

UTAC AGENDA
March 10, 2015
6:30 P.M.
Unity Town Office

1. Call to Order / Welcome / Introductions
2. Open Public Comments / Questions / Feedback
3. Presentation/Discussion: Opportunities Resulting from the “Local Food / Local Places” Grant—Gail Chase
4. Updates:
 - Comprehensive Plan/Land Use Ordinance
 - UBX Update/Free Press Advertising
 - Solar Power Project
 - Signage
 - Business-focused website development
5. Role of UTAC in Unity TIF Oversight / Process
6. TIF Policy
 - Highlights from other communities
 - Recommend starting from ‘scratch’
 - Outline for New TIF Policy
7. TIF District Re-Statement and Amendment
 - Focus on in-district
 - Focus on economic development
8. Marketing Unity for Business Investment: Brainstorming session
 - Research plan for
9. Next Meeting Date: April 14, 2015 / Agenda Items
10. Adjourn

Minutes

Present: Noreen Norton, Clem Blakney, Chris Rossignol, Andy Reed, Jean Bourg, Tony Avila, Gail Chase, Mary Leaming, Barry McCormick

Gail Chase presentation on opportunities from Local Food/ Local Places grant.

Noreen: how to look at it from a TIF perspective.

Gail: grant doesn't include any money, it is technical assistance only. News coverage said we would be sharing \$800K, but actually none of it goes to the communities directly. 26 towns are sharing the grant.

How we got it. There was a lot of town work going on (comp plan, ordinance review, etc.) Partners are USDA, EPA (office of sustainability), and another.

Town had to set up a steering committee: Clem, Emily (fire dept), Sara Trunzo, to identify town stakeholders. The directives were very vague.

Some food players are Open Door Program, Veggies For All, Regional Food Pantry, Food Hub, UBR's community meals. The players are not organized into an overall entity.

Work shop on June 11 and 12 to focus on the local food efforts and tying that to downtown development. Town leaders and stakeholders in food efforts will be invited to attend.

Promote local food system as place-making device and promote a vibrant walkable downtown.

Barry: we could use an outside party to look at all the pieces and parts of the food picture in Unity and tell us how to connect some of the parts and perhaps more organizations than just food-related ones.

Comp Plan: Jean reported that two major parts of the Comp Plan are now online and collecting comments.

Free Press advertising: Clem and Jon Wadick will go there on Thursday to set up pages.

Solar: energy committee met last week, about a dozen people from Unity and nearby towns. Initial project is a PPA using Town of Unity and other non-profits.

Business web site quote from Jon Wadick for development of the site. The quote includes design and set up but not ongoing maintenance.

Noreen on TIF and UBR. DEDC has no interest in pursuing use of TIF funds by UBR.

John Piotti has requested a specific statement that UBR's expenditures were TIF eligible. Maine Revenue Services doesn't like TIF.

Gail, as a UBR board member, suggested that the letter from the selectmen to UBR be edited to take out the insinuation that the issue is not resolved.