

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
FOR TOWN OF NEW LEBANON  
HELD ON JUNE 1, 2020 VIA TELECONFERENCE

Present: Gregg Carroll, Anna Duhon, Mark Frey, Deb Gordon (Board Liaison), Tistrya Houghtling, Ellen Ann Kafkalas, Mitch Kelleher, Nina Keller, Peg Munves, Sharon Powers, Erminia Rasmussen, Carole Roseman, Monte Wasch (Chair)

Absent: Richard Beckwith, Al Bellenchia, Rita Carver, Rochelle Dire, Chuck Gerald, Jack Lancto, Hollis Reh, Sal Shariff

Members of the public: none

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:32pm by Monte Wasch

REPORT FROM TISTRYA HOUGHTLING ABOUT COLUMBIA COMEBACK COMMITTEE

1. Tistrya reported that Columbia County has already opened for Phase 1 and is on target to open on Wednesday, June 3, for Phase 2.
2. The New Lebanon town safety plan is being worked on so businesses can open safely - there is a template on the New York State website that explains the safety rules that must be followed and they are tough rules that include logging every person who comes in, an option to take temperatures, etc.
3. Stores do not have to file this plan but must have it on their premises and sign an affirmation saying they read the rules and will abide by them
4. Town Hall will wait for next town meeting before opening but will still limit entries to the building to maintain safety

CURRENT CONCERNS IN NEW LEBANON

1. Farmer's Market - the current managers, Chelsea & Jonah, can't continue to run it so discussions are happening on who could take it over. There are many options on the table now and we should look for further developments on this in the near future.
2. Hess Station - There are no tanks in the ground there so that's good news. A group was formed to send a proposal to Hess for New Lebanon to take over the property consisting of Tistrya Houghtling, Monte Wasch, Ellen Ann Kafkalas, and Nina Keller
3. Local Development Corporation (LDC) - We should still form this in New Lebanon - it is quasi-public, will allow us to borrow money, issue bonds, accept money for local development and is immune from some restrictions from the government - would be like the Columbia County Development Corporation. Tistrya will consult with the town attorney to find out the pros and cons of having this for New Lebanon

OTHER CONCERNS:

Some members expressed concerns that the entire committee needed to come up with direction for the committee and the fulfillment of our original goals - Monte will send out the original list of goals and we will try to revisit this list and rate the goals, keeping in mind what is possible to accomplish with little funds, what we can start working on that might be long term, and what may no longer be reasonable expectations. We hope to form subcommittees to work on the relevant goals.

FUTURE:

Tistrya reported that the free skate park is still available and we will be able to store it until the time it can be constructed.

The meeting was adjourned by Monte Wasch at 7:15pm

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Powers