve Durgan, Peter Cooke, Alana Albee, Robyn Masteller, Dave Maher, Bill Petersen, Kathy Tetreault and Kathy Eaton

**Members or alternates absent**: C BOS liaison alternate Dave Bowers, Denise Roy Palmer, Craig Gemmell, and Mary DeVries

**Staff present:** Director of Planning and Development, Matt Sullivan, Town Manager, Jim Pineo, and Recording Secretary, Amelia Capone-Muccio.

**Guests:** N/A

**1. Call to order:** Chairman Alan Harding called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM. He noted a quorum was present.

# 2. Consideration of Minutes: 8/20/19

*Page one amended to show Dave Maher present at the meeting and page two paragraph seven to amend the second sentence to state; “She suggested a joint presentation of the museums to the EDC. “*

***It was moved by Bill Petersen and seconded by Kathy Tetrault to approve the minutes of August 20, 2019 as amended. Members voted, all in favor, the motion passed.***

**3. New Business**

# a. Review and Discussion of the 2020 EDC Budget

Matt Sullivan provided the 2019 Budget to review for the Committee to approve a 2020 proposed budget.

**Account: 01-46520-311 Consultants**

Ms. Murray stated that the previous Town Manager added funds to this line but no clear designation was set for these funds.

Mr. Sullivan stated they have discussed at several meetings the potential to track tourism/visitors to Wolfeboro and this is a potential line to budget for that study. He can reach out to a consultant for an estimate, he believes may be in the area of $3, 000.

Alana Albee agreed and it would useful to have a better handle on the visitors.

Ms. Murray agreed that would be useful information and questioned if the EDC or Planning Board should be taking a look at lodging demand/supply.

Mr. Sullivan replied that he doesn’t see a conflict with the EDC looking at lodging and studying the capacity and demand is useful information.

Bill Petersen stated there is a shortage of overnight availability and when you have an event like this past weekend, the boat races that bring people, a lack of lodging availability may push visitors to outside areas. You don’t want to restrict Air B&B’s for that purpose but if you don’t expand the lodging availability it is not good for the economic impact.

Ms. Murray noted that the Board of Selectmen will have a lot to look overall for the all the budgets and have to keep the budget to a level to present to the taxpayer. She suggested after receiving an estimate the EDC can encumber the funds in consultants this year and adjust the budget accordingly to plan for the remaining cost next year. She also noted that the Fisherville funds have not been used and will most not likely be used as well as that committee

Peter Cooke questioned the $6,000 for the calendar of events and requested clarity of what that provides, noting the Chamber website has been down for about two months. He also noted they could look to see if any grants are available for such project.

Jim Pineo noted that encumbering this year’s funds for such project would be something they can do if they have a contract in place.

Kathy Eaton noted that at some point they could revisit Fisheville but as to this point that committee has generated interest.

Chairman Harding questioned what happened to the idea of the ice curtain and the freezing of Back Bay.

Ms. Murray stated she believes it is due to lack of fundraising and more information was needed on the permits for that project.

M. Sullivan stated he would follow up with Dan Smiley with regards to the barriers. He asked Ms. Eaton if she wished to give a summary of the advertising budget.

Ms. Eaton provided an overview of the publications they advertised in; Yankee Magazine and Hippo, they will be doing more advertisements for the winter seasons and as always would love any input or assistance on the marketing sub-committee.

Mr. Maher stated he would be happy to join the marketing committee to assist with digital outreach.

M. Sullivan stated he would update the budget as discussed at this meeting and send it to the Committee for review he summarized the following changes:

* 1-46520-311 $3,000 consultants for a visitor study
* 1-46520-560 dues & Subscriptions- reduce membership -$50, remove the Lakes Region Tourism subscription and leave the NH Business Review.
* 1-46520-562 Advertising-move $500 of Fisherville funds to consultants line
* Dedicate any 2019 unused funds to the Consultant line and encumber the funds

***It was moved by Robyn Masteller and seconded by Alan Harding to approve to conditionally approve the 2020 EDC Budget as discussed. Linda Murray abstained, all others in favor, the motion passed.***

# b. Special Events Committee Report

Ms. Murray provided a brief update of the activities of Special Events Committee focusing on Last Night as follows:

* The Chamber of Commerce is covering the $5,000 for the Fireworks display
* All Saint’s Church will host a lasagna dinner and entertainment
* They have $1,050 available to spend for other activities/entertainment from the budget and donations

M. Sullivan questioned if the Board wished to discuss the General Wolfe costume.

Kathy E. stated that they do currently have a volunteer for General Wolfe and will be talking with him today regarding an upcoming event.

Steve Durgan suggested he and Kathy E have a discussion regarding this and speak with Chamber of Commerce as well and report back to the Committee regarding the position.

\*Peter Cooke excused himself from the meeting.

# c. Senior/ Community Center

Kathy Eaton stated a meeting of stakeholders regarding a multi-generational facility like a YMCA with a pool and Senior Center has been discussed and some sort of meeting should happen to include those stakeholders to discuss a direction.

Chairman Harding questioned who, where and when.

Kathy E. replied it should be here at this meeting with the Senior Center, Huggins Hospital, Wolfeboro Swim Team, Brewster Academy, Jeremiah Burke, the Wolfeboro Tennis Club, Youth Basketball Club and the Wolfeboro Parks and Recreation Department.

Ms. Murray stated she agrees to discuss the idea, but noted she sees it as a model like “the Nick” vs. having the Town of Wolfeboro create it.

Bill Petersen stated the All Saint’s Church is subsidizing the Wolfeboro Senior Center in $5,000 a year of toilet paper and that at some point the realization needs to be there is real costs associated with these programs and what a gift to the community is being provided.

Ms. Murray stated the Town of Wolfeboro funds the Senior Center at $25,000 per year and appreciates the support of All Saint’s for this program. The Board has discussed looking at going to the Abenaki Lodge with the senior program and will continue to discuss that. She supports any discussions on a multiuse facility but would prefer to see a model similar to how the Nick was created via a public/private partnership.

Kathy E. stated the first step would be to get everyone together to talk about it.

Chairman Harding suggested Mr. Sullivan coordinate such a meeting. Both Dave and Kathy E stated they would help with this as well.

\*S. Durgan excused himself from the meeting.

# e. Other Business

Chairman Harding stated that he would like to discuss museums further at a future meeting.

Alana Albee stated the Libby Museum has seen the highest numbers it has seen in a decade and provided a brief over of the plans, what has been done and what needs to be done. She stated that the foundation is currently helping to raise funds toward this project and that fact the building is deteriorating and is a seasonal facility. She stated the town is going to have to spend some funds to save this building.

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

***It was moved by Bill Petersen and seconded by Dave Maher to adjourn. Being all in favor, the motion passed.***

The meeting adjourned at 9:57AM.

# Respectfully submitted,

Amelia Capone Muccio