

# Ashland

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*Incorporated February 18, 1862*



*"Gateway to the North Maine Woods"*

## **Ashland Area Economic Development Committee (AAEDC) Meeting: October 20, 2017 Minutes**

### **In attendance:**

Don Tardie: Chair  
Ralph Dwyer: Treasurer  
Cyr Martin  
Kevin Bushey  
Ben Lothrop  
Kristen Wells  
Joella Theriault  
Dave Basely  
Jennifer Faull- ACAP

Committee Chair Tardie called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Joella Theriault was introduced as our new contractor to lead the economic development efforts going forward for the committee.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Ralph Dwyer reported the committee now has \$46,500 in its account. It was agreed to track future funds distributions by original funds received as part of the USAD Rural Grant and secondly, funds received specifically for the Ashland area industrial sites (Clark Siding and Machias River Industrial Park (MRIP)). The initial banking information provided is attached.

Treasurer Dwyer was instructed to prepare invoices to Seven Island, ReEnergy and Katahdin Cedar Log Homes for additional donations that were pledged to the committee.

### **Latest Developments**

Don, Ralph and Kevin attended the biomass day in Fort Fairfield this past week and met the CEO of ReEnergy. They provided the CEO a quick update on the committee's efforts in working with ReEnergy leadership to keep its doors open in the future. During the event ReEnergy announced its partnership with Biobased ME, a Portland based biomass association, to start receiving Request for Proposals (RFPs) at all ReEnergy sites in Maine.

Kevin Bushey gave an update on the launch of the first WorkReady course to be offered through Ashland Adult Education. The committee has contracted through SAD #1 Adult Ed for Sharon Craig to be the facilitator. An information night is scheduled October 26, at 6:30 pm, in the Ashland School auditorium. CASAS exam times will be made available for any interested adults looking to take the course. ACAP will assist in conducting the exams. A press release for the course along with an economic development interview with Tardie will appear in the October 25 issue of the Star Herald.

Press Release: <http://townofashland.org/wp-content/uploads/Ashland-Press-Release-10-16-17.pdf>

Information Night Brochure:

<http://townofashland.org/wp-content/uploads/WR-brochure-ashland.pdf>

Chairman Tardie discussed the committee the concept of Reciprocity in the electrical power world and will plan to keep the committee informed as the issue will be discussed in the county in the future.

Chairman Tardie will meet with the MDOT Deputy Commissioner November 2 to discuss a potential rail project for the MRIP.

Chairman Tardie is also in communication with Yellow Bream from the Maine Development Foundation regarding the AAEDC work.

### **New Business**

Motion made by Kevin Bushey, seconded by R Dwyer, to allow local area businesses access to the AAEDC conference room at 190 Presque Isle, St, Ashland for meetings. Motion passed.

Committee members are invited to meet the CDBG representative, Terri-Ann Holden, next Tues at noon at the town office.

Sample signage sheets were provided by Mr. John Beaulier and quotes are to be received on a final draft next week.

Motion made by K Bushey, seconded, by R Dwyer, to have Chairman Tardie send a letter to our legislators to sponsor, co-sponsor an amendment to the bill pertaining to the Renewable Energy Credits and have those funds allocated to Southern Maine to be transferred to Northern Maine since the Biomass entity down south is not executing those funds.

Motion made by K Bushey, seconded by D Basely, for Chairman Tardie to send a letter to Governor Lepage regarding the need for the release of federal Workforce funds and the impact to Northern Maine if they remain un-released.

The committee spent time reviewing work done to date on the strategic plan. A hand off to Joella was done to finish up the work of having a final draft in early November.

Joella will plan to be in Ashland on Tuesdays from 9 to 3 pm so the office will be open during this time to meet with her or for other meetings to be scheduled.

The committee will start having a regularly scheduled monthly meeting starting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, at 9 am, starting in December 2017.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Bushey  
Recorder

