

# Mobilize Katahdin Coalition Meeting Notes

April 23, 2020

**ATTENDING:** Susan Adams, Shelly Blaisdell, Angela Cote, Ashley Cox, Chris Cunningham, Jane Danforth, Matt DeLaney, Nancy DeWitt, Mike Elliott, Shelley Farrington, Diana Furukawa, Barbara Hayslett, Peter Jamieson, Kai Loundon, Tom Malcolm, Jeff Packard, Charlie Pray, Jenn Sheaff, Eben Sypitkowski, Robin Stevens, and Lucy Van Hook  
Note Taker: MaryAlice Mowry

## GENERAL OVERVIEW OF MOBILIZE KATAHDIN:

Steering Committee Members are Matt Delaney, Shelly Blaisdell, Robin Stevens, Jane Danforth, and Diana Furukawa. The Steering Committee meets daily at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom

## UPDATES:

### MOBILIZE KATAHDIN UPDATE

#### Shelly Blaisdell:

- Busy week, steering committee has done lots of work, meet daily. Volunteers, training
- Now over 40 volunteers all over the region
- Chief Worster has done all the background checks
- Several requests, approximately 50 people (fuel, gas, food deliveries, food gift cards)
- There have been private donations of supplies (e.g. firewood).
- People are stepping up
- Phone buddies, people are benefitting from these phone friendships

Q: Shelley F: What about donations, people are cleaning out their homes and have good things to donate?

A: Shelly B: Right now we have no safe place to put donations, so we don't have a way to accept donations.

Charlie Pray: I Care Ministries is still accepting good donations. Can take to the old armory.

#### Matt Delaney ([Financial Assistance Policy Guidelines](#))

Review of Financial Assistance Guidelines:

- Shelly B, Susan A, Deb R – are members of the subcommittee for financial assistance
- Goal is to make assistance broad-reaching, flexible and serve as many people as possible and have equitable distribution
- Steering committee has reviewed and thinks this is a great policy
- Won't distribute cash
- Individuals limit up to \$50.00 per request (\$500 per/year), organization limit \$500 one time (\$1000 per/year)

## Mobilize Katahdin Coalition Meeting Notes

April 23, 2020

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1000 limit for organization is for operational support. There is no limit for organizations that are providing direct assistance to individuals</li> <li>• Our Katahdin is fiscal agent</li> <li>• <a href="#">Organizations can fill out form on website</a> or call Shelly</li> <li>• All financial requests are tracked and reported back to Our Katahdin</li> </ul> <p>Q: Charlie: are we getting a discount from any of the oil vendors?  A: Matt: we only work through I Care Ministries, not sure if he has a discount.</p> <p>Charlie: in the past with work with VFW, they asked and did get  Jane: she has talked to Herschel sure he has relationships.</p> <p>Angela: want to make sure that we are preparing for cutoffs in electricity other utilities, there is a moratorium right now, but that will go away.  A: Matt: this week we expanded policy, and utility assistance is now an available need that can be requested.</p> <p>Charlie: understanding Emera will not charge late fees or interest, they are working out a program for over time.</p> <p>Angela: worried about going to town for assistance and then going to another organization.</p> <p>A: Charlie: it might be advantageous to ask who have you approached?  Jane: these are things to be made aware of will continue to discuss with steering committee.</p> <p>Kai: Good Shephard have similar issues and they will ask the question. Good Shephard is generally not concerned about getting assistance from several places, because when people are doing that, they usually really need it</p> <p><u>Diana Furukawa:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The financial assistance <a href="#">guidelines</a> are in the <a href="#">coalition tab</a>, under documents for your review and to give feedback.</li> </ul>
<p><b>FUNDRAISING UPDATE</b></p>	<p><u>Nancy DeWitt:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$6,750 has been raised, \$4,290 currently available from the <a href="#">public website</a></li> <li>• There is a private website where requests for donations are being sent out to foundations, banks, etc. All these funds will be matched by an anonymous donor up to \$10,000</li> <li>• Yesterday received \$2,500 on private website from The Nature Conservancy</li> </ul>

