

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
FOR TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
HELD ON August 7, 2023 at TOWN HALL

Present: Silke Fuchshofen, Deb Gordon, Rae Gilson, Chris Jansson, Danielle Kuffel, Sharon Powers, Eileen, Raab, Erminia Rasmussen, Becky Segal, Josh Young, Monte Wasch (11 total)

Not present: Steve Abramson, Chuck Geraldi, Tistrya Houghtling, Mitch Kelleher, Jack Lancto, (5 total)

A quorum was present.

Guest: Peg Munves

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 by Josh Young

MSC: To approve the minutes from the May 1, 2023 and June 3, 2023 meetings was made by Monte Wasch and seconded by Erminia Rasmussen. Motion approved.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach and Marketing – presented by Erminia Rasmussen

They are continuing to distribute the New Member packets to new people in town. Erminia is updating the list from the Berkshire Edge and Kim the Assessor. Would like to give to renters as well but it is difficult to find them. Need to get information from local realtors. We also need to update the business listing on the Town website. This fall the subcommittee will work on updating the Town brochure.

Business Social

New social gathering coming up – September 21, has been moved to Roaring 20's because Woodlife does not have its liquor license yet.

Wastewater – presented by Josh Young

Water testing is continuing to take place in downtown New Lebanon. The grant application was submitted to the state – there are two programs they are applying to, based on the water testing Peg Munves and Donald Lamonaca did. If someone wants to have their home tested, reach out to Peg Munves. If someone's neighbor has been tested and they live close, you might not need to be tested.

There is a source water protection plan on the town website in CAC documents.

Phase one is the businesses being tested. Phase two would be town wide.

Food establishments and public wells are tested regularly. The state average is 40% coliform. Peg is helping people come up with solutions.

There were 15 wells tested in the business corridor and 7 showed contamination – 3 for eColi and 7 for Coliform. This will strengthen the grant.

Community Refrigerator has now been joined by a Community Freezer. Question whether food donations can ruin food sales. Discussion how this food is food that would be going bad soon.

Remote Work Subcommittee – presented by Silke Fuchshofen, Becky Segal

Will try again at end of summer to get people together. Might have to change their strategy and get a space first. Need public wi-fi. Should they create a brochure to show where people can work?

Other discussion:

Philly's had their soft open today. There is a new Yoga studio at Midtown Mall, Matthew Fairbanks will start work on his furniture Factory – the house behind it will be a rental. Daycare still has no place available to house it.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 by Monte Wasch, seconded by Erminia Rasmussen.

Next meeting: would fall on Labor Day, September 4, so might be changed

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Powers