



MINUTES OF THE LEBANON VALLEY COMMUNITY CORPORATION (LVCC)
HELD ON August 29, 2023 at Town Hall

Present:

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

Advisors present: Nina Keller

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 10:04am by Erminia Rasmussen

MSC was made by Monte Wasch to approve the minutes from the July, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Gregg Carroll. Motion approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

We received another \$600 in donations and now have a total of \$3516.99 in the bank.

MSC: To approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Sharon Powers, seconded by Danielle Kuffel. Motion approved.

DISCUSSION:

Disaster Relief Procedures created by Gregg Carroll

Everyone loved what was written and commended Gregg on a job well done.

MSC: to approve the Disaster Relief Procedure was made by Monte Wasch and seconded by Sharon Powers. Motion approved.

Free Bike Program

The auction of the bikes was moved to this Saturday. The proceeds will be used to buy parts. The New Lebanon CSC wanted to pass this through the LVCC.

MSC: To approve the passing of the free bike program auction money through the LVCC was made by Monte Wasch, seconded by Erminia Rasmussen. Motion approved.

School Supplies Fundraiser

The fundraiser closed on August 27. Trying to work out the exact figures from the GoFund Me. We had \$49.90 in fees. Gregg opened a PayPal Giving Fund so we could get the money. There are more supplies to be picked up at the lodge. We received \$1900 through GoFund Me. \$140 in cash donations and \$77.31 through the donation boxes for a total of \$2067.41. Danielle spoke with the principals, and they said they need headphones and dry erase markers at the elementary school and spiral notebooks, folders and sketchbooks at the high school. We will replenish supplies during the year. Danielle will purchase the stuff and get reimbursed by Gregg. Using the lists from Ichabod Crane as well. We received 45 backpacks from TCC Wireless in Hudson.

Press release

Need a good communication strategy – should one person just handle it. Should we be talking about the release at the meetings? Intro to public for LVCC that Frank wrote – get it out to as many people at the beginning . One will go out after Labor Day. Edit Frank’s to show results in the first paragraph. Hope to ask Frank to write the press releases for us. Erminia will ask him. Erminia will send Nina’s document with new figures in it – give that to Frank. Contact – should it be Frank or Monte in the press releases.

Monte Wasch will be updating our list for press releases.

Grants:

Barton & Logiudice (B & L) – haven’t sent us a copy of it yet. Danielle will talk to Ed about doing a grant for us. Need to incorporate words from the mission. We should ask companies who received the grant what they wrote to get it. We might not choose to focus on the playground at this time and will remove it from the press release until we decide to do that.

Website:

Sharon Powers presented options on the best hosting for a new website. Will choose Blue Host – Sharon will arrange it.

Things to include on the website:

1. LVCC supporter of the month
2. Press releases
3. Pictures of school supplies
4. Board members – and their pets?
5. PayPal
6. Donate
7. Bylaws
8. Mission statement
9. Advisory board
10. Contact form
11. Sign-up
12. Photos & captions
13. Picture of bikes?

Facebook page

It was decided to take it down – Sharon will take it down Instagram account instead, for the future

MSC: For Sharon to delete the Facebook account was made by Gregg Carroll, seconded by Danielle Kuffel. Motion approved.

For the future:

October – start the holiday gift drive

On hold for the playground grant

Something for the seniors? Transportation issues, meals on wheels – better food? Could we do this? Get restaurants involved? Check in on seniors – one a day –

Fix the transportation issues – get a driver for the seniors – Nina will start asking seniors what they need most when she delivers Meals on Wheels.

Sharon will look at what came out of the Comp Plan session – (this is attached)

MSC to adjourn the meeting at 11:48 was made by Danielle Kuffel and seconded by Erminia Rasmussen.

