

Upper Valley Economic Council

Meeting Minutes: September 19, 2016

Next Meeting: Monday October 17, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

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

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

Guests: Jill Ducharme - Sustainable Writing & Consulting, Rep. Stephen Stanley - Katahdin Revitalization

Minutes: It was moved, seconded and passed to accept the minutes of August 15, 2016.

Treasurer's Report/Sign Warrants: Office Manager Packard presented the Treasurer's report for August 15, 2016. Question about Jill's 2 invoices with the same number. They are 2 separate invoices and there was typo giving them the same number. Question about Food Pantry equipment. UVEC Food Pantry Grant money was deposited into the UVEC checking account because the equipment was paid by UVEC's debit card. The Board voted to approve the report as read. The Board signed the warrants.

Amendments to agenda: None
Chairman's Report

1. **UVEC Grants/Jill Ducharme:** Jill hasn't been successful in getting a hold of Alan Brigham with regards to the EDA Technical Assistance Program that would fund a planning process. Still trying to reach him. Submitted a grant on behalf of the Food pantry to the Maine community Foundation. We have developed a marketing strategy to increase capacity over the next year. Working with the Good Shepherd Food Bank, number of Senior Organizations and the RSU School to raise awareness of the existence of the Food Pantry and the services it provides. Jeff has talked to Marica Lankin of Penquis and she sent some material on the transportation services they offer. Jeff will be printing these out and making them available at the Stacyville Town office, Sherman Rec. Dept. For the Senior Citizens Group, UVEC Food Pantry and has posted the documents on the Food Pantry Web Site.. Marcia wants to meet with the Senior Citizens Group to inform them of all the services they offer. Marcia explained Penquis works with ACAP in conjunction with providing services in our area. Marcia is excited about the grant which would allow PENQUIS to move in this area.

Jill would like to work with Jeff in creating a Grant Calendar for next year where we would identify grant opportunities that UVEC would be interested in that would augment our various projects. Chairman Qualey and the Board agreed that this would be a good project and approved.

Jill and Jeff will be updating and the categories in QuickBooks to provide a better profit loss statement and balance sheet for the Board. They will try to get this done by November when UVEC sends out its requests for funding to Stacyville & Sherman.

Jill will be working with Don Flewelling on a developing a Community Connect Grant proposal that would be submitted this winter. Last year there were 5 or 6 grants awarded nation wide in the amount of a Million dollars. We need to have a regional economic development plan in order to have a chance because there is stiff competition. The ConnectME funds were transferred to UVEC from Pioneer Broadband. The ConnectME grant money is awarded when other funding is acquired to complete the project. The working agreement with the Town of Sherman and Pioneer is not exclusive. So another Company could come into our area. Jill explained that the Company Axiom was aggressive in Broadband this area but the CEO felt that broadband expansion should not be done with all grant money, but Municipalities should invest money as well. Steve Gould suggested we contact the Butler Foundation to see if they would invest in this. We would have to contact Matt Polstein and convince Matt to invest in this project. John Qualey felt we should reapply through the Gloria MacKenzie Foundation with the prospect of how broadband would bring better educational tools to our School. Once the grants have been awarded form the Foundation we will have a better idea of how much they typically award for each grant.

Since the announcement of the National Monument UVEC has had many phone calls and people stopping by the Office with ideas for starting a business, property they would sell, concerns, and questions about entry location, main office location. Also the National resource Council of Maine through a link from the National Monument site listed lodgings and Eating places in the area except for Sherman. UVEC contacted them with a list for Sherman and it was posted on the site.

Office Manager's Report:

Food Pantry Report for 9-'16:

51 Households Served, Sherman – 25 Households, Stacyville – 10 Households, Other Towns - 16 Households. There were a total of 137 people, 43 of these were senior citizens, 22 were children, and 72 adults. There 13 volunteers with 56.5 hours as of 9-19-'16. UVEC was contacted by another organization about adding their link to UVEC's web site. The web site was listed. The upright Freezer arrived for the Food Pantry, the Shelves have been shipped, and the Thermal Blanket was sent and received as well. This was purchased from the Good Shepherd Grant.

New Business/Other:

Business up-date: The individual interested in starting a business in Sherman will be meeting with the Sherman Selectmen on 9-20-'16. Alvin was contacted by an individual interested in the Hemp Project. He has been working on the angle of getting the seed. Alvin gave him UVEC's contact information.

Scenic Byway: The next meeting was be held at the Lumbermen's Museum on September 9. The meeting discussed the projects going on and the National Monument. The Patten Gateway Project is close to going forward and the Downtown Kiosks should be put out for bid to be constructed in October. Next Meeting will be held 10-13-'16 at the Baxter State Park Headquarters.

1. UVEC RBEG Update: The Huntley's was awarded \$20,000. Thomas Cummings is planning to apply for another Loan. Have had another inquiry by phone and another in person and at at our Office. We need to find a grant to add to the RLF Funds.

Sherman Boralax Plant: Strategic Technology Group has expressed interest in purchasing the Biomass Plant in Stacyville. William Harrington of Strategic Group has had discussions with Charles Lane whose property borders the Biomass Plant. Charlie Lane has agreed to sell 100 acres.

Stephen Stanley - The Katahdin Revitalization Group will be holding a Speaker Series. Each meeting will start at 6:00 pm and last until 7:30 pm with a social hour at 8:00 pm. The meetings will be held at the Eastern Maine Community College. The dates are as follows:

10-6: Ready, Set, rebuild

10-27: The Future of Maine's Forest Economy

11-17-: Recreation As An economic Engine

12-8: Renewal and a Path to the Future.

Meeting Adjourned at: 7:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

John Qualey, Treasurer
