

Quality of Life committee, March 22, 2024

Present: Tistrya Houghtling, Danielle Kuffel, Melba Kurman, Kyle Kuffel

Absent: Sharon Powers and Josh Young

Meeting called to order: 9:33am. A quorum was present. Motion to make Melba the temporary secretary to take meeting minutes in the absence of Sharon Powers. All approved; motion carried.

MSC: Tistrya made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 29 Quality of Life meeting. Motion was seconded by Kyle Kuffel. There was not a quorum in the November 29 meeting so no votes were taken. Motion carried.

Health & Wellness Fair

QofL committee discussed holding a second Health & Wellness Fair in May, based on the positive feedback from the first one in December, 2023. All were in favor. Location would be the Community Center. Possible dates were discussed in late April and May.

Housing and attracting new residents to New Lebanon

Tistrya proposed to hold public information sessions to discuss New Lebanon's long-term housing strategy and the formation of a local non-profit pharmacy.

Housing meeting

Housing is a complex topic and New Lebanon's is a new Pro Housing Community. For the public to learn more about available housing programs, Tistrya proposed that the Town should host a public information session. Chris Brown would attend this public session to answer questions about all aspects of the Pro-Housing program.

QofL committee members discussed outreach to various stakeholder communities in Town, including seniors, working families and veterans. Goal is to get people to attend the public housing meeting to better represent New Lebanon's unique needs and perspectives. Public input is a key component of a "community first" approach.

Non-profit pharmacy meeting

The non-profit pharmacy would be the focus of a second public meeting. In this meeting, the pharmacist would directly engage with the public to answer questions, and to explain his business strategy and goals.

New Lebanon's long-term housing strategy

Creating a Housing & Attraction Action Plan and Conceptual Framework

In the past, the Town Board previously tasked the QofL Committee with creating a written action plan and a conceptual framework. The intent of the plan and framework would be to explore the Town's myriad housing challenges, as well as ways the Town could continue to work to attract young families. Danielle and Melba agreed to work on the action plan and conceptual framework.

Coordinating efforts with ZRC

Local zoning regulations play a central role in the construction of new housing. To compare notes, the QofL committee will meet with the Zoning Rewrite Committee (ZRC) sometime in June, 2024. Meeting time will be set in the coming weeks.

MSC: to adjourn the meeting at 10:21 was made by Tistrya and seconded by Danielle Kuffel. Motion approved.

Next meeting: Friday, April 26.

Respectfully submitted,
Melba Kurman