

Upper Valley Economic Council

Meeting Minutes: January 22, 2024

Next Meeting: Monday February 26, 2024 at 4:00 pm.

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

Present: Chris Smith, Steve Gould, Lois Eash, Harold Skane, Alvin Theriault, and Jeff Packard.

Guests: Fred Michaud - Retired Maine DOT, Trisha House - Rep. For Senator Susan Collins, and Amy Collinsworth Economic Development Director for the Katahdin Region, Katahdin Region Development Board & EMDC.

Minutes: It was moved, seconded and passed to accept the minutes of November 20, 2023. No minutes for December because there was no quorum.

Treasurer's Report/Sign Warrants: Office Manager Packard presented the Treasurer's report for January 22, 2024. The Board voted to approve the report as read. The Board signed the warrants.

Millinocket Lake Project: Fred Michaud presented the Board with the funding for the project and explained UVEC needs to get a line of credit from Machais Savings Bank to get the project done. The credit would be paid back by the two reimbursement grants from the USDA and the State of Maine DOT. The Board agreed and Fred and Office Manager Packard will work with Rachel Anderson to set this up. The project then can be completed by the end of May.

UVEC 2024 Budget: The Board agreed with the 2024 budget presented by Office Manager Packard.

Office Manager's Report

UVEC Food Pantry Report:

84 Households, 44 from Sherman, 12 from Stacyville and 28 from other Towns. 157 people in those Households. There were 9 Volunteers with 63.5 hours of as of 12-31-'23. January Food Pantry report: 73 Households, 40 from Sherman, 14 from Stacyville and 19 from other Towns. A total of 134 people in those Households. We have 10 Volunteers with 80 hours of service as of 1-22-'24. In November, David Robinson held a family gathering and collected \$495.00 for the Food Pantry. Office Manager Packard has sent the 2024 request to Katahdin Trust Company for \$2,500.00.

Business up-date: Amy Collinsworth introduced herself to the UVEC Board. Amy has many ideas for developing the Katahdin Region and is looking forward to working with the Towns. Amy is working with the Northern Forest Center on the Wayfair Sign Project. This is for any public areas in the Towns that needs signs installed. Amy wants to meet with the Board Members of Sherman about this. Sandy Robinson request UVEC help apply for a National Heritage Area Designation for Sherman, Stacyville, and Patten. Amy is researching this to see how to go about this process. Chris Smith explained to the Board that UVEC is sponsoring and applied for a gambling license so the local snowmobile club can hold a Poker Run with twelve local snowmobile clubs. The money will be donated to the Shriner's. Sandy Robinson request UVEC help apply for a National Heritage Area Designation for Sherman, Stacyville, and Patten.

Scenic Byway Update: No Update

UVEC RBEG Update: There is \$80,557.67 available to lend.

Wolfden Mining Project: No update

Stacyville Biomass Plant: No update. Amy will try to find out what is going on with this project.

Trish House gave an update to the Board on the Federal Level. Trish offered her services and wants to assist Amy's economic efforts for the Aroostook Area. Office Manager Packard will send Trish information on the Bit Coin Mining.

Meeting ended 4:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

John Qualey, Treasurer