

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
FOR TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
HELD ON FEBRUARY 24, 2020

Present: Richard Beckwith, Gregg Carroll, Rita Carver, Anna Duhon, Mark Frye, Deb Gordon (Board Liaison), Tistrya Houghtling, Ellen Ann Kafkalas, Jack Lancto, Peg Munves, Sharon Powers, Erminia Rasmussen, Hollis Reh, Carole Roseman, Sal Shariff, Monte Wasch

Absent: Al Bellenchia, Chuck Geraldi

Others Present: Two members of the public

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Tistrya Houghtling

GENERAL DISCUSSION ABOUT HOW THE COMMITTEE WILL WORK

1. Monte Wasch has been asked to be chair of the committee - this will be confirmed at the next Board Meeting
2. Future meetings will take place on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm, starting with April 7, 2020

GENERAL IDEAS DISCUSSED ABOUT THE DIRECTION THE COMMITTEE WILL TAKE TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NEW LEBANON

1. How to handle this financially and within the restrictions of what the town can and cannot contribute
 1. Get the activities funded by a grant
 2. Work with Grow the Valley
 3. Work with the CEDC (Columbia Economic Development Corporation)
 4. Form a local development corporation
2. Produce a welcome packet with local vendors and give to all new families/businesses in town
3. Revisit using the old Hess Station as a welcome center - figure out a way to remove the old tanks and then have Hess give the station to the town - welcome center can have a gift shop, electric charging station, and a Showboat monument or historic wall to show the famous people who played here
4. Hold job fairs here - give out training on how to conduct an interview, possibly use Power to the People as a source
5. Support a revival of farming in the area - Have a food hall where farmers could sell their wares, but manned by others so farmers would not have to commit the time - open 7 days a week
6. Town Centre with an outdoor cafe - place to hang out
7. Promote the Artist in residency program here - do other activities to promote what younger farmers are doing in town, promote Lebanon Springs (now privately owned so this may be problematic)

8. Change zoning to make it less cumbersome for NL expansion - especially change some zoning to allow for Tiny Homes

9. Beautification program of town - add sidewalks or anything to make the town more appealing when driving through - possibly hold a contest to reconfigure route 20 and use the ideas - offer prize money

10. Hold town fairs - annual or bi-annual, showcasing local businesses

11. Add a public water and septic system

12. Field trips should be arranged to other towns to see what they have done, such as Philmont. Assess the impact that sewers have had on business in Hillsdale

13. Incorporate "Green" concepts in all projects, i.e. Climate Smart, to increase our grant ability - such as composting toilets in public areas and at the Hess visitor center

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned by Tistrya Houghtling at 8:28pm and seconded by Ellen Anne Kafkalas

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Powers