

NOTES OF THE BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
FOR TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
HELD ON January 3, 2022 VIA TELECONFERENCE

Present: Deb Gordon Tistrya Houghtling, Ellen Ann Kafkalas, Peg Munves, Sharon Powers, Erminia Rasmussen, Monte Wasch (Chair)

Absent: Anna Duhon, Deb Gordon, Chuck Gerald, Mitch Kelleher, Danielle Kuffel, Jack Lancto, Josh Young

Member of the Public: Bob Gilson

CALL TO ORDER:

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

MSC: To approve the minutes from the December meeting was made by Erminia Rasmussen and seconded by Monte Wash. Motion approved.

Monte then began a discussion by saying that we need to recruit more members to the committee, particularly from the business community. He also said that we are now a committee of silos, people only interested in their own issues, but the committee does not have an overarching objective.

For the next meeting, February 7, 2022, Monte wants the committee members to come to the meeting with goals that would help improve the business economy of New Lebanon. We will set some new initiatives.

REPORT FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEES

Infrastructure presented by Monte Wasch, Deb Gordon, & Peg Munves

Monte stated that the infrastructure subcommittee is going to be having a meeting on January 6 with a team of people who can contribute to the discussion and next steps. Much of the focus of the subcommittee is on fact finding. Deb Gordon said that having a wastewater treatment plant may not be practical, but they'd like to find out if it is.

They will be trying to get a \$35,000 grant that requires a 20% match by the Town to have a type of feasibility study performed, to find out if New Lebanon is a good candidate for a wastewater treatment project. This grant may only be for those who have issues with water purity so we might not meet the criteria on the Miracle Mile. Peg Munves said that our water has been tested and it is fine.

The focus of this subcommittee will now be on Water Treatment. This would replace people's septic systems but not their wells for fresh water. The meeting will have Bill Brizell, Dwight Brown, Deb, Peg, Steve Winkley, Tyler Fogg, Elizabeth Brutsch, Frieda Pearce, Bill O'Neill, Liz Poreba, Josh Young and Monte attending.

Tistrya Houghtling emphasized that who this subcommittee met with would be crucial – that engineers will want this project, but Deb Gordon said that this engineer works for the state and is not a private firm.

Monte Wasch said that only the Midtown Mall has issues with their well, that the aquifer in New Lebanon is very healthy. Wastewater seems to be the limiting factor – the septic fields cannot handle expansion.

Outreach and Marketing – presented by Tistrya Houghtling

There has not been much action with this committee since they had to postpone their last meeting until tomorrow. She did mention that the website domain: visitnewlebanon.com and visitnewlebanonny.com had been purchased

Food – Josh Young was not in attendance to present

Monte said that we need to get the word out more that fresh food is available in New Lebanon – he suggested getting Richard Beckwith and Josh young together to form some type of collaboration

Health presented by Tistrya Houghtling

Not much has happened but the committee is now also looking at child care access in New Lebanon as well.

Meeting adjourned by Monte Wasch at 7:29, seconded by Ellen Ann Kafkalas

Next meeting: February 7 via Google Meetings. Bring ideas for goals.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Powers