

Wolfeboro Economic Development Committee
Minutes of 1/16/24 Monthly Meeting
Great Hall, Wolfeboro Town Hall

1. Call to Order

Chairman Lucy Van Cleve called the meeting to order at 8:05

Present: Chairman Lucy Van Cleve, Vice- Chair Barry Elliott, Members Gretchen Gandini, Carrie Duran, Kathy Fairman, and Brian Deshaies, BOS (Board of Selectmen) representative; Alternates Mary DeVries and Selectman Linda Murray, BOS alternate.

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

Absent: Members: Cindy Fournier, Liz Baker McClain and Jeremy Roberge, Recording Secretary ??

Kathy Fairman agreed to take minutes.

Consideration of November 21 Meeting Minutes

L. Van Cleve moved to accept the minutes, B Elliott seconded, and the motion passed 5-0. K. Fairman, G. Gandini and B. Deshaies abstained as they were not present at the November meeting.

Housing Seminar Update

C Duran provided a summary of the event entitled “Housing Education Summit – Bringing our Community together to learn and collaborate on solutions to the housing crisis in Wolfeboro.” (ATTACHED)

She suggested the event be delayed from the spring to the fall because of pending State legislation related to the issue.

L. Murray noted that the Wolfeboro Planning Board begins its work in the Fall on possible zoning/planning amendments for proposal at the following Town Meeting so any event would have to be held in September to be implemented in 2025.

After discussion, it was agreed to still hold the event in the Spring so recommendations would be ready for the Planning Board by Fall.

Discussion also focused on the wording “Housing Crisis.” After reviewing comments from local businesses made at the 2023 Wolfeboro Planning Board’s Housing Forum and at the EDC’s 2023 RECAP regarding how the lack of housing, especially affordable housing, contributes to the shortage of workers, it was agreed “Housing Crisis” was an appropriate description of the situation.

It was suggested that in gathering information for the Summit, the Housing Summit Planning Committee should seek out examples of what other NH communities have done especially regarding short term rental regulation.

The 2014 Business Retention and Expansion Report was another source suggested.

Selectman L Murray reported on the impending closing of Hope House on Lehner Street established by Families in Transition to provide temporary housing and assistance to homeless families with children in the Governor Wentworth Regional School District.

K. Fairman moved that the EDC vote to have Chair Lucy Van Cleve send a letter to the Board of Selectmen indicating that the EDC supports the BOS working with Families in Transition to maintain the original mission of Hope House. C. Duran seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Last Night Update

Selectman L. Murray, chairman of the EDC Last Night Committee reported that about 1500 people attended the series of events which began at 11:30 am and concluded with Fireworks at 6 pm on December 31. \$5950 was raised through private sponsorships to cover expenses. A variety of activities and entertainment took place at: Estabrook Hall on Brewster Academy, First Congregational Church, 115 South Main Street, Wolfeboro Railroad Station, Pop Whalen Ice Arena and in the Great Hall at Wolfeboro Town Hall.

Third Annual Lake Winnepesaukee Day Update

This special event is scheduled for Friday, August 9, 2024. The Mount and The Dive are confirmed to participate.

EDC Newsletter/Social Media Update

The EDC Newsletter will be emailed soon. L. Van Cleve is looking for more winter events to include.

Board of Selectmen Update

Selectmen L. Murray and Brian Deshaies touched on the 2024 Town Budget which they anticipate will show an increase over 2023, primarily because of negotiated contracts with town employees and debt service on building projects approved in prior years.

Special Warrant Articles pertain to the town's Ambulance Service and Port Wedeln Water Quality protection

Wolfeboro Area Chamber of Commerce Update

Director M. DeVries reported that the Chamber is holding a Winter Seminar Series: January (Cost Cutting), February (Canva) and March (IA and Social Media Marketing.)

The next EDC Meeting will be held on February 20, at 8 AM in the Great Hall.

B. Elliott made a motion to adjourn at 9:35. M DeVries seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted

Kathy Fairman