



MINUTES OF THE LEBANON VALLEY COMMUNITY CORPORATION (LVCC)
HELD ON March 6, 2025, via ZOOM

Present:

Erminia Rasmussen (President), Gregg Carroll, Dorothy Lamonaca, Sharon Powers

Advisors Present: Tistrya Houghtling

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 am by Erminia Rasmussen

MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

A discussion was had about the creation of a new allocated fund to handle youth activities that will replace the allocated fund specific to the Summer Youth Program. It was pointed out that this will allow the LVCC more discretion and latitude to support other youth activities in New Lebanon, which could include special trips, swim lessons, etc. If the motion passes, then language will have to change on any new fundraising efforts.

MSC: To approve the minutes of the February 13, 2025, meeting was made by Erminia Rasmussen, seconded by Gregg Carroll. Motion approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Gregg has purchased one VISA card for \$250 with the LVCC logo and colors on it, as discussed. She has also paid for the Grant platform.

Tistrya Houghtling said that the Playground Design Committee would be working to raise funds in the future and would like to use the LVCC as the repository of those funds. Gregg Carroll asked if there would be a revised budget for the playground. Currently, there is only \$500k to spend but they would like to do more fundraising. Construction work should start in August of 2025. The Town Board has already approved the design and the direction to keep some of the same equipment, but these new parameters need approval from the state. They will be going out to bid in May or June of this year. Hope to add some equipment with the fundraising – anywhere from a low of \$5000 for a single piece to a high of \$50k. Gregg wants to see the total budget so she can use that in her efforts to apply for a grant for them. Tistrya will send that to Gregg and include the conceptual design for the playground. At this point, there is no money available in the playground budget for benches. They are hoping to get business sponsorships.

MSC: To approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Erminia Rasmussen and seconded by Sharon Powers. Motion approved.

NEW YORK MAIN STREET GRANT

Josh Young asked whether LVCC might look into participating somehow in Phase 2. For Phase 1, the town of New Lebanon received a \$20,000 design guidelines grant but the Town Board may not be interested in applying for the Phase 2 grant. For Phase 2, businesses in the commercial district receive 75 cents on a dollar

to make exterior changes. Josh, along with Tony Murad would do the legwork in applying for the Stage 2 grant, then LVCC could be the applicant. If the Town Board approved, they might be the better applicant. He was just inquiring if we would be interested if needed. When Erminia spoke with him, she didn't get the impression that Josh wanted the LVCC to do the work. There are steps to be taken before anything happens, but the deadline is July 31. Tistrya Houghtling will forward the info, including the list of property owners and cost estimates. Gregg Carroll wants more info as to who is interested in taking advantage of the opportunity if we get the grant. Tistrya will send a list. Gregg said she will speak with Josh and Tony to get more info. If they are not willing to do the legwork, it will not happen.

DONOR PRIVACY POLICY & NOTIFICATION

Erminia Rasmussen asked about Section 6 of the policy Gregg Carroll wrote for our review – every state has a different policy. There is a PPPL or NY Privacy Act – can we use that in the future instead of the one that is there and quotes non-New York privacy laws. (It mentions the European Union.)

Erminia also questioned whether or not we should have liability insurance. This could come as a result from someone suing for misuse of funds. Dorothy Lamonaca will check into that.

Erminia noted that Gregg's letter regarding donor privacy was excellent. Donors will receive this the first time they donate. Discussion about whether or not we should get rid of the second paragraph – decided to leave it in there.

Sharon Powers will add the letter to the website on a donor acknowledgment page after people donate and will give that redirect URL to Gregg when it is complete. We are holding off putting up the privacy policy until corrections are made, but after that, Sharon will add that to the website as well.

SUMMER CAMP FORM

Erminia created a draft of a financial aid for camp application and will put in a part making it clear that the LVCC will do this based on what money we raise. She will send this language to Tistrya for use on further camp promotions. She will run any financial aid applications by Tistrya to make sure the applicant has applied for the Summer Youth Program. Will also add the LVCC logo and info. SYP applications are coming in now. Applications for aid should be in by May 31. Summer Youth Applications are due by June 6, but not on the town website yet. Tistrya will work on getting it put on the website.

SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

Sharon will send the form back to the High School to indicate the LVCC is again interested in sponsoring a scholarship for a community-minded student attending a trade school. We discussed an increase of \$25 from last year.

MSC: To approve a \$400 scholarship for a community-minded High School graduate who is interested in pursuing courses at a trade school. (Same conditions as last year) was made by Erminia Rasmussen and seconded by Gregg Carroll. Motion approved.

LVCC BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Erminia said we need to put more effort into increasing the LVCC Board membership. She brought up a few names and asked for other suggestions. She will contact those people to see if they have interest.

GROW THE VALLEY NEWSLETTER (GTV)

Erminia reached out to Josh Young and asked him if he was still going to be producing/editing it. He said that they didn't get many submissions and he has put it on hold until he can find someone to take it over. He said LVCC can take it over if we wish. We discussed whether LVCC should take it on and it was agreed that we could do that, with Erminia being the main point of getting articles in and Sharon being the one to edit, lay it out and send it out through MailChimp or Constant Contact. All members of the LVCC could contribute

articles as well (and it was hoped they would do so). Would not change the name of it but would say it was managed and run by LVCC now on a subheading. Aiming for June 1 as the first publication date. Will make requests for submissions in April/May. Some parameters would include no politics. The editors would also have discretion to refuse an article. We will do a vote by email and then discuss exact parameters which Erminia will create for the Board and Advisors. Will use our colors – maybe the flowers we use on the site.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 10, via ZOOM, at 10am. Sharon Powers will send out the ZOOM invitation.

MSC to adjourn the meeting at 11:47am made by Sharon Powers and seconded by Gregg Carroll. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Powers
Secretary

MOTIONS MADE BY EMAIL AFTER THIS MEETING:

3/7/2025

MOTION VOTED BY EMAIL:

MSC: Made by Erminia Rasmussen, seconded by Dorothy Lamonaca. Effective June 1, 2025, the LVCC will assume full responsibility for the production and distribution of the Grow The Valley newsletter, including all associated costs (e.g., Mailchimp/Constant Contact). The LVCC will also provide support to Sharon Powers in the newsletter's publication. Motion approved.

3/12/2025

MOTION VOTED BY EMAIL:

MSC: Made by Erminia Rasmussen, seconded by Gregg Carroll. Parameters of the Grow the Valley Newsletter: "Grow the Valley Newsletter" is published by the Lebanon Valley Community Corporation. The editors have full editorial control and may edit submissions for clarity, conciseness, and style. LVCC and Grow the Valley newsletter do not support any political position nor have any political affiliation. Motion approved.