

Mobilize Katahdin Coalition Meeting Notes

May 7, 2020

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ATTENDING: Susan Adams, Shelly Blaisdell, Angela Cote, Matt DeLaney, Nancy DeWitt, Shelley Farrington, Diana Furukawa, Barb Hayslett, Peter Jamieson, Kai Loundon, Josh McNaughton, Jeff Packard, Louis Pelletier, Charlie Pray, Jenn Sheaff, Eben Sypitkowski, Robin Stevens 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 biweekly via Zoom	
UPDATES:	
MOBILIZE KATAHDIN UPDATE	<u>Shelly Blaisdell:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Started Communications sub-committee last week● All students in the region all received flyers geared towards students with contact info and if they have a need, google forum, attached to meals, email and physical packets of work● 4 organizational requests this week● Requests for groceries, deliveries, pharmacy, gas and fuel are continuing● Mobilize Katahdin is receiving ongoing donations of household supplies from Millinocket Elks Club. These will be distributed throughout the region by Mobilize Katahdin. <u>Matt Delaney:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Through the Our Katahdin website \$7,525, of that \$5,160 has been dispersed
SCHOOL UPDATE	<u>Josh McNaughton:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Baylor University meals program:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Parents will receive letter in the mail informing them about the program and guidelines○ When family applies the school will work with directly with Baylor so that families will start receiving benefits● Updated educational packets going out this week● High school and administrative staff are meeting to discuss how graduations activities can be held and different ways to celebrate students and stay safe, following DOE guidelines <p>Q: Diana Furukawa: How many families might qualify for Baylor Program? A: Josh: About 50% - 60% numbers do change but this is probably the range.</p>

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TOWN UPDATES	<p><u>Angela Cote - East Millinocket:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Exploring ways to do mail-in options for some of the regular town business● There will be a Special town meeting on 5/14<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The meeting will be about the Purchasing the Great Northern Mill Site <p>Q: Shelly: What are the plans for the site? A: Angela: Plans will be discussed at meeting. It is a physical meeting with people staying and remaining in their own cars, people must bring their cell phones, packets will be distributed as cars arrive. It is in the Public Works parking lot. There will be an article in Katahdin Region News this week regarding details.</p> <p>Q: Shelly: Do you know of people struggling with electric or utility bills? A: Angela: Nothing yet but do think in the future after moratorium is ended there will be quite a rush. Angela does not know the plan for payment after the moratorium is lifted but imagines that there will be a phase in plan.</p> <p><u>Charlie Pray – Millinocket:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Continuing to follow guidelines from the state● MMA is having weekly calls with the Governor/Governor’s staff● Trying to address issues as people call into the office● Town managers and department heads are planning on how they will open up● Have participated in discussions regarding the opening up the courts, nothing decided yet● Governor will be making a major announcement at the CDC meeting today <p>Q: Matt : He is involved in weekly calls with Maine State Library members, they are not going to determine guidance, beyond state guidelines, does Millinocket plan to put out local guidelines ? A: Charlie: No additional guidelines beyond the state guidance is planned at this time.</p> <p><u>Jeff Packard – Sherman:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Town office opened up on Monday have guidelines for people who enter the office● Collected \$1,200 on the first day of opening <p><u>Susan Adams – Patten Area</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● I’m not officially speaking on behalf of the town
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Town has been working on trails from town to the national monument, work can continue during this time ● Patten Food Cupboard: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moved to bigger room in the church ○ Ellis’s have helped with freezer storage when needed ○ Better able to serve more people ○ Have gotten three grants to help support the project <p>Q: Shelly: Do you have enough freezers? A: Susan: No, but it works out fine to use Ellis’s space</p>
<p>CHAMBER OF COMMERCE UPDATE</p>	<p><u>Peter Jamieson:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Within the regional business community there are extreme opposites in viewpoints, the chamber is working towards trying to find middle ground ● They are working on appeal processes with the state to better strike that middle ground ● State chamber of commerce (62 Individual Chamber offices in state) put out a survey, and over 1600 businesses completed it ● They are having weekly meetings (or every other) with Commissioner Johnson to share information and help towards finding some middle ground on the phase in guideline process ● Survey will give statewide “even keel” perspective to assist in the guideline process ● Most of what Peter is doing is communication ● Peter has been focusing on a regional approach. We need to get away from calling the chamber the Millinocket Chamber, as he has members in Millinocket, East Millinocket, Medway, Sherman, Patten, Mt. Chase, and Island Falls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ His first 6 months with chamber doing was dedicated to doing outreach in the north and offer support to businesses in north ○ During this time, he is breaking down barriers, the chamber does not turn any business away, and he is helping to spread information and to give support ○ Finding a new location will be something to be moved on at some point in the future
<p>REPRESENTATIVE GOLDEN UPDATE</p>	<p><u>Barb Hayslett:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● News released yesterday that Our Katahdin has received two Ground Fill Environmental Protection Agency Grants ● Representative Golden is holding Tele-Town Halls, did one last night with AARP ● She will send us information about upcoming Tele-Town Meetings

