

# **UTAC**

## **AGENDA**

**April 22, 2014**

**6:30 P.M.**

### **Unity Community Center**

1. Call to Order / Welcome / Introductions
2. Open Public Comments / Questions / Feedback
3. Comprehensive Plan Update - Jean
4. Unity Economic Opportunity Discussion
  - Criteria for Selecting TIF Investment
  - Means for Evaluating Options
  - Continue Brainstorm of Unity Economic Needs
  - Cost estimates of sidewalk, streetscape improvements-Clem
  - UBR Thoughts/Questions-Prior Handout
5. TIF Policy—process/timeline for review and update
6. Adjourn

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### **Minutes**

1. Call to Order / Welcome / Introductions.

In attendance were Chris Rossignol, Andy Reed, Penny Sampson, Clem Blakney, Jim Perry, Cal Dow, Mike Akus, Jayne Sullivan, Robin Fowler Pratt, Christian Carlson, Noreen Norton and one other person ...(name not legible on sign in sheet)

2. Open Public Comments / Questions / Feedback – none

An announcement was made about the upcoming 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Maine Downtown Conference on May 2<sup>nd</sup> in Waterville. Committee members were encouraged to attend.

Christian Carlson made a presentation on a project he is hoping to implement in Unity.

- The project utilizes Aquaponics for raising fish and vegetables.
- Green on top with plants and below is where the fish grow. They support each other.
- Reduced water requirements.
- Waldo County has a lot of growth in AG startups.
- \$6.90/lbs. 620 lbs. is breakeven.
- Yarmouth is the only competition and they market Portland area.
- Time Line – Unity College is non-profit – this project needs to be profitable.
- A long road ahead. Would like to start as soon as possible. \$15k could be the initial startup costs at barebones no employees. Each \$8K 4 x120 rows.

No specific proposal was made to the Committee. No assistance was requested.

3. Comprehensive Plan Update – Jim Perry informed the Committee that the Comp committee is doing visioning again but in individual evenings covering 2 visioning session topics per night. He noted that some action recommendations would affect multiple vision points.

#### 4. Unity Economic Opportunity Discussion

Connect Maine.com

Mike spoke about technology priorities for UniTel. They are growing in new technology, wireless is expanding. Fiber runs all up and down Maine Street.

Noreen queried the Committee about what criteria should be used to evaluate potential economic investments.

Livable wages.

Clem: Safe, Comfortable and Connected.

Penny: Other business with employers for Nursing home, retirement.

Mike College Help Labor pool

Jim: Manufacturing that doesn't create a lot of smoke and noise. Skilled hand work, saw mills.

One industry that will create two or three more

Robin: Textile manufacturing plant. So Alpaca wool doesn't have to be shipped outside to be processed. Right here in Maine. Perhaps be a hub where fiber comes in to.

Value-added whether it is food or fiber or anything else

Chad: Capitalize on what we have. Sidewalks are nice but we need to support existing business.

Andy: Hodges has that big building for sale. Look for employment. Quality employers.

Tony: focus on what we have here. Improve business and support each other.

Jim: Aspect of College support business start-up.

Get existing businesses to work together. Create a business association.

Adjourned at 8:10.