

NOTES OF THE BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
FOR TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
HELD ON October 3, 2022 AT SHATFORD PARK

Present: Deb Gordon, Danielle Kuffel, Sharon Powers, Erminia Rasmussen, Monte Wasch, Josh Young

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:40pm by Monte Wasch who mentioned that the subcommittee on ARPA funds had met previously to this meeting to go over applications and discuss recommendations to the Board.

Outreach & Marketing – Erminia said that the subcommittee was working on the welcome packets – one would be for residents and one for businesses. They will have 20 ready for residents and 10 for businesses initially. Monte suggested we ask homeowners if they have a home-based business so we can include them on our business list.

October 21 will be a new resident meeting at the library organized by the Recreation committee. 5-7pm.

Infrastructure – the committee met with Candance again and learned that RFPs are now RFQs (request for qualifications) – they send their relevant qualifications to do the report – this will eliminate having to work with the lowest bidder and instead you can choose firms you're most impressed with. Once you do, you negotiate the price.

There is grant money in New York state for feasibility studies – they are motivated by water quality issues. Right now, Mavericks has an issue and they will be testing other businesses along the Miracle Mile to see if they do too. The CAC will use some of its money to do the testing.

Next steps are example RFQs, then once a firm was chosen, to Board for final approval. Erin, who works with Candance, appreciates the need for good public relations in selling the proposals for water infrastructure to the communities and can help with that.

Grants

NY Forward & Mai Street went in on time. Someone from NY Forward has asked for more information on specific projects but we do not know what those were. The 5 that were submitted included a community center, feasibility study for water & sewer, two commercial buildings, walkable downtown (sidealks) and an Arts project.

LDC: (Local Development Corporation) – requires \$20,000 in start-up funding and then money has to be raised to acquire property. Monte wants to speak with Mike Tucker about this before he researches further as per the Comp Plan action plan.

Deb Gordon wondered if we could use an LDC to purchase easements for the rail trail. Monte will check with Mike Tucker on that as well and see if the CEDC could do that.

Mt Lebanon district – the Shaker Preservation committee might want to invite Ted Salem and expand commercial use of those spaces. BEDC may want to be involved as well.

Motion to adjourn at 7:38 made by Monte, seconded by Erminia & Josh.

Next meeting: November 7, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Powers