

Upper Valley Economic Council

Meeting Minutes: February 10, 2025

Next Meeting: Monday March 24, 2025 at 4:00 pm.

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

Present: Harold Skane, Linda Lynch, Lois Eash, Steve Gould, Chris Smith and Jeff Packard.

Guests: Trish House -Sen. Collins Rep., Eric Goodwin - KTP Scenic Byway, Naomi Smith - Web Designer

Minutes: It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the minutes of November 18, 2024.

Treasurer's Report/Sign Warrants: Office Manager Packard presented the Treasurer's report for February 10, 2025. The Board voted to approve the report as read. The Board signed the warrants.

Millinocket Lake Project: Fred Michaud sent this update:

1. Will provide invoice to you before sending it to Piscataquis County for \$2500 in maintenance funds for 2024.
2. Twin Pines Snowmobile Club has been given the go ahead to seek a sole source contract with Newcomb Fence Company. Contract should be in place in the next two weeks with the fence to be installed by May 15, but more likely in mid-April
3. Will finalize draft of letter to Governor asking for assistance in moving MaineDOT to honor its contract with UVEC. Failure to get this resolved will, in my opinion, result in the loss of use of the facility for the public in 2025. If MaineDOT insists that the contract it signed with UVEC, which was approved by the Commissioner, is not enforceable, then the maintenance commitment is also null and void. They can't cherry pick the part they like. If that is the result of our inquiry, UVEC will have to consider transferring ownership to the MaineDOT. More on this after hearing back from the Governor's office.

UVEC Web Site: Naomi Smith has the site ready to go online and will get more information for the Food Pantry and Other Town services for the site.

Office Manager's Report

94 Households, 43 from Sherman, 20 from Stacyville and 31 from other Towns. 205 people in those Households. There were 12 Volunteers with 72.5 hours of service as of 12-31-'24. 88 Households, 39 from Sherman, 16 from Stacyville and 33 from other Towns. 160 People in the those Households. We have 12 volunteers with a total of 68.5 hours as of 1-31-'25.

UVEC received \$2,500 donation from Katahdin Trust Company.

Office Manager Packard wrote a grant for the Sherman Fire Department.

Office Manager Packard is handling the donation of \$10,000 for the Sherman Rec. Dept.

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Business up-date: Russell Phillips contacted UVEC with this email: : Hello, My name is Russell Phillips. I am a combat Veteran who owns a small business

(Airbnb) in Howland Maine. The Khatadin Valley Motel in Sherman is going to be up for sale shortly and I am quite interested in purchasing it when it does go on the market. I noticed you guys may have some grants available. I was wondering if I could get more information on that? I am a Mainer born and raised. I have lived most of my life in Lincoln and both the LLC's I currently own are operated out of this area. Its a little south of Sherman but small town Maine is in my DNA. Thank you for your time, Russell Phillips 254-350-4797 rapidrealestatellc@outlook.com Office Manager Packard explained there are no UVEC grants but we have a Revolving Loan Fund and sent the documents to him.

Scenic Byway Update:

1. Maine Office of Tourism's 2025 grants – 30+ visitor information video, 18 visitor information guides, 20 visitor information trainings, small marketing development fund for businesses who engage with the visitor information trainings.
2. MHP is contracted with a designer to have construction drawings by summer with cost estimates. This will empower fundraising for the larger Plaza to begin
3. Destinationkatahdin.org isn't rolled out to the public yet, though it is available online. It provides "mini-websites" for all tourist-facing aspects of Katahdin, including businesses, at no cost to them. These can be updated 4-6 times per year and will likely act as a primary visitor information asset for regional tourism development for the coming years.

UVEC RBEG Update: There is \$63, 970.90 available to loan out.

Trish House: The Social Security Fairness Act authored by Senator Collins was signed into law. The FY25 continuing resolution is set to expire on March 14. The House and Senate are currently working on reconciling the differences between the chambers.

Meeting Ended 4:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Lynch, Treasurer