## Mobilize Katahdin Coalition Meeting Notes

April 23, 2020

	<p><u>Kai Loundon</u>: Might want to consider applying to United Way of Eastern Maine for additional funding. They have streamlined their process just recently and have replenished their COVID-19 funds. Turnaround for funds is less than a week.</p>
<b>REGIONAL BUSINESS UPDATE</b>	<p><u>Mike Elliott</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There will be an end to this, and businesses are going to need our support</li><li>• Mike's role as shifted to be a first responder re: economic development he is assisting in the navigation of available government funding, PPP program, etc.</li><li>• Mike is starting to hear that businesses put an application in on Day 1 and no funding, business owners are looking for alternative ways to get resources, he can help who identifying who is lending money</li><li>• SBA backed loan might be possible for some businesses</li><li>• There are a lot of businesses that are sole proprietorship – and these entities may have different rules for them.</li><li>• He is working with businesses in Millinocket, Mt. Chase, Patten, Sherman, East Millinocket</li><li>• He is coordinating with Peter (Chamber) so he can reach out proactively to connect and sort out next steps with regional businesses</li><li>• See Mike's contact information in the resources section of these notes or <a href="#">on the Mobilize Katahdin website</a></li><li>• Today is one-year anniversary, people are still learning about what he does and how he can help; please send people to him or let him know if there is a business or municipality that he should be reaching out to</li></ul> <p><u>Peter Jamieson</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What he does has changed on a major level, he is in a lot of meetings with state, local government, US Chamber</li><li>• Trying to get out plain-language information about programs and resources</li><li>• Mostly a middleman between agencies/department that offer disaster funding and local businesses</li><li>• His role is all about communication, adapting and connecting</li><li>• Really try to connect people to someone who can help them. 4-5 businesses in the region have genuinely benefited from PPP and just a couple from SBA funding.</li></ul>

## Mobilize Katahdin Coalition Meeting Notes

April 23, 2020

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• He continues to be in weekly contact with state program officials, ME state chamber, and congressional delegation through zoom calls and other communication</li></ul> <p><u>Jane Danforth:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Peter if you know of businesses that have employees who are struggling maybe Peter can be a bridge with those people to reach out to them directly out and offer a gift card or other assistance</li></ul> <p><u>Peter Jamieson:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• From a Chamber perspective they are feeling big negative effect on their own resources</li><li>• There so many members that are solely based on tourism, a lot are closed and not sure when they can open</li><li>• Huge hit to annual budget, businesses not able to pay their annual fee maybe down to 1/3 of projected budget</li><li>• Have decisions to make regarding income and expenses and how to go forward</li></ul> <p>Q: Mike: Kevin Gregory from EMDC can help with unemployment filing</p> <p>A: Shelly B: Kevin is on our <a href="#">resource guide</a></p>
<b>FOOD INSECURITY UPDATE</b>	<p><u>Jeff Packard:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jeff Packard (Sherman Food Bank) is available daily 8-12</li><li>• Jeff has received check from Good Shephard</li><li>• Susan Adams reported that Chris Cunningham got food covered for the Patten Community Food Cupboard from the Bradford Foundation</li><li>• Susan wanted to give a shout out to Chris Cunningham who is a “wizard” of a grant writer, she was instrumental in getting grant funds for Patten Community Food Cupboard</li><li>• Jeff wanted to check in to see about food needs in Island Falls</li><li>• Susan reported that according to town manager they are “all set”</li><li>• Chris has put in an inquiry into funding through United Way, hoping to hear back, and will keep us posted</li></ul> <p>Q: Lucy: Have you heard back from the Machias Community Savings Bank?</p> <p>A: Chris: Funds were depleted before our request</p> <p>Jeff: They make an annual grant request in late summer from Machias Community Savings Bank</p>

## Mobilize Katahdin Coalition Meeting Notes

April 23, 2020

<p><b>REPRESENTATIVE GOLDEN'S OFFICE UPDATE</b></p>	<p><u>Barbara Hayslett</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For any of you connecting with businesses like Mike is mentioning, feel free to our office. We have staff that is dedicated to working with small businesses as they are trying to navigate EIDL and PPP.</li> <li>• Congressman Golden is in DC today voting for the interim package, businesses should be ready with their information because demand will be very high, and it is anticipated the funds in this package will be depleted quickly</li> <li>• Feel free to reach out to <a href="mailto:SmallBizResponseTeam@mail.house.gov">SmallBizResponseTeam@mail.house.gov</a></li> </ul> <p>Q: Charlie: in regard to regional business there needs to be an assessment about how the federal programs have been delivered. The businesses with 20 employees might have set asides – maybe state itself should adopt some program. Lot of ME banks don't deal with SBA. Congress needs to look at small businesses.</p> <p>A: Barbara: interim assistance program, a new select committee on the crisis feel it is important to conduct oversight.</p>
<p><b>OUTREACH</b></p>	<p><u>Tom Malcolm</u>: Thinking of other ways of reaching out to people, and yes there are the posters, but would it be possible to make up some kind of little card (like a business card) wondering if this might work better for some of the older people, who are too proud to ask. What are ways to get word out?</p> <p><u>Angela</u>: Towns are sending out mailings and could put a flyer or other type of information about Mobilize Katahdin in mailings</p> <p><u>Jane</u>: Probably need a Communications Team, have discussed at Steering Committee, need to work on our messaging.</p> <p><u>Jeff</u>: Flyers could be put in food boxes, are you using the radio stations</p> <p><u>Diana</u>: Yes, we are recording a radio ad today</p> <p><u>Susan</u>: Not that expensive to do a bulk mailing, all the post offices have posted the flyers in the Northern end of region. Katahdin Trust will help with publicity, they do a packet, Susan will follow up on contact information. In Mt Chase community members are doing check-ins. They call and check in and give people information about Mobilize Katahdin.</p>