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OUR KATAHDIN UPDATE	<p><u>Nancy DeWitt:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Matt updated us on dollars raised ● There will be an announcement this morning on the two EPA ground fill grants that have been awarded to Our Katahdin for the Millinocket Mill site. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$500,000 for the Administrative building ○ \$300,000 for the rest of the site
BAXTER STATE PARK UPDATE	<p><u>Eben Sypitkowski:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Offices closed until further notice ● Trying to find as much guidance about how to open campgrounds ● Delayed season target date July 1st <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Had to bring back seasonal staff, need to quarantine them safely ○ They will come back in next couple of weeks ● Considerations for reopening safely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Not so simple social distancing in the wilderness ○ Park readiness (picnic table placement, sanitizer stations, sanitizing cabins) ○ Social distancing on trails is not so easy either, narrow trails in alpine zones want to preserve them ○ One-way trails have many issues as well ○ How and when Katahdin can be open is a big discussion. It's a highly critical area, there are not protocols that have been established yet for these kinds of areas of outdoor areas yet ○ Shared-household bunkhouses are a "no go" right now ● Right now: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gates are closed ○ Open for day use at the edges, open for day use by locals ○ Don't want to be doing big, risky things right now, hospital system and first responders cannot be challenged by assisting with emergencies from the park <p><u>Peter:</u> Glad to hear this update, hearing this helps him immensely Q: Louis: Can you get protocols out to the public? A: Eben: Soon we will share what does it look like when we open, but we are waiting to do this publicly. Encourage local people to reach out with questions. Facebook post April 16th</p>
FOOD INSECURITY UPDATE	<p><u>Kai Loundan – Good Shepherd:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kai is the Good Shepherd Community Resource rep for Northern Maine

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Onboarded the Patten Food Cupboard<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ They will be getting an orientation soon○ If they need funding for electrician or for additional cold storage, there are resources for that○ There are also pop up tents available to decrease the need for people to go inside the building● Across the state, there continues to be an increased demand● GSFb able to fill 65% of the requests for pantry boxes● 10% of product is usually purchased, now it has moved up to 60%<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ It is the availability of case lot products that are delayed or unavailable○ Couldn't meet some of their order fulfillment because of delays in shipping● Have distributed \$600,000 in Hannaford gift cards in \$50 increments. They were very appreciated.● There are issues in receiving bulk orders● GSFb needs to raise 6.2 million dollars over next 2 months<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Have met about 50% of that in last 6-7 weeks○ There is a telethon happening which also has matching funds.
EAAA UPDATE	<p><u>Jenn Sheaff:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Katahdin region site is Stearns Assisted Living for meal packing and delivering● There is now room on the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, same requirement as Furry Friends requirements: 60+ \$1,307 (1-person) \$1,760 (2-person) or less monthly income● Meals on Wheels program increasing rapidly● Room on Furry Friends Program, pet food distributed with commodity boxes● 60+ or Disabled, are the requirements for Meals on Wheels program, 7 meals per week, good for those who are returning and are in 14 day quarantine● Removed all people on the waitlist for Family Caregiving Program, everyone is being brought onto the program, which includes:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Respite assistance○ Can get up to \$3,800 to spend on care for family member○ Caregiver support for people with memory care○ Support groups are starting, people can call the office for days, time and to● Have created Medicare 101, now a zoom video and available for those who are newly eligible for Medicare, they then can follow up with Medicare support staff

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dynamic wellness page of Facebook for people who are stuck at home, EAAA Wellness Group on Facebook, various classes available. Plan to continue these in the future. • Now have more information about EAAA food distribution support to Mobilize Katahdin. Will follow up with Steering Team.
MILLINOCKET MEMORIAL LIBRARY UPDATE	<p><u>Diana Furukawa:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library is offering a variety of virtual programs or linking people up with other virtual programs they may be interested in • Diana will assist people who want assistance with how to navigate Zoom, she has also created some online resources about Zoom. • E-books and audiobooks are available
OTHER UPDATES	<p><u>Susan Adams:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North/South roads into National Monument are closed • NPS is coordinating with BSP on opening • Monument open for local use
RESOURCES DISCUSSED:	
BAXTER STATE PARK	https://baxterstatepark.org/ https://www.facebook.com/baxterstatepark/
GOOD SHEPHERD TELE-THON	https://www.newscentermaine.com/article/news/local/outreach/feed-maine/2020-news-center-maine-feed-maine-telethon/97-2bb9a8b0-4080-4157-a884-bfc50622ab12
MILLINOCKET MEMORIAL LIBRARY	http://millinocketmemoriallibrary.org/virtual-services http://millinocketmemoriallibrary.org/using-zoom Library temporary number: (314) 635-0360.
EAAA	https://www.facebook.com/groups/EAAAWellness/ Meals on Wheels, referral or self-referral: https://www.eaaa.org/homepage/contact/
FOLLOW UP ITEMS	Eben will forward talking point information to Peter at the Chamber
NEXT MEETING	May 14, 2020 9:00 a.m.