

Town of New Lebanon
Comprehensive Plan Update Committee
Minutes – June 16, 2020 Via video-meeting

Present: Deb Gordon, Cynthia Creech, David Farren, Jim Carroll, Sharon Powers, Winifried Fuchshofen, Steve Muse, Jeff Hattat, and Ted Salem.

The meeting was called to order at 6:33. (Note: The chair inadvertently neglected to record the meeting.)

1. Community Survey – Sharon reviewed the updated spreadsheet that summarized the 168 responses received so far. The priorities are relatively unchanged from last month's review. Comments centered on speedway noise, infrastructure and better internet service; also consistent with the earlier version. The number of responses pales in comparison to the nearly 550 received in 2004-05. The committee agreed to extend the deadline to mid-July and to include the survey itself and a pitch for it in the forthcoming town newsletter. Sharon has already provided the article to Marcie and will provide to Erminia for inclusion in Grow the Valley. The committee also agreed to share these preliminary results with the economic development committee,

2. Focus Groups – There was general discussion on how to organize and conduct the focus groups. It was agreed that no member should facilitate more than two groups. So far, Winfried, Deb, David and Ted agreed to facilitate while Sharon, Jim and Cynthia agreed to assist/record sessions. **If members not present wish to play either or both of these roles, please let Winfried know.** Winfried agreed to hold an orientation/mock focus group session in early July. The focus groups themselves will be held in mid-August at the pavilion. We anticipate holding 8-10 focus groups with no more than 6-8 participants in each one. The committee re-affirmed organizing these groups around interests (seniors, parents, students, etc.) We will need to come up with questions for each one. There is a level of effort in organizing the groups and Ted will follow up on that.

3. Business and Economic Development committee update – Sharon, Deb and Cynthia gave an update. There was discussion around the study being conducted by the Infrastructure sub-committee into those communities that have opted to invest in water/sewage projects.

4. Climate Smart Community Task Force. Steve Powers, chair of that committee, reached out to Ted to invite further discussion on how the comp plan can be aligned with the climate smart community initiative. The inclusion of CSC priorities in the plan assists the town in its candidacy for grants, etc. Ted will meet with Steve and the Cornell MPA student Marc Anthonisen next week. He will provide the committee with the alignment position paper that Marc prepared.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 6:30 PM via video-meeting. I'll provide the meeting ID and phone/code information a day or so before the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Salem, Chair