

## **Upper Valley Economic Council**

Meeting Minutes: October 19, 2020

***Next Meeting: Monday November 16, 2020 at 4:00 pm.***

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The meeting was brought to order at 4:00 pm.

**Present:** Alvin Theriault, Lois Eash, Julie Johnston, Steve Gould and Jeff Packard.

**Guests:** Fred Michaud - Policy Development Specialist, Scenic Byways Coordinator, Bureau of Planning, Rep. Chris Johansen and Chris Smith - Stacyville.

**Minutes:** It was moved, seconded and passed to accept the minutes of June 15, 2020.

**Treasurer's Report/Sign Warrants:** Office Manager Packard presented the Treasurer's report for October 19, 2020. The Board voted to approve the report as read. The Board signed the warrants.

**Removal of and update for signers on all the Checking Accounts:** Jill Ducharme has retired and with the passing of Peter Qualey these two individuals need to be removed from the checking accounts. 1. Lois Eash made a motion to remove Jill Ducharme and Peter Qualey as signers from the UVEC/Katahdin Partnership check Account#10287671. Seconded by Steve Gould. The motion unanimously passed. The Board agreed to leave Jeff Packard and John Qualey as the two remaining signers. 2. Lois Eash made a motion to remove Peter Qualey as a signer from the Upper Valley Economic Corp. Checking Account#1126806. Steve Gould seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed. The Board agreed to leave Jeff Packard and John Qualey as the two remaining signers. 3. Steve Gould made a motion to remove Peter Qualey from the UVEC Food Pantry Checking Account# 10222952. The motion was seconded by Lois Eash. The motion unanimously passed. The Board will add another signer for this account at a future date. Jeff Packard is the lone signer presently.

**UVEC Chairman:** No update.

**Brian McQuarrie:** Has resigned from the Board as a representative for Stacyville.

**Millinocket Lake Project:** Fred gave a brief history of the project for the Guest Chris Smith. There is some federal funds leftover and we are trying to create a separate project for the well and septic system. We are trying to hire Eldon Doody a local Engineer who is on the Katahdin Tourism Partnership Board of Directors and have him oversee the project. We hope to have the bid proposals out next Summer of 2021 and the project completed by August of 2021. We may open the Facility for the month and a half or we might not. The Facility will only be open from May 15 to October 15. There will be a sign informing the snowmobile riders that they can use the NEOC Bathroom facility. There is a group of business owners at the site that are interested in forming a 501(c)(3) and take the property over from UVEC and be responsible for the maintenance and operation of the facility and relieve UVEC of any obligations. The Big Moose Inn would do the maintenance on the Bathroom. We have maintenance money to keep the facility clean for 10 to 15 years at \$10,000

per year. We have approximately \$400,000 for the building and maintenance for the next twenty years.

**Office Manager's Report:**

**1. Food Pantry Report: September: 73 Households Served, Sherman – 33 Households, Stacyville – 17 Households, and 24 Households from other Towns. There were a total of 199 people, 72 of these were Senior citizens, 63 were Children, and 64 Adults. We had 12 volunteers with a total of 105 1/2 hours as of 9-30-'20. Flowers were sent to the Family of Peter Qualey on behalf of the Board and myself. We have also had \$1975.00 donated to the UVEC Food Pantry in memory of Peter Qualey. Office Manager Packard is keeping Peter's wife Maureen updated with who has made donations so she can send thank yous. UVEC is also sending thank yous as well.**

**Business up-date: No Update**

**Scenic Byway Update: Jeff Packard was named as temporary Vice President. Next Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 29 at 5:15 pm. Fred wanted to advise the Board on the Millinocket Heritage Park Project which is currently owned by UVEC to assist the KTP in this project because they are not a 501©3. There is interest by some to form a planning committee to go forward about the future of the Heritage Park. The problem with this is, there is currently no one ready to step up and take ownership of the Park and relieve UVEC of the ownership and any obligations. The KTP has applied to the IRS for 501(c) 3 status. Presently they have not heard back from the application from the IRS. Fred feels the KTP should get its 501© 3 designation and take ownership of the property from UVEC first before there is any planning done. Fred will draft a letter for Jeff to present to the UVEC Board to review at the next meeting. Fred would like to see a receipt from the lawyer where he submitted the documents. With the Board's permission, Fred would follow this up by contacting the lawyer. Fred will keep Jeff and the Board apprised of the situation. Jeff will make the Heritage Park an item on the UVEC Agenda.**

