

20220519 DRAFT Kingfield Utility Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Meeting Details

Date	05/19/2022	Time	6:00 PM
Reference / Resources	Meetings to be held on the third Thursday of the month at Webster Hall, 38 School Street. UAC Committee Meeting Materials		

Attendance

Name	Present	Absent	Name	Present	Absent
Bobby Brown	X		Suzanne Dunham	X	
Peter Manning	X		Niki Woodhouse (notes)	X	
Dan Davis	X				

Agenda / Discussion Items

Topics
<p><u>Last Meeting</u> April meeting was not held (did not have a quorum). March meeting notes were reviewed. Peter motioned that the March meeting notes be accepted as written by Niki, Bobby 2nded, all in favor.</p> <p><u>Google Account</u> We have a Google Account that was established in March. The address is kingfieldmaineuac@gmail.com. But only Niki has access to the email messages there.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There was some discussion about one address to reach everyone. The group also agreed that Niki would set up a Google group address so we could reach the rest using just one address, which would be kingfieldmaineuac@googlegroups.com. ● Dan reminded us that he does not use EMail. It was noted that it will be important for Dan to be kept informed at meetings. ● Digital document collaboration and access is available through Google Drive to all committee members, and Niki will send an email reminding everyone how to get to the drive. <p><u>UAC Mission Statement</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bobby shared that he emailed members on 4/21 with draft verbiage for a UAC mission statement, but also provided printed versions for review at the meeting. The draft was compiled from the warrant that the town created for the UAC in December 2021. ● Peter questioned paragraph 3 and whether it reflects the true scope and timing of our charge. He mentioned an article in the Irregular that he thought quoted a selectman prioritizing rate recommendations over other tasks. The group was not able to confirm this, or any other time-based tasks assigned to the group. ● Bobby asked how we could go about recommending rates and Peter proposed basing them on operating costs. The committee was not able to ascertain if the materials in the binder reflected total operating costs, and noted some items as capital expenditures that would not be included in such a pricing model. ● The committee reviewed a few areas in the binder, including a pricing model that included “Leanna’s way” in the title, but struggled to fully understand it. Suzanne inquired about the previously proposed “by bedroom” model and whether that could be implemented.

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- Bobby explained that there were issues with the accuracy of the survey responses and a hesitation from Selectmen to audit homes. The decision this past winter was to raise rates 30% across the board, and there was speculation that the increases are at least getting it to the point of making sure all operational costs are being covered. This has not been confirmed yet.
- Suzanne expressed concern that the 30% increase is causing hardship and inequities, and that our planned exploratory process and timeline of a year would be too long.
- There was a follow-up discussion about the fairness of the by-bedroom model, if it were to even be used. Niki argued that it would also create hardships and inequities, just to different people.
- Suzanne pointed out that Sugarloaf charges by bedroom, but Peter shared the reason is that they could not afford meters.
- Niki asked if we could set some short-term long-term goals (and time frames), assuming they are to #1 Get a solid understanding of the operating costs over the last 5 years, #2 Have a good understanding of how our system works, and #3 Make sure our operating costs are at least covered.
- Bobby countered that #3 is premature and proposed that we focus on #1 and #2.

Bobby motioned that we ask the town for Travis to give us a tour and for the past 5 years of the Wastewater Operational Budgets (including all operating costs and debt service), Peter 2nded, all in favor.

Decisions Made

Decision
5/19 Bobby will ask the town for Travis to give us a tour and for the past 5 years of the Wastewater Operational Budgets (including all operating costs and debt service).

Previous Action Items

	Previous Action Items	Person Responsible	Status
1	Submit project request to UMaine	Bobby	DONE
2	Set up Google account	Niki	DONE
3	Locate binders, share out	Bobby	DONE

Meeting Action Items

	Meeting Action Items	Person Responsible	Due Date
1	Get and share past 5 yrs of ttl operating costs	Bobby	ASAP
2	Set up Google Group	Niki	ASAP
3	Send approved March notes to the town.	Niki	w/in 10 days.
4	Schedule site visits with Travis Targett, through the town. Tentatively for 5/31 5 pm or 6/1 between 4 & 6 pm.	Bobby	ASAP

Next Meeting

Next Meeting Date:	6/16/2022
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