

In attendance; Emily Newell, Mary Leaming, Jim Buckle, Lucia Picard, MaryAnn Hayes, Gail Chase, Clem Blakney, Mike Gold, Tony Avila, Dan McCormick

Guests ; Larry Sterrs-Unity Foundation, Jane Sullivan-Unitel, Nancy Smith and Tyler Kidder-GrowSmart Maine

Larry spoke to the committee about the Unity Foundation. The Unity Foundation was prepared to assist the town by covering the cost of the GrowSmart program should the committee and selectboard decide this was a good direction and investment for Unity.

Nancy Smith presentation on GrowSmart Maine

GrowSmart Maine (GSM) is a statewide, non profit organization that assists municipalities in preparing for growth and development while protecting quality of life. The GSM's Making Headway Program connects towns with resources and provides support. <Informational booklets on the Program and Organization are available at Town Office.>

Nancy outlined the program in detail and how they assist municipalities and facilitate to get community involvement and support starting with addressing the following questions;

- What is special about this community?
- Why did you choose to live here/stay here
- What are the community needs

Enrolling in the program costs \$20,000.

Larry very generously offered for the fees to be paid by a grant from the Unity Foundation.

There was discussion by the committee if this was a good fit for Unity, if it was the right time, the best use of resources. It was decided more time was needed to discuss. Everyone was encouraged to email their thoughts to the group by the following Monday and Mary would decide if there was concensus or more discussion were needed.

Following up on regular committee action items:

Mike reported on RLF committee:

Subcommittee members; Anni Roming,-Chair, Mike Gold, Jim Buckle, Joe Saltamachia, MaryAnn Hayes
Committee working with KVCOG to set up program at n/c, then offer lower rate until actual loans need servicing.
Town attorney will review loan doc; will not involve lawyers in each closing. Hoping to have loan applications available Jan 1st.

Jim working on promoting the loan program

Action items

- *need to identify a point person who will be available to answer general questions about the loan program
- * need to develop form letters
- *ongoing work on details of loan repayment terms, fees, guidelines

Loan Application Process:

- applications turned into the town office
- subcommittee review
- if viable- turned over to KVCOG for underwriting
- meeting with applicant

Action Item: Selectboard- review town confidentiality policies (ask MMA about legal obligations to public and borrower)

MaryAnn reported on Feasibility Study- she spoke with Don and he has not heard from UC President re mutual interest in lodging study. She and Mary wrote the email letter to President Khoury noting they are the new contacts with request for response before our December 5 meeting.

Clem reported on UBX sponsoring decorating downtown Unity for holidays and tree lighting event. They hope to have carolers, Santa arriving on a fire truck, refreshments etc was hoping to get financial support from TIF

funds. After reviewing TIF guidelines, it was determined this type of event does not qualify for TIF financing- even though there is overwhelming personal and community support for this.

Gail submitted a draft of a TIF application for all purposes other than the RLF. MaryAnn and Jim distributed a suggested process and criteria for marketing and event applications. All agreed to read these over and be prepared to discuss at the December meeting.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Lucia Picard