

Upper Valley Economic Council

Meeting Minutes: May 23, 2016

Next Meeting: Monday June 20, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting was brought to order at 4:05 pm.

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

Guests: Jill Ducharme - Sustainable Writing & Consulting

Minutes: It was moved, seconded and passed to accept the minutes of April 22, 2016.

Treasurer's Report/Sign Warrants: Office Manager Packard presented the Treasurer's report for May 23, 2016. The Board voted to approve the report as read. The Board signed the warrants.

Amendments to agenda: Elections of Officers need to be conducted.
Chairman's Report

Elections: Motion made by Lois Eash to keep the same Officers that served in 2015. The motion was seconded by John Owen. The Motion passed.

Nancy Hathaway: Nancy visited the UVEC Office to inform UVEC about the economic opportunities for this area to host Dark Sky events for Tourists and Maine citizens that observe the sky for astronomy purposes. Nancy expressed concerns about possible light pollution that would greatly diminish the view of the sky. Chairman Qualey explained that this was not an issue in our area. Nancy will visit the UVEC Office again in September to assist any individual interested in proving a place to stay for profit to the Dark Sky watchers who come the area.

National Monument Hearing: Office Manger Packard attended the Hearing in East Millinocket. The US President has the power voted in by Congress in 1905 to designate an area a National Monument without Congressional approval. National Park Administrator Jonathan Jarvis answered questions, comments and concerns from the Regional Municipal Selectmen and the Public. Mr Jarvis stated the following:

1. The air quality would not change for the area that is being considered for a National Monument.
2. There is no boundary that surrounds a National Park or Monument.
3. National parks and Monuments do have the power for eminent domain.

The UVEC Board held a brief discussion the proposed National Monument. It was agreed by all the decision is out of the area citizens hands and will be decided the the President of the US.

UVEC Grants/Jill Ducharme: The grant Jill wrote for UVEC to ConnectME for the fiber Optics expansion in Sherman was successful and we were awarded \$150,000.00. The grant Jill wrote for the Gloria McKenzie Foundation to expand the fiber optics was not successful. Jill will be writing a grant to the Northern Border Commission for the Fiber Optics expansion for \$250,000.00. Jill is also writing

three grants for the UVEC Food Pantry: Good Shepard s Foundation, John T. Gorman Foundation, and The Mazda Foundation. The grant Jill; wrote for the Town of Sherman was successful in making it to the second round. Jill attended the MMA Municipal Tech Conference. The conference featured speakers and work shops for Broadband and GIS for municipalities.

Office Manager's Report:

Food Pantry Report for 4 -'16:

48 Households Served, Sherman – 20 Households, Stacyville – 9 Households, Other Towns - 19 Households. There were a total of 111 people, 31 of these were senior citizens, 15 were children, and 65 adults.

5-'16:53 Households Served, Sherman – 23 Households, Stacyville – 11 Households, Other Towns - 19 Households. There were a total of 127 people, 33 of these were senior citizens, 20 were children, and 74 adults. We have 16 volunteers with a total of 86 3/4 hours as of 5-23-'16. We received 300 lbs of dry goods from the Sherman Post Office Food drive.

The UVEC Business Guides are out.

New Business/Other:

Business up-date:UVEC was notified about Promise Zones. Promise Zone designation partners the Federal government with local leaders who are addressing multiple community revitalization challenges in a collaborative way and have demonstrated a commitment to results. Promise Zone Designees will receive:

1. An opportunity to engage five AmeriCorps VISTA members in the Promise Zone's work
2. A federal liaison assigned to help Designees navigate federal programs Preferences for certain competitive federal grant programs and technical assistance from participating federal agencies
3. Promise Zone tax incentives, if enacted by Congress

Scenic Byway: The next meeting will be held at the UVEC Office on June 9 at 3 pm. Jill updated the Board on the Byway meeting: There was a presentation on the new Byway web site. A presentation on the metal kiosks that will be placed in each town. Jill will send what the Sherman kiosk will look like to the Board for review. A presentation on the Byway Gateways.

UVEC RBEG Update: No Update

Sherman Boralax Plant: No Update

Meeting Adjourned at: 4:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

John Qualey, Treasurer
