

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
FOR TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
HELD ON APRIL 6, 2020 VIA TELECONFERENCE

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

Absent: Gregg Carroll, Rochelle Dire, Mark Frye, Chuck Gerald
Others Present: Two members of the public

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm by Monte Wasch

GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Most of our goals from the last meeting are currently on hold until "normalcy" returns to New Lebanon
2. Main goal now is to make sure that the local businesses get what they need to weather the current pandemic vis-a-vis loans or other government assistance and resources

WORKPLAN DEVELOPED TOWARD THE CURRENT GOAL

1. Need to assemble a complete database of all businesses in New Lebanon, including those independents working from home - estimated at more than 250 using private business directories, the list from the Zoning Rewrite Committee, zoning parcel lists, the Manta database, and the us-business.info database from New Lebanon
2. A committee of volunteers formed to divide the current list alphabetically: Deb Gordon, Jack Lancto, Erminia Rasmussen, and Monte Wasch
3. Committee members will get emails, websites and other information and when calling the businesses will assess whether the business could use help from the Economic Development Committee and/or if they were aware of available resources - if a concern was discovered, a follow-up call will be arranged to address these concerns
4. The data will be filled in via Google Sheets, which will be set up by Erminia Rasmussen and accessible to all - some members of the committee will spot check the list and fill in missing information if they know it - hope to finish this in one week
5. A periodic backup of the Google Sheets will be made by Erminia to protect against the database being mistakenly deleted - all or in parts

OTHER REPORTS:

Richard Beckwith reported that Berkshire Bank had not yet been set up to deal with the Payroll Protection program but had just gotten set up

Others want to find out if it was true that banks would only deal with current customers - this is something to be investigated or researched

FUTURE:

The committee or subcommittee will regroup in a week to figure out next steps and then decide when the entire committee should meet again.

The meeting was adjourned by Monte Wasch at 7:05pm

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Powers