FINAL

CITY OF LEBANON
WEST LEBANON REVITALIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES, MARCH 23, 2021
REMOTE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS
LebanonNH.gov/Live
5:30PM

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Jim Winny (Chair, City Council Rep.);Chet Clem (Vice-Chair); Dean Cashman; Graziella Parati; Gregorio Amaro; Laurel Stavis (Planning Board Rep.); Lauren Groves;
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Kevin Purcell (Economic Development Commission Rep.);
STAFF PRESENT:	David Brooks, Planning & Zoning Director;

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1. CALL TO ORDER: Vice-Chair Clem called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

A. Review of meeting procedures and NH RSA 91-A "Right-to-Know" requirements.

Mr. Brooks shared the State directive and participation details for the online meeting in Microsoft Teams. Mr. Brooks conducted a roll call attendance and speakers identified themselves.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. March 9, 2021

A MOTION by Ms. Stavis to approve the March 9, 2021 Minutes as presented.
Seconded by Mr. Cashman.

Roll Call Vote:
Members voting in favor included: Mr. Clem, Mr. Cashman, Ms. Parati, Ms. Stavis, Ms. Groves.
****The Motion was approved (5-0)***

3. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Westboro Property – Recommendations for Future Uses

Mr. Brooks summarized what is requested from the committee in terms of recommendations regarding potential uses within Westboro Yard. It was noted that the City Manager expects to reference the proposed uses in support of the City's request to NHDOT for expanding the lease area request.

Mr. Amaro arrived at 5:40pm.

There was discussion about how the pending request for recommendations differs from references to potential uses outlined in past plans and reports.

Chair Winny arrived at 5:52pm.

It was suggested that any recommendations from the committee should reference and incorporate earlier planning studies and should enable sufficient flexibility for the City to further design potential improvements. It was suggested the City should ensure opportunities for year-round use and not just seasonal use.

A MOTION by Ms. Stavis that the West Lebanon Revitalization Committee endorse and support the plan prepared and included in the committee's March 23, 2021 agenda packet, including an intention for the proposed walking path to continue along the full length of the Westboro property north of the railroad bridge over the Connecticut River to connect to the City's Bridge Street property, to send to the City Manager so that he can communicate it to the NH Department of Transportation.
Seconded by Ms. Groves.

Roll Call Vote:
Members voting in favor included: Mr. Cashman, Ms. Parati, Mr. Amaro, Ms. Stavis, Ms. Groves, Chair Winny.
Members voting against included: Mr. Clem
****The Motion was approved (6-1)***

It was noted that the City will need to begin budgeting for the improvements it would like to see in order to make them a reality.

B. Streetscape – recommendations for priority improvements

Alex Belensz, Planner from the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission, discussed a proposed program for "pop-up pilot projects". The RPC is interested in applying for grant funding through AARP to temporarily implement and test out some of the recommendations from the West Lebanon Visioning charrette.

There was discussion about the timeline and process for implementing successful strategies on a more permanent basis. There was discussion about whether the City could enable outdoor seating along Main Street in the same way seating is being enabled for downtown Lebanon restaurants.

A MOTION by Mr. Clem to support the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission's efforts to apply for grant funding for temporary implementation of improvements along Main Street.
Seconded by Ms. Stavis.

Roll Call Vote:
Members voting in favor included: Mr. Clem, Mr. Cashman Ms. Parati, Mr. Amaro, Ms. Stavis, Ms. Groves, Chair Winny.
****The Motion was approved (7-0)***

C. Outreach Efforts

Chair Winny noted that he and Kevin Purcell had communicated with some property owners along Main Street and a more complete update would be shared at the next meeting. He recommended that the committee focus on smaller items between meetings to show progress rather than getting frustrated about no progress on bigger issues.

D. Future Committee Schedule

Committee members were asked to communicate their availability and preferred days and times for the foreseeable future.

4. <u>NEW BUSINESS:</u>

A. Presentation Re: New Business in West Lebanon

No discussion.

5. <u>OTHER BUSINESS:</u>

Chair Winny suggested the committee authorize comments to the City Council in support of options and funding opportunities for extending the greenway to West Lebanon. Mr. Clem noted there are opportunities coming up this spring that could benefit the City, including the demolition of Westboro buildings and the Wilder Dam relicensing process. Chair Winny suggested asking the Council to support efforts to increase trails and recreational opportunities through the Wilder Dam relicensing process.

A MOTION by Mr. Clem that the West Lebanon Revitalization Committee supports the idea of preparing a letter to the City Council in support of greenway extension from the Mascoma River Greenway to Boston Lot.
Seconded by Ms. Groves.

Roll Call Vote:
Members voting in favor included: Mr. Clem, Mr. Cashman, Ms. Parati, Mr. Amaro, Ms. Stavis, Ms. Groves, Chair Winny.
****The Motion was approved (7-0)***

Chair Winny recommended the committee coordinate with the Arts & Culture Commission on arts opportunities and work with the School District to investigate use of the Seminary Hill School auditorium. Ms. Stavis indicated a willingnes to communicate with the School District. There was discussion about other possible efforts to enhance the arts and history in West Lebanon.

Chair Winny suggested a standing agenda item for community outreach and engagement efforts.

A. Master Plan Chapter 4 (WLCBD) Actions and Strategies and Visioning Study Implementation Strategies

No discussion.

6. <u>ADJOURNMENT</u>:

A MOTION by Mr. Amaro to adjourn the meeting.
Seconded by Ms. Stavis.

Roll Call Vote:
Members voting in favor included: Mr. Clem, Mr. Cashman, Ms. Parati, Mr. Amaro, Ms. Stavis, Ms. Groves, Chair Winny.
****The Motion was approved (7-0)***

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
David Brooks
Planning & Development Director