



MINUTES OF THE NEW LEBANON BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (BEDC)
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NON-PROFITS
HELD ON January 26, 2023 at Town Hall

Present:

Erminia Rasmussen (chair), Gregg Carroll, Sharon Powers, Monte Wasch, Josh Young

Absent: Danielle Kuffel

Member of the public: Tistrya Houghtling

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am by Erminia Rasmussen who welcomed Gregg Carroll to our group

1. Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) – after she spoke with Brenda Adams, Erminia discovered that NHN is just a name with no central organization for it. Many towns procured their own 501(C) and borrowed the name and each runs their non-profit their own way, i.e. just for the needy in their Town. But NHN is not a viable option for New Lebanon (or a necessity)

2. We need to decide what type of organization we want to be – with the assistance of Gregg & Josh, Erminia came up with some discussion points to help us make our decision. The choice is 501 (C) 3, LDC or CDC. Monte asked if we could consider being a Foundation but Gregg said that Foundations only give out money (usually private funds) and do not solicit donations. They are also very separate from local government (i.e. they do not get government grants.) These are also the hardest designation to get. So this is not an option for us.

LDC (limited development corporation) is more restrictive, and they are getting audited more now because some Towns have used them inappropriately (i.e. using them to augment Town work).

CDC – Community Development Corporation – is probably the best for us. Gregg explained that we do not have to specify that this is what we are doing and our purpose will be reflected in our Purpose (or Mission) statement when we apply for 501(C) 3 status after we incorporate.

Purpose Statement – is very important – we discussed ways to change the original paragraph Erminia gave us. Some points to include:

1. Remove the word “cultural” and replace it with “community”
2. Use the phrase “including but not limited to” before the examples given and then getting rid of the words starting “as well as . . .”
3. Change “farm and businesses” to just “businesses”
4. Gregg wanted us to add many paragraphs and she will send Sharon that in a doc so we have it right. For example, making sure we say “Lessening the burden of government and acting in the public interest in the town of New Lebanon.”

Gregg said that we do not have to use the entire Purpose statement when putting out information on the non-profit, i.e. on a website page or other information meant for the public. The Purpose statement, however, would have to be used for official business.

We must incorporate before we can file for a 501 (C) 3.

Order of what we need to do:

1. Establish the organization
2. Figure out our role and what we want to do – do we apply for grants, solicit money, act as a pass-through or fiscal sponsor, etc.
3. We can nurture and house projects that residents and local businesses have
4. Monte suggested that first we build a community chest fund for people in need – accept donations
5. Erminia wanted us to get all this established first, create a board, then we could take on more projects
6. Would want to take on the Holiday Gift drive

Gregg encouraged us to come up with some goals that could later change, so the following goals were discussed:

1. Charitable organization
2. Affordable Housing
3. Daycare
4. Community newspaper

Erminia wants us to come up with some other goals and then email them around to our group for discussion

Name of the organization: It was decided to call it the Lebanon Valley Community Corporation (LVCC)

Officers will be:

President: Erminia Rasmussen

Vice President: Josh Young

Treasurer: Gregg Carroll

Secretary: Sharon Powers

Monte, who had to leave earlier, and Danielle, who was not present, will be asked if they want to be Trustees of the LVCC

Gregg will work on and send out to the committee members all necessary documents that are required to be filed for our review. Erminia will make a request to the BEDC to ask the Town Board for approval of \$600 from the ARPA funds for the startup costs.

Erminia asked that we think of our people to be recruited for the LVCC Board who will bring specific skills to the LVCC.

Meeting adjourned: 11:55am

Next meeting: February 20 at 10am – we might have to meet the week before that (Feb 17 was suggested), but Erminia will send out an email letting us know.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Powers, Secretary