

Valley Ventures Group Meeting, Microcredit
May 9, 2008
Woodlands Credit Union

Present: Carla Lapierre, Rick Alger, Dennis Bisson, Lise Grondin Danault, Laura Lynch, Denise Doucette, Karen Bradley, Derik Brasher.
Excused: Keith Lynch, Eric Lang, Jackie Hawkins.

Invited Guest: Steve Huntington, representative for NH Congressman, Paul Hodes,.

Accepted minutes from last month: 1st Laura Lynch, 2nd Denis Bisson

Accepted treasurer's report: 1st Carla Lapierre, 2nd Karen Bradley.

3 minute check in:

Denise D: She is going into her last phase of teaching at Milan Village School. Is starting up her summer music classes, may teach another class at White Mountain Community College this summer and in the fall. She is continue singing the national anthem at Loudon for NASCAR.

Laura and Keith: Has had excellent month (vacation for 2 weeks) and were still able to continue business activities—the nature of having a website business. She is now working on 4 websites, has added child care 3-4 days per week. NorthStar is going “wireless” in the home, people are happy with them, have client from Georgia. They've done Yahoo Ad Words, will do it again. Laura highly recommended that any one in the group should apply for the next CCEP program—both Keith and herself have benefitted greatly by this program.

Carla: Redecorated windows so she can display White Mountain Memorabilia. Did business with West Virginia though word of mouth—traveler/tourist. She has joined a gallery in Lincoln. Is utilizing Granite State Matrix and is very satisfied.

Denis: Has had a good month—all from word-of-mouth. 80% of his jobs are big jobs. Denis has developed a good reputation because when he starts a job, he finishes it. Took on another kitchen remodeling job. His garage is now 80% done—his goal is to use it as his workshop for cabinet making.

Rick Alger: Has 3 jobs lined up that will take him into wintertime. Two of them are low pay, and one is what he really wants to do—working with landowner to maximize land/forest management utilizing his horses. Market to the “going green” clientele.

Derik: A bank hired him to check out foundation of log home construction. He found that “visual verification” may be a good new line to get into. He was found in the yellow pages.

Karen: Has an “ok” month. She has found a shift in business activities due to the change of season—weekends are not an option. She will approach a different clientele. Arbonne is doing well, she is developing a team, has begun leadership conference calls. Her reward as a leader is watching them reach their goals. Friend has designed her Peak Health logo and she loves it.

Lise: purchased on more machine—is helping her to work smarter, not harder—but will need a helper. Lise can now take walk-ins; is expanding her clientele by doing footbath parties in N. Conway area and Groveton area. Lise is also working with CDI at the prospect of developing a regional Business Co-op for those micro businesses who need to rent affordable space for short amounts of time.

DENIS BISSON SWOT:

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
Skills (hands) Reliability Investigates safety and building codes when starting a new job. His goal is not be to a carpenter, but specialize as a cabinetry maker and woodworker Enthusiasm! Committed Sick of working for other people Quality work Open to possibilities Has integrity	No business name: Group brainstormed and came up with : DB Custom Woodwork with tag line (will work in this) and needs a logo. Should use middle initial of his name to differentiate from other Denis Bisson's in the area. Wants website and join Granite State Matrix Needs to invest in tools Has not take advantage of IDA account yet. No accountant yet—should be first priority
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
Consignment shops for woodwork items to sell some of his things Speak to Lucien Langlois and become another resource for him. Connect with interior decorators/designers Market to the people that pay. Post card mailings Build relationships with building material stores mentioned in threats	Low price May get taxed-physically Competition: Caron Building Center, White Mountain Lumber

Steve Huntington attended this meeting as a spectator to see how a Micro-Credit meeting works and what Micro-Credit has to offer the public. He stated he was very impressed and offered his contact information to everyone if they have issues they would like to have addressed with Congressman Hodes.

Karen Bradley offered to do a presentation to our group on Building Business through Referrals.

Next SWOT volunteer is Derik Brasher.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15

Next meeting: Friday, June 13, 2008 at 9:15 at Woodlands

Facilitator: Laura Lynch

Minute Taker: Karen Bradley

Time Keeper: