

EDC Meeting Minutes July 18, 2016

Unity Town Office

In Attendance: Mary Leaming, Lucia Picard, Clem Blakeny, Tony Avila, Chris Rossignol, Mary Ann Hayes, Chia Murdock~ Guest Penny Sampson

Excused – Joe Saltalamachia

6:10 Meeting called to order

Concern was expressed that we barely had a quorum to conduct business and several members (Mike, Gail, Jim and Dan) had not called Mary to indicate they could not come for some reason. With Jane and Lori taking leaves of absence and no provision in our bylaws either for leaves of absence or whether they are removed from the quorum count, there is added pressure on remaining members to keep the EDC functioning. While all members are highly valued, non-participating members drain energy and morale from the Committee. Tony offered to talk with Lori about her intention to return soon or step down. Mary agreed to talk with Jane. All other members are to be reminded to contact Mary if they cannot attend a meeting or become subject to the removal process in the ordinance. If members are regularly unavailable for both meetings and any work in-between meetings, it would be better if they would resign. They can always be reappointed when their health or schedules permit re-engaging.

Penny reported on her meeting with videographer- they toured the town focusing on areas to be featured in upcoming marketing film; Lake, MOFGA, Unity College, Farms, Village, Winery etc. Videographer will start filming soon and will get more video as the seasons change

Kanokolus improvements –volunteers to assemble this week to trim brush and clean up beach front area.

Penny also reported on her meeting with Paving companies re sidewalks;

One estimate covering the area from Food Hub to traffic light and Main St from Health Center to traffic light was \$38,690.00. Penny is awaiting a comparison estimate from another company.

Mary Ann made a motion to spend up to \$40,000 from TIF funds for sidewalk repair, hoping that a lower bid would come in. Chris seconded the motion. Majority vote approved the motion to make the above recommendation to selectman.

Tony expressed concern that sidewalks may not be a priority and should we be focusing on using TIF funds to assist businesses both existing and future. Others noted there was value for all taxpayers using funds to offset public improvements that would otherwise have to be paid from general taxation. Right now there appeared to be enough to do both.

Mary Ann reported on financial package- subcommittee (Mary, Salty, Buckle, Chris, Mary Ann) met to develop what we would offer. Given the level of sentiment in the survey results against the Town losing money, the group recommends offering just a low interest loan program with flexible terms at this time - no grant or forgivable loan. A draft of the RLF concept was reviewed and generally approved with a few edits as ready for further detailing. The document resides in the Google Drive folder. It was sent on to the Selectmen for official blessing as a direction before more work was done. The entire committee was encouraged to suggest further edits.

MaryAnn will contact KVCOG to request clarity on all the administrative steps to running a RLF so the Town can consider what steps it may want to contract out on August 15. Mary Ann offered to then create a request for proposals and run it by the selectmen on August 16 if possible so that it could go out to bid. The EDC recommended that DECU, BSB and KVCOG be given equal opportunity to bid before opening it to others if none of those were acceptable. Clem offered to talk with DECU to review the draft RLF, get

feedback, ensure it was not viewed as competition and ask if they might wish to be hired to do any administration of the Town program. Mary Ann agreed to do the same with BSB. It was hoped that the program could be advertised in early September and take proposals by October 1.

Candidates for a loan review committee were discussed. Salty and Buckle from the Committee and former banker Andy Reed were suggested. Mary Ann offered to ask Andy. Lucia reported on talking with assisted living housing developers, the Chambers, who have recently developed homes in Washington County, Bucksport and Pittsfield. They are interested in touring Unity to look at potential sites. They like to renovate older buildings if feasible and usually get some form of help from the host town. Lucia asked if the Committee would like to have them come to a EDC meeting to share their ideas. The Committee heartily endorsed Lucia following up with the Chambers to pursue this possibility.

Chris shared that he was working on looking up as much contact info as possible to improve the business contact list in readiness to get up on the web site. Clem will help coordinate Chris' list with that of Jon Waddick and UBx so we can come up with one list that hopefully Sam will eventually keep updated.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lucia Picard