

NOTES OF THE BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
FOR TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
HELD ON February 7, 2022 VIA TELECONFERENCE

Present: Marianna Anthonisen, Britt Buckenroth, Anna Duhon, Deb Gordon Tistrya Houghtling, Ellen Ann Kafkalas, Danielle Kuffel, Peg Munves, Sharon Powers, Erminia Rasmussen, Monte Wasch (Chair)

Absent: Chuck Gerald, Mitch Kelleher, Jack Lancto, Josh Young

Member of the Public: Bob Gilson

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:15pm by Monte Wasch.

Report from the Chair, Monte Wasch

We have a new candidate for membership: Steve Abramson, who is a pension planner. His approval will be sought at the next Town Board meeting.

The main focus for this meeting is deciding on issues the BEDC should be handling for this next year.

1. Health Issues: The committee also discussed whether the subcommittee on health issues should be part of the BEDC and it was agreed that for now, it should remain with the BEDC, especially if it focused on health care access from a medical standpoint.
2. Housing: We also discussed if the BEDC should be handling housing and the committee took a vote on this.

MSC: To rule out "housing" as a topic for the BEDC was made by Monte and seconded by Peg. Motion carries. The BEDC will not be handling housing as an issue.

3. Town infrastructure: The BEDC should examine the feasibility of going for a feasibility grant, and also how this affects the Town's environmental issues. We should continue to explore that. Tistrya Houghtling suggested that before the BEDC moves forward with this we make sure that businesses and residents are in support of doing this and paying for it.

Workplan: We first must determine whether or not there is sufficient interest in the water or sewer system. The exploratory committee is on hold for now

4. Internet access – it is improving now, but there is a move in Pittsfield to remove a Verizon cell phone tower there.

MSC: To work on phone communications in 2022 was made by Monte, seconded by Ellen Ann. Motion approved.

5. Food issues – should/could the BEDC do anything to support improving food situation in New Lebanon. Could the LDC do that? Should the Farmer's Market work with the CEDC? Perhaps a communication could be made on where you can access food in New Lebanon.
6. Deb Gordon asked about the status of the New Lebanon Development Corporation – if we had made any headway on that. Monte has researched how to form it and the regulations on chartering one. He brought up the fact that the Columbia Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) is already formed and has a staff that includes a grant writer. He suggested they could be a vehicle for us to use as an umbrella and we could run things through them. Tistrya Houghtling suggested we invite Mike to a forthcoming meeting. March 7 is the next meeting and it also must start early because of the conflict with the CAC, unless we move that meeting to another date. Monte will find out Mike's availability and schedule a meeting.

Meeting adjourned by Monte Wasch at 6:56, seconded by Tistrya H.
Next meeting: March 7 via Google Meetings unless a new date is chosen

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Powers