

TOWN OF UNITY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
May 2, 2016
LOCATION: TOWN OFFICE-UNITY MAINE

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Leaming, Jim Buckle, Joe Saltamachia, Lucia Picard, Clem Blakney, Tony Avila, Mike Gold, Daniel McCormick, Chris Rossignol, Chia Murdock, Gail Chase, Jane Pinnette (with D.J.), Guest-Penny Sampson, Don Newell.

Don opened the meeting at 6pm. The minutes from the meeting of 4-18-16 were approved as Amended.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Don suggested a Chair and Vice Chair, the candidates being Don and Mary. It was also decided that the Secretary position(s) would be Lead Secretary and Alternate Secretary, the candidates being Lori and Jane.

A motion was made to approve and the motion was seconded. All the members voted to Approve the candidates for Chair and Vice Chair, Don and Mary and the candidates for Lead Secretary and Alternate Secretary, Lori and Jane.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the following committee members for 1 year:

Jim Buckle, Joe Saltamachia, Lucia Picard, Mike Gold, Dan McCormick, Chia Murdock, Mary Ann Hayes.

There was a concensus that it would be more reasonable to not meet on long weekends During the warmer months, ie. Memorial Day weekend. Also there was a reminder that The survey(s) should be in by May 10th. There has been a lot of good feedback so far. The Few live interviews done may be written into the survey or hand written.

Tiff Account Budget Update: Don wants to later talk about a plan to make the “process” simpler to process. Don will continue to work on this and come back to committee with more information at a future time.

The funds should not run out for another ten years. Thus, an exit plan should not be difficult To come up with. Don stated, the committee’s primary purpose now is to continue to look to create economic progress in our community.

ANNUAL DOWNTOWN CONFERENCE: MDF

This Day-and-a –half program that takes place in Bar Harbor, is recommended by Noreen. It was suggested that the committee monitor that organization to see if there are other events in the future that other members should A motion was Then made seconded and passed that we would provide funding for Gail and Mary, if possible, to go to the conference.

UBX PRODUCTION:

Mary shared that UBX is interested in expanding “Palm card” in a more comprehensive map. UBX is dedicated and has invested their own funds toward marketing the Unity area, using a logo.

The town of Unity Graphic designer is used, the intent being that every business that wants to be listed may do so as a listing or additional with a larger space at more cost.

The new map designer is a professional and has done an awesome job!! The committee members agreed that a 5x8 inch handout currently available, should be used now while waiting for the maps to be completed. These 5x8's are easy to read and to print, (Franklin Printers), and are very convenient as card handouts.

The committee needs specific information about what the project entails, including costs and a draft copy of the palm card before any funding allocation can be considered.

RURAL AREAS AND WHITE COLLAR CRIME:

Chia shared research on this topic as Unity is a rural area with many small business that seem to be more frequently targeted. For instance a small business may be more likely to experience various types of fraud in billing. Also, she shared that over 30 percent of workers plan to steal from their employer(s).

“Business Targets” : Too trusting, (employers trust their employees), No strict checks and balances., Lack of policies, Fraud red flags not known, Ignorance of criminal justice procedures, etc.

Employees who seek out Employers to steal from : Are sometimes less educated, 38 percent are committed by Store managers, may have family problems, rationalize that “Owners are greedy”, etc. , 40 percent business suffer from embezzlement, and rural business seem to be more targeted than in other areas.

This is useful information for local Businesses to be aware of. Chia will have more research to share at a future time. It was mentioned within the committee that a possible action step from this presentation would be to develop a business “tool kit” as a resource guide.

Also, Penny introduced the subject of John Mill of **Jam Productions**. John has offered to do a Free video demo. Perhaps this video could be on the Unity Town Website, Belfast, and News Channels. The committee agreed this would be a very good idea and look forward to the possibility of viewings.

Lucia wants to talk to **the CEO at INLAND Hospital** by the next meeting. Some topics noted were The need for more bed space because of Medicare. Also, he would like to look into Assisted Living Facility, perhaps a similar model to an assisted living space in Winslow.

Don would like to look into the mill rates in other towns. It was mentioned by Gail that Belfast is a wealthier area as compared with Unity. Mary red -flagged the need for discussing the results of the Survey as a reminder. And Chris will discuss ideas for opening a restaurant.

The meeting adjourned at 8pm. The next meeting will be May 16th, at the Unity Town Office.

Respectfully,

JLP:altsecy