

**UNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**Feb 3rd, 2020 *DRAFT* Minutes**

Note: Decisions and commitments made in ***bold italic***.

Present: Larry K., Ellen B., Najean S. Jean B. Tony A.

Unexcused:

Excused:

Guests: Dan McCormick, Penny Sampson (6:21), Hayleys (6:30)

**ITEM 1: INTRODUCTIONS OF NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS**

Guests- Linda Haley (Secretary) and DAve Hayley (President) of the Snowdusters club.

**ITEM 2: REVIEW AND APPROVE PREVIOUS MONTHS MINUTES**

Jan 6th Larry moves to accept the Jan 6th minutes as presented, Tony 2nds the motion.

The motion passes unanimously.

Feb 3rd - Larry moves and JEan 2nds that the FEB 3rd minutes be accepted. Motion passes unanimously.

**ITEM 3: REVIEW ANY GRANTS**

No new to review this month.

Receipts have been returned for the full amount of the grant. That grant may be considered complete.

UBx also returned receipts on their recent grants

**ITEM 4: SNOWMOBILE CLUB**

Larry reminds us of the economic clout of snowmobiling in Maine. He thinks that tapping into this could benefit us (Air BnB, grocery, restaurants, storage, gas) especially since we have a snowmobile- selling business in town. He reinforces his view that we need to market, improve trails, and improve connectivity with other trail systems. It seems like people are moving south for their snowmobiling (going North, it is hard to find rentals, and further to go).

Penny says that the ATV club does better at communication (social media, marketing, maps, events, new members, monthly snowmobile newsletter) and that is something that could benefit the Snowmobile Club. Jean asks if we could hire (with TIF funds) a social media/ membership coordinator? To create a system to maintain email lists and marketing and communication. Najean argues for a more 'organic approach' by getting some young people involved (volunteer hours), and use TIF funds for larger projects.

Larry recommends a membership drive to increase active members to have more people involved and volunteering on trail work. Develop a schedule and plan for what will happen next year in terms of Marketing, Membership drive (at the Ice Races?)

More generally, make Unity a recreation mecca for all seasons. Perhaps a toboggan slide run, fat bikes (trails can be groomed for this). SnowDog. Horse-skiing (Skiorging?). Parking areas. Marketing. Building, improving trails. Jean says we could also develop events.

Linda and Hayley - are asking the Selectmen for TIF support to pay bills for maintenance they have already performed. Penny says there is money in the Trails fund of TIF, but needs EDC approval for Selectmen to disburse. (2,701.88 \$ to be paid from Trail money fund). Penny says that there is precedent for this (trail bridging, excavator rentals, etc.) but Ellen asks if it is ok to pay for bills for work that was not agreed upon prior to its completion. Penny feels that this fits under "trail maintenance" description. Dan says there is a precedent - repair of Crosby- Brook bridge. Tony asks if repair of equipment falls under "trail maintenance." Najean says that she sees the trails as an asset to the town.

***The EDC recommends to the Selectmen that it is appropriate to use Trail Maintenance TIF funds to pay 2,701.88 for work done on snowmobile trails (invoices were supplied).***

The club house continues to need improvement/updated, but they would like to open it to more community use once that takes place. Especially a kitchen remodel and update. This would be more appropriate for a grant proposal. Larry wants to ensure that rental fees remain reasonable.

Ellen says that our current grant programs may limit the amount of money that can be requested. Could the EDC amend our current community grant for a higher cap, or create a new grant opportunity?

#### ITEM 5: CHARGING STATIONS

Jean reports that she has secured a second host for a charging station (Homestead Air BnB parking lot.) She is still waiting to hear from the owners at the end of Depot st. She has a narrative document prepared with Insource Renewables (Matt Wagner) summarizing the proposal, budget, and numbers. The proposal says that the town would own the ChargeCard Account and would be able to set prices, discounts, review usage. The money earned would go into a town account to help pay for the chargers. Tony suggests looking at the lot behind the community center.

The next step is Matt Wagner will meet with potential hosts to explain further and talk about technical installation information.

Dan asks if the charger app has a fee per use. Jean does not know right now.

Jean plans to present a proposal next month and would like to invite Matt Wagner from INsource Renewables for another meeting to answer potential questions.

ITEM 6: UNITY POND ICE RACERS

As a 3rd weekend race planned for March 7th, but is weather dependent.

ITEM 7: UNITY FARM DROP PROPOSED LETTER

Some of the proposed pieces of the grant have not been completed yet (purchasing a freezer and shelving) and few receipts have been returned - to "complete" the grant, we need receipts. Larry will send a letter to the FarmDrop folks at BlueHill to bring this to their attention.

ITEM 8: MARKET OF UNITY UPDATE NEW IDEAS

Larry takes a straw poll to see how many feel that a "yard sale" aspect is a good idea. Jean and Najean don't like the phrase "yard sale" (propose something like antiques, collectibles) but the general idea is ok.

Najean also reminds us of resale (tupperware, etc.) as a possible outlet - do we want this? Jean says - just try it all and decide if it works. More stuff to buy, more stuff to shop.

Tony says yes, if there is a deposit and we start with once a month. Larry thinks the deposit aspect might be too difficult, but Tony says they do it easily at the Horse Ring.

ITEM 9: TIF FUNDS AVAILABLE TO FIRE DEPARTMENT?

10,000\$ a year has been set aside (grandfathered in from TIF funds) + 10,000 from the Town per year, although that hasn't happened in the last few years - to build up a fund to purchase a new fire truck after a period of time.

There are discussions about using funds that have been donated from TIF funds to purchase used equipment rather than a new truck - a used truck is more within reach for the time period and funding.

ITEM 10: ELECTRONIC SIGN WARRANT

Penny says we can still add this to a warrant if Larry will send budget info by March 4.

ITEM 11: OPEN FLOOR

There was a good turnout for a FireHouse fundraiser Ice Fishing Tournament (but the fish weren't biting).

The Marina campground may be for sale. Tony says that it might be a good opportunity for the Town to own (or to develop as a KOA or day camp or something), if we have the funds. Boat slips are there. It may require some work to improve.

***Tony will enquire with the owners about their interest.***

ITEM 12: ADJOURN - 7:35