

Quality of Life Committee, Town of New Lebanon
Minutes for monthly meeting held via Google Meets
March 15, 2022

Present: Marianna Anthonisen, Britt Buckenroth, Bob Gilson, Tistrya Houghtling, Sharon Powers, Erminia Rasmussen, Josh Young. **Guests:** Mike Tucker

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm

Tistrya moved that Bob Gilson be appointed secretary. The motion was seconded and was approved unanimously.

Tistrya noted that in a preliminary meeting before the committee was officially recognized it was suggested the name of the committee should be: The Quality of Life Committee. She asked if everyone was in agreement, and it was decided that this would be the group's formal name.

Tistrya posed the question: "What does the committee want to work on?" She proposed a variety of options including housing for workers, health and wellness, and a community center. The question was posed: "Where is the most funding available." After some discussion, it was a moved that we begin by focusing our attention on housing. The vote was 5 – 0, with Britt Buckenroth and Marianna Anthonisen abstaining. There was also discussion whether it would be best to focus of revitalizing existing housing stock, or to focus on developing new affordable housing.

At 4:30 pm, Mike Tucker, CEO of the Columbia Economic Development Corporation (CEDC,) joined the meeting. He said that it is still too early to know how Federal infrastructure money will be allocated but noted that there might be funding available for some kind of waste management project. Mike said that the first step would be to learn if there would be a demand for affordable housing for working families in New Lebanon, as well as to look at the demographic data. He also noted that recently it has been difficult finding money for feasibility studies. In order to develop housing projects in New Lebanon, it will be important to attract a developer and to identify available land. The County has a land bank, but at the moment, it's not clear how to access it.

Mike said that the CEDC is holding a zoom meeting on housing in Columbia County on March 30 from 4:30 – 6:00 pm.

It was moved and seconded that the Quality of Life Committee Meeting will meet regularly on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 4pm starting in May. Because of scheduling conflicts, the next meeting will be on April 19 at 4:00 pm.

It was moved and seconded that Tistrya Houghtling would chair the Quality of Life Committee. The vote was unanimous in favor of her appointment.

Respectfully submitted: Bob Gilson