

Wolfeboro Economic Development Committee  
Minutes of 3/18/24 Monthly Meeting  
Great Hall, Wolfeboro Town Hall

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Lucy Van Cleve called the meeting to order at 8:00 am

**Present:** Chairman Lucy Van Cleve, Vice- Chair Barry Elliott, Members Carrie Duran, Cindy Fournier, Kathy Fairman, Alternates Mary DeVries, Gretchen Gandini and Selectman Linda Murray, BOS alternate. BOS Representative Brian Deshais joined at 8:30.

**Staff Present:** Planning and Development Director Tavis Austin joined at 9:00

**Absent:** Members: Jeremy Roberge, Liz Baker McClain,

K. Fairman agreed to take minutes.

L Van Cleve introduced new EDC member James Reilly, Assistant Head of School at Brewster Academy and asked other members to introduce themselves to him, which they did.

**2. Consideration of February 20, 2024 minutes**

Tabled because Minutes were not available

**3. Housing Seminar Update**

C. Duran said the Housing Seminar will not be moving forward because one of the EDCs largest partners in the event, the Lakes Region Community Developers no longer wishes to be involved. C. Duran said LRCD Director Carmen Lorentz expressed concern about the “politicalization of the housing crisis” and negativity about affordable housing being expressed at public meetings.

C. Duran said there are also several pieces of legislation being proposed on the state level that may impact local zoning in regard to housing.

Discussion followed during which some members expressed disappointment that the event was being cancelled because there might be opposition expressed to affordable housing.

B. Elliott made a motion to establish an EDC Committee on Housing to report back to the full EDC in the fall. K. Fairman seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. B. Elliott, C. Duran, L. Van Cleve and B. Deshais agreed to serve on the committee.

**4. Rail Trail New Business**

Informational Only - Scenic Rail Explorers would like to offer rail bike rides on the tracks along the Cotton Valley Trail. (Letter attached)

**5. Lake Winni Day Update**

L. Van Cleve provided the update. Sponsorships are going well. Amoskeag Beverages will be the major sponsor this year instead of NH Distributors.

*The Dive* will replace *The Spirit of Winnepesaukee* at the public docks because there is not enough room for both boats. *The Mount Washington* will be dockside at the commercial docks.

B. Deshais reviewed the origin of Lake Winnepesaukee Day for new member James Reilly.

## **6. EDC Newsletter**

L. Van Cleve reviewed plans for the next issue which will highlight what the EDC does.

## **Other Business**

**7.a SBA Listen, Learn and Collaborate Update ( I don't have anything in my notes and don't remember Jack speaking????)**

**7.b Park and Rec Job Fair: It will be held at Abenaki**

**7.c Copy of Yankee May/June ad attached**

## **8. Town Planner Update**

T. Austin reported that EDC needs to reduce its 2024 budget by 5% as per Town Manager Jim Pineo. Because the 2024 proposed budget was voted down at Town Meeting, the town will run on a Default Budget (2023 budget.)

K Fairman made a motion to reduce the EDC budget by \$688 with \$620 coming from salaries and \$68 from office supplies/travel. B. Elliot seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

## **9. Board of Selectmen Update**

L. Murray and B. Deshaies reported on the results of the Town Election including failure of the 2024 budget to pass.

## **10. Chamber of Commerce Update**

Director M. DeVries reported that a Sidewalk Survey regarding the use of town sidewalks is being circulated on-line and is due back April 1.

She called attention to HB-1479 currently before the NH legislature which would prohibit non-profit organizations from using federal, state or local funds to lobby.

**B. Elliott made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 am. L. Van Cleve seconded , and it was approved unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Fairman

