

Upper Valley Economic Council

Meeting Minutes: March 25, 2024

Next Meeting: Monday April 22, 2024 at 4:00 pm.

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

Present: Chris Smith, Steve Gould, Harold Skane, Alvin Theriault, Linda Lynch and Jeff Packard.

Guests: Fred Michaud - Retired Maine DOT

Minutes: It was moved, seconded and passed to accept the minutes of January 22, 2024. No minutes for February because there was no quorum.

Treasurer's Report/Sign Warrants: Office Manager Packard presented the Treasurer's report for March 25, 2024. The Board voted to approve the report as read. The Board signed the warrants.

Millinocket Lake Project: The Contractor visited the site where the cargo box is being constructed and it is progressing. There is a tentative date of May 1st to deliver and set the cargo box at the site at Millinocket Lake. The roof and porch will be added the following week. A tentative date of May 15th for the Bathroom to be open to the Public. We have an Attorney, Mark Walker who is working with Laurie Cormier for the businesses there to form a nonprofit 501 © organization to take ownership of the property. The Maine DOT will fund \$7,500 per year for Maintenance as long as it remains a Public Bathroom. The USDA has reimbursed UVEC and the Maine DOT will be reimbursing UVEC Soon.

Office Manager's Report

UVEC Food Pantry Report:

80 Households, 39 from Sherman, 14 from Stacyville and 27 from other Towns. 153 people in those Households. There were 9 Volunteers with 63.5 hours of service 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 68.5 hours of service as of 3-25-'24.

The letters to Patten and Mt. Chase businesses to inquire if they want to pay \$25 to be in the UVEC Business Guide have been sent out. I will have the UVEC Board review and help make changes to the 2024 version.

We received a letter from the IRS suspending the tax exemption of UVEC. Office Manager Packard contacted Melissa of Calculations and she sent a package to the IRS and said there should be no problem getting UVEC reinstated.

Office Manager Packard will come down every 3rd Wednesday to open up the Sherman Municipal Building so the Katahdin Valley Wheelers can hold their meetings in the Town Meeting Room. Alvin told Office Manager Packard those days of the meeting go home an hour earlier and use the hour of the ATV club to make up his 4 hour day.

Business up-date: Chris Smith gave the Board an update on the Poker Run for the Shriners. \$1,600 was raised at the event. It was a big success and many feel next year more clubs will participate.

Debra O' Roak and Office Manager Packard were contacted by the Aroostook Agency on Aging about the possibility of the UVEC Office or another room could become an Access Point. Access Points project is now poised to establish or strengthen local connections to services, consultation and meeting space, recreation, and enrichment. Marking its 50th anniversary, the Agency was established in 1973 as part of the federal Older Americans Act and its ongoing mission is to assist older people in leading independent and meaningful lives in their own communities and homes. If UVEC was approved UVEC would have to pay for installation and an internet bill for the equipment provided. After three years the Equipment would be owned by UVEC have to be maintained and replaced at their expense. The UVEC Office would have to be rearranged to make room for this service. After Discussion the Board decided not to be considered as an Access Point.

Scenic Byway Update: No Update

UVEC RBEG Update: There is \$82,398.87 available to lend. There is an interested Applicant. Office Manager Packard will set up a Lon Committee meeting.

Meeting ended 4:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Linda Lynch, Treasurer