

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF
THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
HELD ON MARCH 20, 2023**

Present: Tistrya Houghtling, Supervisor
Deborah Gordon, Councilmember
John Trainor, Councilmember

Absent: Marianna Anthonisen, Councilmember

Recording Secretary: Marsha "Marcie" Robertson, Town Clerk

Others Present: Tony Murad, ZBA Chair & ZRC Member
Steve Powers, CAC & ZRC Member & CSC Chair
Josh Young, Planning Board, QOL, Shaker Preservation
Comm Member, & BEDC Chair
Chris Dreyfus, MOW
Peg Munves, CAC Co-Chair
Bruce Shenker, NL Rep to CC Enviro. Mgmt. Com.
Monte Wasch, BEDC & Planning Board & Ethics Board
Member
Irene Hanna, Historic Railroad Depot Committee
Ted Salem, ZBA Member & ZRC Chair
Abbie Shoobs, Recreation Commission Chair
Mary Young, NL Rep to CC Office for the Aging & Traffic
Safety
Adelia Moore, CSC Member
Joanna Ezinga, Ethics Board & Recreation Commission
Michael Amabile, Creighton Manning
Don Adams, Creighton Manning
Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm by Supervisor Houghtling. The meeting was held in person at the New Lebanon Town Hall, 14755 State Route 22 North, New Lebanon, NY 12125 with members of the public also being able to view the meeting at the following link: https://townhallstreams.com/towns/new_lebanon_ny.

DARCY CONSTRUCTION /SKATEPARK /ROAD:

Supervisor Houghtling reported that Darcy Construction started the skatepark slab, getting it prepped and ready and realized that they need a road to get the large cement trucks and equipment to the designated location of the slab. Darcy Construction has offered to build the road free of charge with the town paying for just the materials, which is \$6,000 in gravel.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling to amend the bid contract with Darcy Construction to add \$6,000 for materials to build a road to access the skatepark location. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Trainor.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Gordon -	Aye
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Trainor -	Aye
Councilmember Anthonisen -	Absent

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION – WALKABLE DOWNTOWN:

Supervisor Houghtling welcomed everyone to the first public input session for creating a walkable downtown. Supervisor Houghtling informed everyone that the meeting is being recorded and will be available for people to watch. The board encouraged people who could not attend to watch the recorded meeting and complete a survey, they are looking to get as much input as possible from the public in the preplanning stages to help formulate the creation of the design guideline.

Supervisor Houghtling provided a little history on the project. In 2012 and 2013 the town developed a sidewalk project. Supervisor Houghtling stated that in the opinion of many residents, what was presented back then did not really create a walkable downtown. It had sidewalks on only one side of the road and no crosswalks. This was presented without public input and when the public had an opportunity to provide input, it was not to help guide the design but rather to support the design that was already created. That project did not move forward.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she thinks there is an overwhelming majority of residents who believe that creating a walkable downtown is important. She stated that the town is now looking to create a walkable downtown which may include sidewalks, crosswalks, bike paths, and multiuse paths, there are many options. Supervisor Houghtling stated that the town is coming to the public at the beginning of the process to look for the public's input to help guide the process so the town can end up with a product and project that most of the community supports and that creates a truly walkable downtown that our local businesses and residents are vested in and supportive of. Tonight, is the first public input session and the town wants to hear from residents what is important to them.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that the town has hired Creighton Manning to help guide the process and get the town to a place where we can apply for grant funding to create a walkable downtown.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that Dan Adams from Creighton Manning will give a brief overview of the project potentials and then focus mostly on a question-and-answer input session. She stated that after the close of the official town board meeting, they would like everyone to stay and participate in the workshop areas that involve surveys, comment cards, and to ask any questions. Supervisor Houghtling encouraged everyone to complete the survey.

Don Adams from Creighton Manning led the presentation for the Town Board and all in attendance at the meeting. Michael Amabile from Creighton Manning discussed the survey and the different options available to complete it, and encouraged everyone to do so. There was a question-and-answer discussion held after the presentation.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Supervisor Houghtling read the following email submitted for public comment:

Hello. I'm Saoirse Gardner and I live at 776 Route 20. I am very in favor of a walkable downtown area. I think it would highly benefit the community and growth in the valley here. I know I would love to be able to send my kids on bikes down to Stewart's for ice cream, or safely walk my dog to the Farmers Market. I live so close and have personal guilt taking a car such a short distance all of the time.

I also see runners/joggers in the mornings. They really need a safe, paved walkway. I hope the community comes together in support of a walkable downtown.

Including a walkable stretch of downtown would elevate the aesthetic of our lovely home to match our community spirit."

Thanks!

Saoirse

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, to adjourn the meeting at 7:06pm. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gordon.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Gordon -	Aye
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Trainor -	Aye
Councilmember Anthonisen-	Absent

Respectfully submitted,

TOWN BOARD MINUTES

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Marcie Robertson
New Lebanon Town Clerk