

Town of New Lebanon
Comprehensive Plan Update Committee
Minutes – May 19, 2020 Via tele-meeting

Present: Deb Gordon, Cynthia Creech, David Farren, Jim Carroll, Sharon Powers, Winifried Fuchshofen, Jeff Hattat, and Ted Salem. Guests: Monte Wasch, Carole Roseman, Nina Keller.

1. Town Funding – The Town Board accepted the committee’s recommendation to reduce the \$10,000 appropriation for the comprehensive plan initiative to \$500 to cover the costs of mailing the survey. This reduction was prompted by an expected 20-40% reduction in town revenues due to the Covid-19 related reduction of economic activity.
2. Grant application – David reported that the Berkshire Taconic grant program to which the Town applied has been suspended and that the Hudson Greenway funding was cut. The committee will proceed as discussed at the last meeting without a consultant until at least the end of the year.
3. Community Survey – Sharon shared a spreadsheet that summarized the 57 responses received so far. Comments centered on roads, municipal garbage collection, better internet service and more quiet. There are conflicting posted deadlines, however, the committee agreed that it will accept responses through at least June 1. We need to redouble efforts to urge the community to respond. Cynthia will see if we can improve the presence at the PO.
4. Focus Groups –Winifried agreed to coordinate the focus groups. He will prepare a brief instructional guide on how to conduct them. Committee members will conduct the groups (facilitator and recorder) and will receive training in these roles. We will target doing the groups during the summer, perhaps outdoors for safety.
5. Business and Economic Development committee update – Monte reported that the committee was focused on helping local businesses apply for Covid-19 related financial assistance. He mentioned that New Lebanon groups received 10% of Berkshire Taconic emergency funds – disproportionately high. The committee will meet the first week in June to which comp plan members are invited. The agenda will focus on longer range planning.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 6:30 PM via tele-meeting. I’ll provide the phone and code information a day or so before the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Salem, Chair