

Quality of Life committee, July 28, 2023

PRESENT: Tistrya Houghtling, Danielle Kuffel, Kyle Kuffel, Sharon Powers

Absent: Bob Gilson, Josh Young

Guest: Melba Kurman

Meeting called to order: 9:35am

MSC: To approve Sharon Powers to be the minutes taker in Bob Gilson's absence was made by Tistrya, seconded by Kyle Kuffel. Motion approved.

MSC: To approve the minutes from the March 31 meeting made by Tistrya Houghtling, seconded by Danielle Kuffel. Motion approved.

Discussion:

Wellness Center – Wellness RX signed a lease and will make New Lebanon their third location and second not-for-profit Pharmacy. They now have a floor plan that includes two clinical spaces that could be used for mental health, acupuncture (someone is interested in giving out free sessions), two mental health providers, a massage therapist.

County has money from an Opioid settlement – want to produce more forums for the public.

MSC: To hold an event to host a training event at Town Hall in regard to addiction/overdose was made by Tistrya Houghtling and seconded by Kyle Kuffel. Motion approved. Danielle and Kyle Kuffel will organize this.

Health Access

Danielle has been updating it with what she gets but she needs info. Wants to put up information on NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Danielle will ask the health consortium about the types of information they can help people with so she can post this and get out the word.

Yoga and Zumba classes are still on hold but may be considered for the future.

Community Center – the LVPA Board does not want to make a long-term commitment for the building if they can sell it – but once they move the trucks, they can let the Town use the berths for a community center and the free store for one year. We may need 12 volunteers – can put in air hockey, foos ball, ping pong, and the free store.

Grocery Store – Filli's – will have a soft opening next week – will only have open their Express store, which includes their bakery.

Housing

The Town Board has approved what we recommended, to partner with Habitat for Humanity, but now need to find 4-8 acres to put the houses on. Thinking of 8-10 homes that would each be on a half acre. They are low-carbon construction, with heat pumps. Cost \$250,000 to build and sell for \$100-150,000. They have separate water and septic. Hope it to be workforce housing for young families. Needs to be walkable to downtown. Still need to locate land – found one piece but it was wetland – the cost is too high to build in a floodplain. There are two other possible properties.

Melba Kurman asked about why New Lebanon does not have municipal garbage and Tistrya explained the high cost of this and why we do not have it in New Lebanon. She also asked about using the Shatford pool and was told that there is a community swim on Tuesdays and Thursdays, which will be free next year due to ARPA funding. She might be interested in joining the committee and hoped she could join via Google Meets if she's not in New Lebanon for the meeting. She will send her interest to Tistrya and/or the Board if she decides to join.

100 magnets for homes will be arriving with 911 information on it – suggested we add the suicide hotline, 988 to it by hand in the available space. Will be distributed at Town Hall and in welcome packets.

Next meeting: August 25 at 9:30am.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Powers