

FINAL

**CITY OF LEBANON
WEST LEBANON REVITALIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES, OCTOBER 26, 2021
LEBANON CITY HALL – MEETING ROOM 1
7:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Winny (Chair, City Council Rep.); Chet Clem (Vice-Chair); Gregoria Amaro; Kevin Purcell (Economic Development Commission Rep.); Laurel Stavis (Planning Board Rep.); Dean Cashman; Lauren Groves

MEMBERS ABSENT: Graziella Parati

STAFF PRESENT: David Brooks, Planning & Zoning Director

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Winny called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. No minutes.

3. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Block Party Event Recap

The committee voiced their satisfaction with the outcome of the block party and the attendance. The pizza vendor was said to have sold 380 pieces of pizza which gave an approximation of how many were actually at the event. Attendees had many questions on the Westboro Yard project, the timeframe of it, how to help or contribute, and several noted that they were completely unaware that such a plan was in existence. The committee generally agreed that the advertisement in the Valley News was the most successful form of outreach for this event and discussed utilizing the same method for future information.

At the block party, there was a contact list compiled which consisted of names and mailing addresses for those who wished to receive future information. Mr. Clem stated he is overdue on following up with people and wanted to know the standing of said mailing list. Mr. Amaro expressed his hesitancy to circulate the contact list noting that many of those signees were explicit on what would be done with their information. Mr. Clem explained he was under the impression that the voluntary contact list would be a public, shared information sheet for conveyance of information to those interested.

Discussion continued on whether or not the list should be circulated to the committee. Those in favor articulated reasons for sharing that included the community members who voluntarily signed up gave consent and wanted to be informed and would be expecting to receive updates and information related to the project.

A MOTION by Mr. Clem for the list to be sent around to the entire committee.

Seconded by Mr. Purcell.

The committee further discussed the topic as a motion. Mr. Clem reiterated his stance that the list gathered at the block party event should be circulated to the whole committee to be used for information pertinent to the improvement and revitalization of West Lebanon. Mr. Amaro voiced that he is asking for another step to communicate to those who signed up. Mr. Purcell strongly articulated the need for moving onto the next step and withholding the list will cause a setback. The discussion concluded with the notion that opting out is more powerful than opting in; therefore, giving residents the ability to unsubscribe would be most effective for all parties.

Roll Call Vote:

Members voting in favor included: Mr. Clem, Mr. Purcell, Chair Winny, Mr. Cashman, Ms. Groves, Ms. Stavis.

Members voting in opposition included: Mr. Amaro.

***The motion was approved (6-1)**

B. Committee Recommendations/Priorities

There was discussion on the next steps as the committee is set to sunset in December. The current belief is that some kind of structure should remain in place to keep tabs on revitalization projects, as well as keep the current ones progressing. The committee agreed that keeping a group of some sort may reduce the sense of urgency as opposed to planning for the disbanding of the committee. Mr. Brooks explained that municipal government regulations and requirements can be cumbersome and there is the option of creating a group independent of the City. Examples included the various groups within the city know as Friends of *respective group name*.

Reasons for continuing a group were discussed including recommendations on the Westboro Yard, the empty lot on Seminary Hill, streetscape improvements, potential development of parallel roads connecting to Main Street, and to the assist the city administration. In short, a group of this nature would help prioritize where the city should be putting its resources. The general consensus was that the committee should be continued in some way and the logistics will be worked out in the coming week.

The committee discussed other general topics including plans for the greenway. Mr. Clem met with the National Parks committee last week and informed the West Lebanon Revitalization Advisory Committee that a rough plan for the greenway section can be expected by November of 2021. The discussion of the greenway opened conversations about the rail trail and the pros and cons. There was discussion on whether or not West Lebanon and White River Junction could collaborate to make the railway bridge a legal and safe walking bridge as many people already use it as one.

The committee continued to talk about planning and zoning. The empty lot at 3 Seminary Hill and what kind of building would be appropriate in that lot was discussed. The committee also discussed bike paths and lanes as many residents have voiced concerns on the safety, or lack thereof, of riding on the road. Options for improvement included reducing the width of the travel lane to create a wider shoulder for bikes as well as creating an entirely separate bike path.

The committee wrapped up the meeting by discussing future meetings prior to the sunsetting of the current West Lebanon Revitalization Advisory Committee. The next meeting was agreed to be held on November 16th due to availability of members and need for a quorum.

4. OTHER BUSINESS:

No discussion.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

A MOTION by Mr. Clem to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by Ms. Groves.

***The Motion was approved (7-0)**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Mraz