

NOTES OF THE BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
FOR TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
HELD ON February 6, 2023 at TOWN HALL

Present: Silke Fuchshofen, Deb Gordon, Tistrya Houghtling, Chris Jansson, Danielle Kuffel, Sharon Powers, Eileen Raab, Erminia Rasmussen, Becky Segal, Josh Young

Not present: Steve Abramson, Rochelle DiRe, Chuck Geraldi, Rae Gilson, Mitch Kelleher, Jack Lancto, Monte Wasch

Guest: Peg Munves

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 by Josh Young

MSC: to vote on the minutes from the January 9, 2023 meeting was made by Tistrya Houghtling, seconded by Erminia Rasmussen. Motion approved.

Discussion about whether item #1 on the agenda, giving opinions to the Main Street Design group looking for a consultant, be a subcommittee of the BEDC, was started by Erminia Rasmussen. Was the online meeting to discuss this a subcommittee or a one-off meeting for discussion and not subject to open meetings policy. Sharon Powers expressed that she didn't understand why we were discussing this so early in the process and Tistrya Houghtling agreed, saying the Town Board always asks for input but is not yet ready for that. Other discussion occurred about the merits of what the mini-group wanted to recommend but the overall sentiment was to wait for this type of input.

Motion to make a recommendation to the Town about the Main Street Design did not pass.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach and Marketing – presented by Tistrya Houghtling

Currently working on a food brochure to be enclosed in the May 2023 Town newsletter. Sent out notes to all potential organizations to be included. Erminia said the subcommittee will also be encouraging all businesses to get listed on the Columbia County website.

Wastewater – presented by Josh Young

The committee is getting closer to writing a better RFQ. Because funding is limited (or non-existent) for water systems, the feasibility study will only include wastewater. Peg Munves added that they are waiting to hear about funding for testing, since tests cost \$245/test. The goal of the water testing is to find if the current well/septic system is hurting our freshwater systems.

Non-Profit Subcommittee – presented by Erminia Rasmussen

The non-profit subcommittee requests that the BEDC request \$1000 in ARPA money to cover startup expenses.

MSC: was made by Tistrya Houghtling and seconded by Deb Gordon to ask for an amount, not to exceed \$1000 to fund start-up expenses for the Lebanon Valley Community Corporation. Motion approved.

Childcare Subcommittee – presented by Josh Young

The subcommittee was in contact with Erica Sheline about what she has accomplished thus far for forming a daycare center. She has been in touch with the Columbia County consultant and Tistrya Houghtling asked if she had formed a business plan yet. The CEDC gave her a template and she has a financial model but the plan has not yet been completed. Tistrya noted that the Town could not hand the money over to a person but we need to give it to a legitimately formed daycare entity. Right now this is premature as they do not have a business plan, name, company, or location.

MSC: was made by Tistrya Houghtling and seconded by Becky Segal for the BEDC to request that the Town Board put aside \$11,500 for daycare services, with the condition that a business plan and a budget is created and presented to the BEDC for said daycare services, with other sources of funding to be exhausted first before the BEDC makes any official funding request to the Town Board. Motion approved.

Remote Work Subcommittee – presented by Silke Fuchshofen

Silke explained that it would be nice for residents to have a shared place to work when working from home would not be sufficient. Would not require more than a small office space or one room with several desks. Would like to form a subcommittee to research this further, find out what needs we have and find a location. Tistrya Houghtling said this is something they do in Chatham on Main Street. That the Community Center might be a good place for office space once the Town takes over the LVPA building on the corner of Shaker Road.

MSC: to form a Remote Work Subcommittee whose goal is to research the needs and availability of space for a shared office space was made by Chris Jansson and seconded by Silke Fuchshofen. Motion approved.

Members of the subcommittee will include Silke Fuchshofen, Eileen Raab, and Becky Segal.

Motion to adjourn at 7:37 made by Tistrya Houghtling, seconded by Josh Young

Next meeting: March 6, 2023 at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Powers