

**COMMUNITY CENTER LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2020 – 6:00 PM**

**Remote via Microsoft Teams: LebanonNH.gov/Live**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairperson Angie Leduc, Jared Rhoads, Deb Herndon, Mary Rainey, Jill Vahey, Wendy Hall, Liz Swanton, Laura Dykstra, John MacLean, Jim Gruber, Rick Desharnais, Meagan Henry, City Manager Shaun Mulholland

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kristine Flythe

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Laura Perez

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The June 9, 2020 Community Center Leadership Team Meeting is hereby called to order at 6:02 pm.
2. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** None
3. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**
  - a. **Introductions**
    - i. Angie – Native to Lebanon, Parent of 2 girls, Prevention Specialist, Favorite Thing About Lebanon: We have a community and government that cares about engaging its' citizens in work like this
    - ii. Mary – Attends LHS and is going to be a Sophomore, Favorite Thing About Lebanon: Tightness of the community and how kind the citizens are
    - iii. Wendy – Current Chair of Lebanon School Board, Parent of Rising 10<sup>th</sup> Grader & 5<sup>th</sup> Grader, Native to the Upper Valley, Grew up in Etna, Lived in Lebanon for most of adult life, Favorite Thing About Lebanon: Recreation Department
    - iv. Liz – Parent of 3 year old, Manages community health program at APD, Supporter of getting out building community and physical activity, active participant in Adult Pick Up Soccer, Favorite Thing About Lebanon: Enjoy Parks and rec and walking to the playground
    - v. Laura D – Lived in Lebanon for close to 30 years, from the Upper Valley before then, parent of 2 sons who are grown and back living in town on their own, member of the CCBA Board, previously served 8 years on School Board, Favorite Thing About Lebanon: Downtown area, our resources and community
    - vi. Jill – Director of Senior Center in Lebanon for over 20 years, live in VT but feel like a resident of Lebanon, work collaboratively with Lebanon Parks and Rec, Favorite Thing About Lebanon: Sense of community and how well we've worked together for so many years
    - vii. Jared – Lived in Lebanon for 8 years, Parent of 5 and 9 year olds, active family, runs an adult floor hockey league, constantly looking for spaces to play floor hockey, Favorite Thing About Lebanon: size and tightknit feel, we have a lot despite the size
    - viii. Deb – Lived in Upper Valley for 22 years, kids are 18-24 years old, works at Hypertherm in Internal Communications, was previously working at Dartmouth College, Favorite Thing About Lebanon: It feels like you just see someone you know everywhere you go and they are friendly and it makes you feel connected

- ix. John – Worked in local government since 1970, spent last 20 years in Keene as City Manager, retired in 2015, now works as a consultant for MRI, Favorite Thing About Lebanon: Shaun Mulholland
- x. Jim – Working with John, teaches at Antioch University in Keene, