

Upper Valley Economic Council

Meeting Minutes: April 13, 2026

Next Meeting: Monday June 8, 2026 at 4:30 pm.

The meeting was called to order at 4:30pm.

Present: Harold Skane, Lois Eash, Steve Gould, Chris Smith, and Jeff Packard.

Guests: Fred Michaud - retired Maine DOT

Minutes: It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the minutes of February 9, 2025.

Treasurer's Report/Sign Warrants: Office Manager Packard presented the Treasurer's report for February 9, 2026. The Board voted to approve the report as read. The Board signed the warrants.

Millinocket Lake Project: Maine Revenue Service approved the application for the property to be non-taxable. The Piscataquis County sent a check for \$2,500 for the 2025 season. Fred explained that the Maine DOT has dug in its heels and will not honor the original contract that they created, signed, and approved. They have not given official notice that they have declared the contract null and void. UVEC needs, in writing, from the DOT which would relieve UVEC of any of our obligations and open up new options for UVEC. If the contract is made null and void, UVEC can walk away from the property and the deed reverts back to Katahdin Forest Management. UVEC would then have the option to sell the bathroom buildings. Fred informed the Board of the maintenance financial obligations and responsibilities. Fred suggested that UVEC bill the DOT for 2024 and 2025 maintenance in a flat-fee format. If the DOT pays for those 2 years. If the DOT pays UVEC for those 2 years, we can open the facility for 2026. The DOT will require UVEC to pay Laurie Cormier and then UVEC would be reimbursed by the DOT. Fred can provide the numbers for those 2 years for Chris Smith. The other concern with the DOT is that they are requiring itemized invoices, which was not in the original contract. After some discussion, Fred was told to submit bills for 2024 and 2025. Fred did mention he was concerned about what the DOT considered maintenance.

Elections: The Board held elections for 2026. Lois Eash made a motion to nominate Chris Smith for Chair, Steve Gould for Secretary, and Harold Skane for Treasurer. The motion passed. Harold Skane made a motion to cease nominations. The motion passed. The Board voted unanimously to elect Chris Smith as Chairman, Harold Skane as Treasurer, and Steve Gould as Secretary.

Manager's Report:

Food Pantry Report for February 82 Households served - Sherman 36 Households, Stacyville - 16 Households, and 30 Households from other Towns. March - 88 Households served - 41 Sherman, 17 Stacyville, and 30 other Towns. Stacyville passed the budget request. Sherman's Town Meeting will be held on Monday, May 18. The next meeting will be held on June 8 Monday at 4:30 PM.

Business up-date: The Pizza Guy on School Street will open back up on June 10.

Scenic Byway Update: No update

UVEC RBEG Update: There is \$74,162.39 available for loans. There has been no interest as of today.

Meeting Ended at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harold Skane, Treasurer