

The Town will be launching a new web site soon. Please rank the relative value of each of these possible on-line information services to your business.

- Online tax payment, online registration for vehicles, pets, etc.
- Future Comprehensive Plan
- Searchable minutes posted in a timely manner
- welcome kit for new residents with business information/promotional coupons etc
- Opportunities to promote activities and events that our business is hosting and to see other community building events from other businesses as well.
- Business Showcase - Periodic feature to explore local businesses in greater depth and interview owners.

Unity could establish a Revolving Loan Fund that would target emerging businesses with low-interest loans of \$10,000 or less. Funds repaid would be available to loan to others. Such capital might be especially helpful to start-ups or businesses where the debt-to-loan ratio is too high a risk for commercial lenders. (We do not wish to compete with our bank or credit union.)Would you be likely to utilize this service if established within the next 2 years?

- If the banks are not lending due to risk, the town should not lend.
- While we think \$10,000 is great seed money, we believe other funds or matching dollars are necessary to help bring economic development and new businesses to the community.
- Unity Forge expects to wind down in the next 5-8 years, however, no changes are planned imminently that would utilize this service. If we figure out how to safely teach Blacksmithing one-on-one in our small forge, it is possible this shift in focus could change our minds above such a loan.
- This is a very high risk with our tax dollars!
- Although we would not utilize this opportunity, I think it would be valuable to new or expanding businesses - especially if more match money can be obtained.
- Not enough funds
- depends on the definition of emerging business
- 'maybe', because it would depend entirely on the details [we read fine print], of course!
- I think this would be a great program but \$10,000 does not go far in today's economy.
- Although this seems like a nice way for new businesses to get started, what assurance would the town have that the loan would be repaid?

Would a matching grant help you to grow your business? (The town commits half of the funds and you provide the other half.)

- Not at this point in our business.
- If it needs a start up grant, it is likely to fail.
- See above note. Unity Forge is not in growth mode.
- There are much better things to do with the tax money! Like better roads!
- See comments #3
- Not interested in growing my business.
- That would be incredibly helpful. We would use that.

- This would be incredibly helpful to us and would inspire us to more actively fundraise and confidently move forward.
- not looking to grow at this time

Please pick the top three areas of technical assistance your business might utilize if offered by the Town. (Please select one service each for first, second and third.)

- Employee Recruitment, Training or Management & Marketing Assessment
- While we would not be likely to use these services, we support the effort and would be happy to assist
- I would feel guilt if I took advantage of services for my business that were paid for by the town
- Business planning is not needed from town officials. They do not know each business well enough. (Other: Ability to put personal feelings aside to let business settle to where/what works.)
- word of mouth
- Both advertising information above could go hand and hand... I think I would need to understand what advertising alone would entail? Signage? Or advertising where? Either way both either being first or second on the list..
- grant writing
- we aren't in need of technical assistance: closest to this area that could help us would be upgraded office equipment

Have any town regulations negatively impacted your business? If yes, please describe and offer any ideas for improvement.

- Tax on old equipment, or any equipment that the business owner has purchased and paid sales tax on, and has to maintain
- Unity should consider tax incentives to promote clean biz practices. (GREEN)
- internally lite signage downtown took 3 months to get permission to put up barber pole and a lot of leg work. The pole has increased business traffic by 50%
- Not yet at least
- The lack of town regulations have made the town less attractive to the businesses that would have a positive impact in the community, and less attractive to home buyers, both of which have reduced the value of my property.
- UNTRAINED TOWN OFFICIALS- not knowing the rules & regs, making the town look foolish & snobbish, but the college gets a free ride. Personal feelings impacting sales of products, property and projecting "Negative Climate" Ordinances exist for a purpose, NOT personal preference...
- Not allowing our business signs to be lit & people from away can not see we are there
- ?
- We have yet to get far enough in the process to encounter any regulations!
- The common sentiment in the town meetings that people who care about the environment are anti-business or other nonsense like that makes me really question whether this town is where we want to be. Many regulations and proposed regulations reflect that.

- ...tho some state & federal regulations surely negatively impact
- Garbage stickers.
- #1 Road Noise... Trucks should be diverted away from Depot Street and kept to hwy 202 & 220. #2 Sidewalks... Dangerous foot travel on Depot Street. #3 Lack of Lodging... Need lodging options for our town/college. #4 Odor... Excessive detergent odor emanating from the Laundromat in the train station.

What complementary businesses would boost yours? Check all that apply. Write in others or add clarification.

