

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
FOR TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
HELD ON May 1, 2023 at TOWN HALL

Present: Silke Fuchshofen, Rae Gilson, Tistrya Houghtling, Chris Jansson, Danielle Kuffel, Sharon Powers, Erminia Rasmussen, Becky Segal, Josh Young (9 total)

Not present: Steve Abramson, Rochelle Dire, Chuck Geraldi, Deb Gordon, Mitch Kelleher, Jack Lancto, Eileen Raab, Monte Wasch (8 total)

A quorum was present.

Guest: Peg Munves

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:39 by Josh Young. He informed us that Rochelle DiRe was going to withdraw from the committee and had sent in her resignation to the Town Board.

MSC: to vote on the minutes from the April 3, 2023, meeting was made by Tistrya Houghtling and seconded by Danielle Kuffel. Motion approved.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach and Marketing – presented by Tistrya Houghtling

The food brochure was printed and sent with the May Town newsletter and emailed to the Town mailing list. The subcommittee has received approval to put a bulletin board at Phill's. Would like to use the rest of the O & M budget to pay for that and might have to ask for a budget amendment to supplement the cost. The Bulletin Board will be for the entire community – anyone can put something there and the O & M subcommittee will monitor it once a week. Welcome packets will be delivered by Tistrya and Sharon this Friday.

Wastewater – presented by Josh Young

Received four responses to the RFQ. These were reviewed by their group, who decided to interview all four. Two will be this Thursday. Bids range from \$30-400K. The Town pays 20% so they would probably have to pay between \$6-10K. Grant money that is available for a feasibility study might have been raised to \$60K

Childcare Subcommittee – presented by Josh Young

Darrow has said they are not interested and want to leave the building available. There are many requirements to be met and it is difficult to find a place. Someone suggested the group check out the Gallup Inn, since it is less than 25% occupied. Nothing can happen until a location is found.

Remote Work Subcommittee – presented by Becky Segal

Now have received 23 responses. 18 work remotely, 10 full-time in New Lebanon and 8 nearby. % would like a space for several times a week, 12 occasionally. 15 want social events – want to be together. 9 want a place for a group meeting, 8 want on-demand desks, private workspaces, 5 want studio space. 16 gave their emails – they will be contacted to see if they want to get together and discuss mutual needs.

Town Hall could be a place to sit and work, but it cannot be used to sell goods.

Business Social

Rae would like to make this a regular event.

MSC: That the BEDC host 3 events in 2023 on the second Thursday of the month – in June, September and December, was made by Tistrya Houghtling and seconded by Rae Gilson. Motion approved.

Details: Rae will choose the venue and send out the invites. Sharon will design a new announcement using the same graphic as December's event, but changing the ribbon color. Will send out two reminders and use the business directory. Might offer food and/or a door prize and might ask the Town Board for money for this.

OTHER BUSINESS

Erminia asked about the Outdoor Market and why Josh was leaning toward not holding it anymore. Josh explained that he cannot find someone to sell vegetables. He spoke with farmers and they are ok with the decision. Key is a produce vendor to be there. Discussion in the group regarding the importance of this market to New Lebanon and visitors. Some suggested bringing some of the indoor market outside (that would take care of the produce problem), make a campaign to have residents support it. Possibly change the booths formation. One idea was to house the market behind the Indoor market in the parking area. No conclusion came from the discussion and the meeting was adjourned because it was getting late.

Motion to adjourn at 8:00 made by Josh Young and seconded by Chris Jansson.

Next meeting: June 5, 2023 at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Powers