

Unity TIF Advisory Committee(UTAC) AGENDA

May 27, 2014 6:30 P.M.

Unity Community Center

1. Call to Order / Welcome / Introductions
2. Open Public Comments / Questions / Feedback
3. Confirm Approved Minutes of May 13 UTAC Meeting
4. Comprehensive Plan Update – Jean
5. Unity Economic Opportunity Discussion
 - Recommendation to hold Input Meetings of businesses in Agricultural, Service and Manufacturing sectors
 - Continue Discussion regarding creating a place for overnight stays in Unity
 - Next Steps
6. Adjourn

UTAC committee meeting

Tuesday May 27, 2014

Present: Robin Fowler, Jim Perry Noreen Norton, Clem Blakney, Tony Avila, Chris Rossignol, Jean Bourg

Chris spoke with Christian who is discouraged about his aquaponics business idea.

Christian needs a business plan. We could refer him to various agencies, such as SCORE or the Small Business Development Center for small business development and funding for assistance with his business plan. Then he could come back to the committee with a plan and a specific request for assistance.

Jean: Marijuana growers and caregivers are now in town. It's agricultural and local small scale business and brings in a lot of tax revenue. See article in Bangor Daily:

<http://bangordailynews.com/slideshow/medical-marijuanas-economic-impact-growing-in-maine/>

4. Comprehensive Plan report: public meetings scheduled for June 8 and June 12 to get public feedback on the list of goals and strategies.

Noreen: got old town reports and a summary of Quality Main Street Study Report from 1996. Need copies of the full study report.

5. Discussion about Penny's suggestion to hold input meeting of businesses.

It was decided that one meeting would be better than three separate meetings. That approach would allow connections to be made between businesses. Some businesses—such as an agricultural business that makes and sells product falls into all three categories. With a one-meeting approach such a business will not need to decide which meeting to attend. The agreed goal was to plan a meeting for July. Planning for the meeting includes, develop an agenda and format, assembling the invitation list and deciding how to get the word out.

Jean: business pages at unityme.org need to be reviewed. Farms need to be added as businesses.

Discussion on need for overnight accommodation in Unity.

Find out who considered building one a few years ago and why they decided not to. Establish demand. . The Business Input meeting could be one way to assess demand. For the greatest likelihood of success it would owned and operated by someone who networks with the businesses in town to create events, packages to draw people.

Meeting adjourned at 8 pm.