

New Lebanon & Nassau News

NEW LEBANON

Logos, Land And Letters Of Interest

by Chris Tergliafera

At the May 11 meeting of the New Lebanon Town Board a new town logo was approved. Over the last few months the Board had narrowed it down to three options and put those final three to a public vote. 158 votes were cast and option 2 on the ballot received the most votes and was approved. It was made clear the town logo is used for marketing and tourism purposes, it is not the town seal, which isn't being changed. The winning logo will now be sent out so it can be finalized and other color variations can be made. The Board also



New Lebanon's newly approved town logo.

discussed several choices for a town slogan. Of the many options "New Lebanon New York, Historically Natural" was approved.

Land Donation Approval

Attorneys for New Lebanon and those offering the 33 acre land donation to the town have agreed

to terms for the town to acquire the property. Financial responsibilities for the land to change hands from the donor to the town, among other terms such as a site and environmental assessment, are included in the agreement. The owner of a strip of land that separates much of the property into two sections is said to be open to the possibility of donating that strip of land, so there is no separation in the 33 acres. A motion to approve \$3,800 for a site assessment was approved as was a motion to enter into the agreement for the land donation as written.

Open Positions

Letters of interest will be accepted for several positions within the town that are now open due to recent resignations. Those opening are on the following committees: New Lebanon Representative to the Columbia County Traffic Safety, Ethics Board, Business and Economic Development Committee and the Planning Board. Letters of interest for the aforementioned openings

will be accepted until June 4 at 4 pm, with interviews held June 8 at 5:30 pm. A motion was also approved to reach out to all town staff and board members to inquire about filling the vacant spot on the Ethics Board that needs to be filled by a town staff or Board Member.

COVID-19 Relief

The Town of New Lebanon will receive upwards of \$280,000 in COVID-19 relief. The board expressed the intent to schedule a "public input" session but have not yet done so because guidelines on how the funds can be used are more strict than expected. Once it's made clear exactly how the money can be used, then the input session will be scheduled.

Other News

A request by the town Dog Control Officer for dog fecal stations in Shatford Park has been tabled. Some of the Board Members felt that having the stations wouldn't cause an irresponsible owner to decide to pick up after their dog and therefore the money for the stations could be better spent elsewhere. Jennifer Schroeder was approved as Deputy Court Clerk. And it's believed that with enough volunteers it will be possible to complete the concrete foundation for the upcoming skate park this summer. Money for the concrete was included in last year's budget.

EAST NASSAU

New Bakery Will Open In Village

by Denise Wright

The May 4 East Nassau Board of Trustees meeting opened with a public hearing on a special use permit for a wholesale bakery and retail café at the historic Hoag's Corner Tavern. The bakery, which hopes to open around June 1 if "all goes well," will be open from 3 am to 6 pm, and once the health department permits are finished, the retail café will open from 6 am to 6 pm. The Board did ask questions about exterior changes as well as parking on the site. The representative for the bakery stated that there would be no significant external changes to the outside of the building but they will be doing "refurbishment of the exterior," such as painting and landscaping. There will be approximately 25 parking spots, and there will be no parking on Route 66 to avoid any traffic problems. Board Members and residents have expressed positive support for this project. Many Board Members mentioned that they have heard "excitement and encouragement" from many residents for this project. One neighbor who came to the public hearing stated that he felt it was a "great idea." Mayor Adam Acquario noted that this is a "great addition to the village" and wished the

bakery owner, Julie Ritchie, the best of luck on this endeavor. The Board did pass a negative declaration for environmental impact and approved the special use permit application.

The Board reviewed a subdivision application for a property on Route 66. The first lot on Route 66 will be 2.42 acres, and the second lot will be 3.55 acres. The owner will be using the lots for residential development. The village lawyer will verify zoning regulations, and a public hearing was scheduled for Wednesday, June 9, at 6:45 pm.

The Village Treasurer gave the Board good news that sales tax revenue has improved by \$7,000 more than anticipated. The Mayor reported that Rensselaer County had the best sales tax numbers in New York. There will be a "close the books" meeting on May 26 to ensure all of the village finances are up to date. The Board accepted the minutes from the public hearing on the preliminary budget, Board of Trustee minutes and the organizational meeting. Highway Superintendent Michael Dorr, reviewed the chip sealing project on Hayes Road, which will cost approximately \$21,000. The bid will include stone and sealing for the project. According to the

Superintendent, he said it would be better to chip seal the road because it would be more durable, erosion-free, and help with dust control. Typically, a dirt road can lose at least one inch per year, paving is vital to hinder erosion. The Mayor wanted to make sure that the department will try to save as much of the tree canopy as possible to maintain the

"country look" of the road. Dorr told the Board that they hope not to remove any trees but remove some hanging branches and understand the Board's concern. The Superintendent stated that they use a sand/salt mixture in the winter to help vegetation and that the next road in the sealing process will be Webster Road. While residents are interested in keeping the country-style road, the Board understands the practicality for the village.

The Mayor reached out to the Governor about the village's "fishing spot" on Kinderhook Creek. The parking area could be dangerous, and he wanted to see if they could make it safer. He did say some fill has already been placed there. Residents brought the problem of speeding on Town Garage Road to the Board of Trustees, which recommended that people get license plate numbers and report speeders to help the community. Barbara Sears was approved as the Secretary for the Zoning Board, and the Mayor was happy to see such an experienced resident stepping up to the plate.

NEW LEBANON

COVID-19 Vaccination Rates

According to numbers released by the Columbia County Department of Health, the county's vaccination rate for those who have received at least dose (ages 15 and up) is 55.6%. The numbers for persons 65 years of age and up is higher (71.7%) because of an earlier access to the vaccine. In New Lebanon, the rate of vaccination for those 15 and up is 44.7% and in West Lebanon at 50.4%. For those 65 and up, the rate in New Lebanon is 72.3% and 83.3% in West Lebanon.

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