

Upper Valley Economic Council

Meeting Minutes: July 22, 2019

Next Meeting: Monday August 19, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting was brought to order at 7:00 pm.

Present: Alvin Theriault, Peter Qualey, John Qualey, Lois Eash and Jeff Packard.

Guests: Michael Elliott - Katahdin Region Economic Development Director

Minutes: It was moved, seconded and passed to accept the minutes of June 24 , 2019.

Treasurer's Report/Sign Warrants: Office Manager Packard presented the Treasurer's report for July 22, 2019. The Board voted to approve the report as read. The Board signed the warrants.

Bylaws Amended: Office Manger Packard presented the Board with the new amendment in the Bylaws adding Northern Penobscot and Piscataquis County. A motion was made by Alvin Theriault to accept the amendment. John Qualey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Millinocket Lake Project: Office Manager Packard presented the Board with pictures of the completed paved Parking Lot. Fred Michaud from the Maine DOT is currently work on the USDA grant application in the amount of \$50,000 for the construction of a bathroom in the Parking Lot. Fred has already obtained \$50,000 from the Piscataquis County Commissioners, \$20,000 form the Nature Conservancy, and \$5,000 from a private donation towards the construction.

Broadband/Fiber Optics: No Update

Betterment Grant: The grant application was turned down.

Office Manager's Report:

The July Food give out had: 56 Households Served

Sherman – 26 Households

Stacyville – 12 Households

Other Towns - 18 Households

There were a total of 159 people, 40 of these were senior citizens, 62 were children, and 57 adults. We have 19 volunteers with a total of 81 hours as of 7-22-'19

KRDB Update: Federal Reserve Forum - Michael Elliott gave a report on the event. There was a great turnout with an opportunity for eight Municipalities to give a report to ten federal Agencies. The Forum was attended by Rep. Jared Golden and Senator Susan Collins. The purpose and goal of this meeting was to have an introduction with the Municipalities and the Federal Agencies in the Katahdin Region to share where they have been and where they are going. Then to try to find matches depending on what funding is available with the various agencies and their programs for the projects each Municipality was try to develop. There were two presentations on Opportunity Zones and how they can impact the whole

region for the Towns that are adjacent to Millinocket and East Millinocket where the Opportunity Zones are located and how 10% of the Opportunity Funds can be leveraged to the Towns within the region. There was a Forum for the Public afterwards IE local Businesses and Local Citizens to talk with the different Agencies one on one with what their individual needs might be. Next Step for Mike is to get a list of contact information from these Agencies so he can get that back to the residents who attended the event and they will have a direct line to the Agencies. Jim Pineau of the SBA wants to come up and do presentations throughout the Region and have more of a physical presence in the Region. Mike will bring Jim up to the Selectman's meetings for each Town. The SBA offers a 504 Loan Program which is a powerful economic development loan program that offers small businesses another avenue for business financing, while promoting business growth, and job creation. Mike explained if anyone in the Stacyville & Sherman area is interested through Mike's affiliation with EMDC, the Lending Department can help the Individual with that process. Sherman Town Manager Debra O'Roak attended the event and Office Manger Packard attended representing the Town of Stacyville and UVEC. Office Manager Packard did inform the Federal Agencies about the Communities above the Town of Medway are not connected to the New England Grid and because of this there are Economic Opportunity with Alternative Power that are not interested in our area. Also the possibility of cheaper electricity for Home Owners and Businesses are not available.

Alain Ouellette sent UVEC an email stating he only does Tourism work for NMDC now. UVEC has always sent Alain UVEC's Meeting notices and Minutes. Bob Clark Executive Director for NMDC emailed UVEC and asked to have the meeting notices and the minutes sent to him.

Michael Elliott - Is in the process of compiling a data base of commercial property available in the Katahdin Region. There is a Company that manufactures Bio Charcoal that is looking for a building with about 10,000 square feet. They would hire Individuals to work at home on their computer. This job would require Level Entry Skills but High Speed Fiber Optics would is essential for these positions.

Business up-date: No Update.

UVEC RBEG Update: There is \$4,973.67 available for loans.

Sherman Boralax Plant: There is a Business Man interested in processing Medical Marijuana and Hemp with the current owners making it a joint venture.

Meeting Adjourned at: 8:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

John Qualey, Treasurer
