



MINUTES OF THE LEBANON VALLEY COMMUNITY CORPORATION (LVCC)
HELD ON April 27, 2023 at Town Hall

Present:

Erminia Rasmussen (President), Gregg Carroll, Danielle Kuffel, Sharon Powers, Monte Wasch,

Absent: Nina Keller

Advisors present: Tistrya Houghtling

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 10:05am by Erminia Rasmussen

MSC: To approve the minutes of the February 15, 2023, meeting was made by Gregg Carroll and seconded by Monte Wasch. Motion approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

We received a \$200 donation. We also received money from ARPA funds for startup costs including incorporation and web domain fees of \$435 and \$28.80. A book of checks was ordered and Gregg will put in for reimbursement from ARPA funds for this.

FUTURE MEETING TIMES

Erminia will notify Marcie that the LVCC will be meeting on the last Thursday of each month at Town Hall from 10am to noon so she can book the room for us.

INITIAL DONOR LETTER

Letter written by Monte and amended by Erminia will be changed to include an "ask" but not a monthly ask until we prove ourselves. Tistrya Houghtling suggested we change the wording to say "we will sponsor existing events such as the holiday gift drive run by Tistrya Houghtling for children in need." We agreed to remove mention of daycare services and affordable housing and replace it with playground equipment at Shatford Park and a Visual and Performing Arts center for the community.

Discussion around where we send the letter. Monte sent in some emails and Tistrya offered the mailing addresses of people who donate to the Holiday Gift Drive. Erminia also has some email addresses we can use. Danielle will ask Josh about putting a note in his Farmers Market newsletter. Sharon will put this on the Facebook page for Grow the Valley. Danielle will put the main information on the LVCC Facebook page and people can share to other sites, such as Tistrya's personal website. Erminia will put all of the suggestions into the letter and then print 100 of them.

Receiving donations – people can write in the memo if they want their money to go to a specific purpose or else it will go into a general fund.

DIVISION OF DUTIES

Facebook: Danielle, PayPal: Gregg, Website: Sharon

POSTURING THE LVCC

We agreed that the LVCC is best served as a funding organization and not one that runs the individual projects.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

We agreed to take on the following projects and assigned categories of short term, medium term, and long-term to each of them:

Short Term:

Filling the Community Chest for Disaster Relief/Dire need of affected residents in New Lebanon School Supplies Drive – will begin this in the summer

Medium Term:

Repurposing the Theatre Barn into a Visual and Performing Arts Center – obtaining grants or raising funds for a year's worth of rent/utilities and then letting a manager or group of managers run it. Berkshire Theatre group may be interested. Sharon will talk to her friend about how the Copake Grange works and if that would be of interest to New Lebanon. Tistrya suggested a fundraiser at the Theatre Barn, perhaps a showcase of different groups or some type of New Lebanon's got talent.

Long Term

Obtaining grants or raising money to buy Playground Equipment for Shatford Park. Will consult with Parkitects and find out costs and options. Tistrya will contact them and will also contact Britt Buckenworth who worked on this with them. Danielle will ask her dad, Ed Higgins, if he would be interested in writing a grant for the Playground equipment or other grants. Sharon will look for Grants available for playground equipment.

Grants

Berkshire Taconic Grant – for new non-profits is available for up to \$1500 – we should apply and use it for fund-raising events or printed materials. Should also check out Ellsworth Kelly Award for visual artists..

Next meeting: Thursday, May 25 at 10:00am at Town Hall

MSC: to Adjourn the meeting was made by Gregg Carroll and seconded by Danielle Kuffel. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned: 11:50am

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Powers
Secretary