Next meeting: September 22, 2023 at 10am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Powers
Secretary

Statement of
Balance

	Donations	Reimbursements	Distribution	Fund Transfer	Admin. Exp.	0
March 2023 Beg. Bal						
Cash Donations	\$200.00					
March 2023 End. Bal						\$200.00
ARPA Funds		\$463.80				
INC. Fees					\$ (435.00)	
Web Fees					\$ (28.80)	
Check Printing					\$ (71.65)	
April 2023 End. Bal						\$128.35
Donations	\$800.00					
CC Fees					\$ (26.56)	
Stamps					\$ (25.20)	
May 2023 End. Bal						\$876.59
Donations	\$415.00					
CC Fees					\$ (6.24)	
June 2023 End. Bal						\$1285.35
Grants	\$1500.00					
Donations	\$150.00					
CC Fees					\$ (5.32)	
July 2023 End. Bal						\$2930.03
Grants	\$0.00					
Donations	\$600.00					
CC Fees					\$ (13.04)	
August 2023 End. Bal						\$3516.99
Grants						
Donations						
CC Fees						
September 2023 End. Bal						

3. Stores are set back from the street
4. State highway through town - state rules to follow before change can be made and the habits of drivers, especially the trucks
5. Fast speed limit through town (40mph) - if it was slower maybe we could have a crosswalk to get across Rte 20?
6. Lack of grocery store (major) and pharmacy (less major)
7. Tension between the transplants and the native New Lebanonites
8. Difficult for seniors to ask for help
9. Isolation (major importance) - more seniors live alone than we know
10. Lack of frequent information spreading (town newsletter only quarterly)
11. Absence of church as natural meeting place for caring for one another - no one entity that does this by its nature
12. No laundromat in town

PANDEMIC AFFECTS ON TOWN LIFE FOR SENIORS

1. More isolation - both physical and social
2. Mental health issues
3. People who are tech savvy are at an advantage, those who are not are more isolated than ever
4. More part-timers are now full time up here
5. More new residents - but they are middle-aged and seniors
6. More physical health risks - people living with a constant risk

SOLUTIONS TO MEET THE BASICS

1. Recognize that online access is not for everyone
2. Supporting more by giving more transportation options
3. People assisting others with online orders
4. Neighbors of Columbia County - neighbors helping neighbors
5. Shopping network - informed by flyers, email, etc. and newsletters
6. Regular times and places to meet
7. More B & B's for when people want short-term stays
8. Get list of seniors and phone bank them to make sure they are ok - is there a public list or source?

SOME POSSIBLE TOWN AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

1. Tea time in community room at library - just to talk (like coffee hour)
2. Scheduled time for meeting without an agenda
3. Use existing space - need people to organize this
4. Better communication- newsletter, GTV, bulletin boards - information dissemination
5. Postcards to seniors with some info on it
6. Attention to make sure this appeals to both transplants and native New Lebanonites
7. Events to get people in town together such as:
 1. Sports (i.e. town Baseball team)
 2. Square dances
 3. Community tag sale
8. Use the front of the malls in a more creative way - put in grass, seating
9. Move the town center to another area?
10. Encourage the development of Tilden Plaza or the old train station

SENIORS - Sept. 23 Focus group

Assets of New Lebanon that support a good quality of life for seniors

- Rural nature of the town
- Beauty of the landscape
- Peace and quiet (except when Speedway is operating)
- Farmer's Markets (in town and out of town)
- Best place to unwind
- Sense of place
- Changes to New Lebanon that could improve the quality of life for seniors
- A Town Center, especially for teens (mentoring through Learn & Serve America)
- However, aren't teens a declining segment of the population? Moneys spent should be allotted carefully.
- High taxes are an issue
- The NLCSD should be more transparent about student enrollments and other indicators that are factored into the annual budget; solid information and less marketing should be shared well before the budget vote
- No competition for gasoline; better to fill up tank in Pittsfield
- Supermarket with a pharmacy would make life easier but the town's population is unlikely to support one with a large footprint
- Status of senior housing discussions?
- NNCC – Neighbors of Northern Columbia County – could be a much greater presence and help in town if townspeople rallied around it

Barriers to a good quality of life for seniors

- Speedway (the ceaseless vroom, vroom, vroom)
- Choices of places to stay for visitors

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the town and seniors

- Negligible – unlikely to have a lasting impact

Statement of
Lebanon Valley Community Corporation General Cash Account

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Income
Statement