## Mobilize Katahdin Coalition Meeting Notes

April 23, 2020

	<p><u>Angela</u>: You can request voter registration lists and information can be provided for mailings</p> <p><u>Shelley F</u>: Love the idea about phone buddies and would like to get a story out in the newspaper, want to include highlights of the work of Mobilize Katahdin so people can see the positive results, Shelley will advocate for placement of good stories, a small card with information is a good idea</p> <p><u>Lucy</u>: Has a mailing list that was used for Katahdin Collaborative and that list could be used if a mailing was done</p> <p>Tom – Millinocket EMT’s and Fire can distribute a card and would like to, trying to reach under-served people</p> <p><u>Shelly B</u>: if you have people to contact her directly and she will reach out to anyone day or night to offer assistance. Snowbirds returning, get her the details of those who are returning to area to her and she will reach out.</p> <p><u>Shelley F.:</u> Took some notes if you have some story ideas for the paper glad to help region, people are desperate for happy news</p> <p><u>Susan</u>: great idea to do an article on Baxter and local spaces that people still have access to, and how to be outdoors safely</p>
<b>OTHER DISCUSSION</b>	<p><u>Lucy</u>: There is statewide group that is asking about broadband issues and interested in assessment of broad band needs; ME Community Foundation is looking for stories for people who are distributing I pads, hotspots, doing things to increase access to getting online, etc. Lucy is wondering if we know of anyone who is doing things like this. Would like to get stories from our region to the Foundation</p> <p><u>Shelly B</u>: should they contact Lucy: <a href="mailto:lucy@ourkatahdin.com">lucy@ourkatahdin.com</a></p> <p><u>Angela</u>: Children from away sending out old iPad to parents, grandparents, this is example of 1:1 family basis</p> <p><u>Robin</u>: The hospital has iPads for patients to use when in the hospital to stay connected with their families</p> <p><u>Tom</u>: Nursing homes letting people use iPad onsite</p>

## Mobilize Katahdin Coalition Meeting Notes

April 23, 2020

	<p><u>Angela</u>: Are we receiving any requests from nursing homes or other facilities?</p> <p><u>Tom</u>: talks with Katahdin Health Care (Nursing Home) regularly. He hasn't specifically asked but will plan to. He talked with Penquis (who runs Stearns Assisted) and to date hasn't heard about any needs.</p> <p><u>Mike</u>: posted broadband survey information, EMDC and Mission Broadband regional survey (See Resource list below)</p>
<b>RESOURCES DISCUSSED:</b>	
Representative Golden	Barbara Hayslett, staff member in Rep. Golden's office - <a href="mailto:Barbara.hayslett@mail.house.gov">Barbara.hayslett@mail.house.gov</a> <a href="https://golden.house.gov/covid-19/small-business-resource-guide">https://golden.house.gov/covid-19/small-business-resource-guide</a> <a href="mailto:SmallBizResponseTeam@mail.house.gov">SmallBizResponseTeam@mail.house.gov</a> .
KREDB	Mike Elliott, 207-723-1862, <a href="mailto:michael.elliott@katahdinregion.org">michael.elliott@katahdinregion.org</a>
EMDC	Kevin Gregory, for help navigating unemployment, (207) 746-9608
Broadband Regional Survey	EMDC and Mission Broadband are doing a regional survey on how the stay at home order has impacted their need or use of broadband. I've already sent the link out to the towns and community partners, but if you can help spread the survey, that would be great. <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KRDB_SD_BB_Impact">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KRDB_SD_BB_Impact</a>
<b>ACTIONABLE TO-DO'S:</b>	
Jane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will set up meeting with the food banks in the region for next Monday morning</li> <li>• Will put on future agenda to discuss how to begin planning for when businesses open, want to do this when Sean DeWitt is on call – this is follow-up from Email that Sean sent out to the Coalition members earlier this week</li> <li>• Look at feasibility of setting up a communications team (Susan Adams is interested, and thought that Shelly F would also be a good member for the team)</li> </ul>
Charlie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will reach out to Millinocket town manager requesting them to change their meeting time so they can be on this call</li> </ul>
Susan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow up on contact information from Katahdin Trust regarding publicity packet</li> </ul>