**KRDB Update 9-'20: Michael Elliott executive Summary: In September, I worked on multiple applications for the new mill site. I continued to work with businesses that needed funding either through the EDA revolving loan fund, and through the Economic Recovery Grant through the state. I have also been building partnerships with other organizations in the region, which is an ongoing practice I have done to lead efforts to collaborate and find opportunities to add capacity where possible with other projects that KRDB would otherwise not be involved with. This is resulting in new partnerships, trust, and opportunities that are being forged, which is starting to pay off. On 9.22.20, I'll be meeting with the collaborative, our Katahdin, and the chamber of commerce to review existing projects that are currently in flight and look for ways to combine efforts where there is overlap. By increasing efficiency this way, everyone can share wins and be pulled toward a regional perspective, which is so important.**

**Projects Overview: 1. National Guard: Mike and I met with officers from the 133rd and did a site walk through to strategize on which projects they could help with, ultimately leading to a narrowed scope that could be completed in 2022, with the opportunity to do more projects at the federal level beyond this.**

**2. Randy Jackson and Mudgie's Market: I have connected him with SBDC to help with his business plans. He is starting two businesses: a movie theater, and a**

paper making company (that is very confidential). Once his business plans are complete, he will be seeking funding to help pay for equipment purchases. He is also trying to on board a coffee shop in his commercial space and I have paired him with Michael McCafferty, who has been working with the SBDC on his plan for Mudgie's Market, a deli and bakery/coffee shop. They are also working out leasing details at the Boreal Theater. Michael will also be seeking between \$60k and 100k to start his business.

3. Town of Patten: I spoke with Becky Sullivan multiple times in September, and we are looking at working on a BUILD grant together for the town and possibly Mount Chase. This would be used to help pay for road construction and updates. We also had a lengthy discussion about a community center for the northern region, and I will be coming to a joint session between the board of selectmen and the planning committee to discuss that possibility and what steps would be required. The first two items we will need to tackle before looking for funding is lot space and a feasibility study.

4. GRI/FEMA: I have set up a review team from Millinocket and East Millinocket consisting of Jess Masse, Cody McEwen, Tony Mascone, and Angela Cote to work with myself to review and provide feedback to this project over the next 10 months. This will result in a resiliency plan for the Opportunity Zones in the Region that will be submitted to the Governor.

5. TIF for Mill: I submitted a TIF proposal to the Penobscot County Commissioners for \$100,000 in funding to help offset the cost of the engineering studies being done to the mill site. This was also a great opportunity to tie in the regional benefit this site will have to the Commissioners.

6. Omega Benefit Strategies: I have been working with Doug Snowman again, and have tee'd him up for much needed capital to hire multiple new FTEs in both 2020 and 2021. He will be seeking \$450,000 in funding from EMDC's revolving loan fund to provide the working capital he needs to make those investments.

**UVEC RBEG Update:** There is \$41,095.69 available for loans.

**Sherman Boralax Plant:** Mervyn Yan has gotten his licenses for the facility. Bob Clark of NMDC met with the Stacyville Selectmen, Town Agent Vonalee Sides and Office Manager Packard to explain the Tax Increment Finance (TIF), and to explain about the TIF District application with the Maine DECD. Vonalee Sides has contacted Mervyn. Stacyville will have their Town Lawyer write up the TIF Agreement and TIF District application.

**Broadband/Fiber Optics:** No Update

**Solar Project:** The project is on schedule.

**County Wind Project:** Clearwind is going through the permit process for the Maine Department of Environmental Protection Agency which should take about two years.

Meeting ended 4:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

John Qualey, Treasurer