

February 10, 2010

Economic Development Committee
Seeley Lake Community Council

A meeting was held at Littlebirds to further discuss ways to stimulate the Seeley Lake economy.

A presentation was made by Karen Pratt based on the article "The Maine Way." The article chronicles the struggle of several small towns in northern Maine and the way they recreated their economy through the best use of the natural resources. The community came together as volunteers to build a lodge, promote a healthy lifestyle for children and attract world class athletes to their trails for winter sports. There are many correlations between those communities and Seeley Lake. This community is blessed with incredible natural resources for all seasons and an abundance of public land.

A lively discussion ensued concerning a number of issues involved in moving forward and the history of the Olympic class ski trail system that already exists here.

Pat O'Herron and _____ from Missoula County were in attendance and gave valuable insight into possible grant programs and funding sources that might be accessed. A feasibility study was mentioned as a starting point, using grant funds and matching local funds. A long range – wide scope plan was encouraged as a means of obtaining future funding.

The need for more immediate projects was discussed, especially the need for a warming hut near the trail to accommodate skiers and children that are being taught to ski by the recently formed Venture Club.

Our current trail system has benefited from the dedicated work of the ski club and others and also from funding from the annual OSCAR race. The recent Biathlon attracted 68 participants and about 200 spectators to our area.

The meeting was adjourned, a date for the next meeting will be announced.

Diane Weatherman
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