

Quality of Life Committee, Town of New Lebanon
Minutes for monthly meeting held via Zoom
April 19, 2022

Present: Marianna Antonisen, Britt Buckenroth, Bob Gilson, Tistrya Houghtling, Sharon Powers, Erminia Rasmussen, Josh Young. **Guests:** Christine Dreyfus

Tistrya called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

The minutes for the March 15 meeting were incomplete and needed to be amended. The following motions were made during the March 15, 2022 meeting, but were not noted in the minutes who made the motions, seconds, etc. so these motions were re-made at this meeting.

- Tistrya Houghtling moved that Bob Gilson be appointed secretary. Britt Buckenroth seconded. The committee unanimously approved the appointment.
- Bob Gilson nominated Tistrya Houghtling to be the chair of the Quality of Life Committee. Britt Buckenroth seconded. The committee unanimously approved the appointment.
- Tistrya Houghtling moved that the Quality of Life Committee will meet the fourth Tuesday of every month. Britt Buckenroth seconded. The committee unanimously approved the motion.
- Tistrya Houghtling moved that the Quality of Life Committee investigate finding ways to develop affordable housing for working families and older adults. Britt Buckenroth seconded. The committee unanimously approved the motion.

Discussion:

Tistrya referenced the *Revised Comprehensive Plan*, Page 73 which suggests that a working group be formed to explore ways to try to attract younger adults to New Lebanon, as well as to find ways to serve the needs of older adults. Tistrya suggested that rather than forming an additional committee, that this mandate could fall under the auspices of the Quality of Life Committee. Sharon Powers noted that in her research, having a secondary school helped to attract younger people to a town. Tistrya, spoke about the Darrow School.

Britt said that the Zoning Rewrite Committee is looking into the possibility of zoning for “tiny homes,” as well as putting multiple dwellings on a lot. There are questions as to whether each unit would need its own septic, or whether a shared system is possible? Erminia noted that if we were to consider a sub-division, or mixed use development, we or the developer might have to explore developing wastewater infrastructure. It was also said that if 5 or more homes are to be placed in a sub-division, the county becomes involved

Britt is researching mixed and multi-use housing. She is also looking into the use of solar energy for housing. Marianna and Erminia said that in addition to housing we will need basic services like childcare, public transportation, places to meet, shared workspaces, and recreational opportunities.

It was agreed that Bob & Erminia would develop language/correspondence to be used to reach out to developers, funders, and others who might be helpful. Tistrya said that she would put correspondence on town letterhead, and asked if we wanted to send things out via email, or snail mail?

Josh asked if it is too early to start speaking with builders? Erminia quoted Darren Scott who said that builders want assurances, community support, as few obstacles as possible, and projects that are shovel ready.

It was agreed that the next meeting, scheduled for May 26 at 4:00 pm, would be held over Zoom. However, the following meeting on June 28 will be held in person. It was also agreed that, if necessary, a person could attend over zoom; however, s/he would not be able to vote.

Tistrya Houghtling moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:08 pm. Erminia Rasmussen seconded the motion. A roll was called. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted: Bob Gilson