- Users of Broadband/Telecom Services
- Construction/Landscape
- The people who purchase custom metalwork from us enjoy doing other things in area and supporting artisans. Giving these folks a nice place to stay and dine would lift up all local artisans, which would also boost Unity Forge
- natural burial ground/green cemetery
- Small business incubation/think tank models: Museums or Arts organizations: small hi-tech manufacturing: educational institutions
- Paris farmers union
- Dentist
- A manufacturing facility to "make something again in Unity". Milmac, Redi-Peel Creamery, Maplewood and campground were here... Unity still is 1/2 way between Bangor, Augusta, Belfast & Wtvl, we can do a better job of "GROWING" Unity.
- Any business which would employ 50 -00 people would help us.
- Attractive and appealing coffee shop/local grocery/community hang out location. Like the Sheepscot General Store in Whitefield or Deer Foot Farms in Appleton-- what I think Crosstrax has the potential to be but isn't yet.
- Gift shop or bookstore/cafe that sells books.
- The town needs a full service restaurant that would draw people to Unity. Other towns in our area have had success with restaurants that focus on local organic foods, including: local fish, grass fed beef and free range chickens. This would help local businesses and also create incentive to come to Unity and learn more about what is here.

Please check any other factors that limit your business growth or profitability. The more you can explain below the better.

- Shop local: Helping UBX finance the collective business map & brochure! Develop a kiosk where businesses can continually display their brochures, cards, the town map & listings for people visiting our town. These are seen in many other towns.
- Finding employees trained in the technology field in this area is sometimes challenging.
- Some Unity roads are barely in good enough condition to cycle on.
- Am at a comfortable size
- Insurance. We have had to stop making handrails, fences, gates, anything that

must be installed and has the potential to cause injury due to exponentially higher liability insurance rates than we have ever experienced. Granted, this is not the Town's problem, but it's a gnarly one for us.

- None
- Posted Roads
- Possibly signage not sure the guidelines for this but our business would benefit from a larger sign, near entrance.
- I actually kind of like living on one of the worst maintained roads in the county, but people who come to our land for business events are unimpressed. (Waning Rd) I've also just gotten the impression from observing the town over the past 2 years since I moved back here that Unity is not a very forward-thinking town in terms of setting ourselves up for long-term positive community structures. I want to live and run a business in a place that will remain healthy, positive, collaborative, and self-sufficient over time, since it's clear we're experiencing many changes on the state and national level. So, I'm waiting to decide where to officially locate my business and scoping out the town politics and general community in Unity and surrounding towns! I'd love to see our town really come together and commit to making Unity a creative and livable town for many generations to come!
- fund availability

How else could the Town of Unity assist your business in being successful? Add any other input you have for us. Also feel free to request a private confidential interview by leaving your name and contact info here or by calling the Town Office or any committee member.

- We feel the topic of economic development in Unity and the surrounding areas deserves an ongoing conversation which UniTel would love to be part of. Please contact Jayne Sullivan @ 948-3100 to set up a confidential meeting.
- Solexx Of Maine Gene Paquet 948-2750
- Thanks for making Unity a great town to thrive in! Joe, Unity Bike Shop
- Unity is a great town to operate in, w/ lots of potential. Thanks a million for your efforts! Joe, Backyard Buildings, LL
- Happy to be working with you all. :-)
- Is the real question here how to spend TIF funds? The only non-controversial expenditure is the fire department loan. How about wing all of the TIF funds to pay off the fire department loan early then dissolve the TIF. Not having the FD loan will lower property taxes and we won't have to worry about TIF funds.
- Thank you for asking and for working on this important project. While I hope the data will be helpful to the effort, I think a much larger conversation needs to take place that can clarify the definition of and vision for "economic development". I also think a more detailed and targeted study of existing business growth challenges would be helpful. I would very much appreciate the opportunity to discuss this in more detail. Larry Sterrs Unity Foundation 948-9988
lsterrs@unitel.me
- How about creating a community market weekly. Allow for locals to participate w/

short notice instead of seasonal contract like farmers market. Open the market to everything... arts, crafts, pottery, woodcarvers, mushroom foragers, fiddleheads, maple syrup, gem collectors, fire wood sales, yoga class promotion, food trucks, fly fishing flymakers, herbalists, stained glass, ... etc. People are coming to Unity for donuts and smoked meats, I think this would be the perfect compliment to keep these folks coming and tell others.

- Phone Service- Unitel is the only option, the business line option is rather expensive. (Landline) * Not necessarily - about our business just a concern about horse & buggy & bike traffic. Should we be working on lowering the speed limit on traffic on Rt 220 from the Depot Store to Ward Hill Rd? Thanks for the Consideration you give to our community. Lewis@CommunityMarket
- Jeremy Edwards 745-4668 jeedwards@hannaford.com
- Thank you so much for supporting businesses and our community! I appreciate your hard work.
- We're in the process of deciding where to locate our business, and one thing that would be highly valuable from the town of Unity would be a clear and dedicated commitment to ecological sustainability and strong local community. By this we mean, we want to know that Unity is prioritizing community health and wellness over the "Business at any cost" mentality that a lot of folks seem to have. If Unity is going to put ecologically damaging businesses all over the place and gut the downtown area for whoever offers the highest bid, we'll go elsewhere. If Unity is serious about being a local community center for rural living and reclaiming it's role as the heart of waldo county, than we'd like to be here.
- Need lodging and a restaurant offer dinner, well prepared and hopefully using the food hub.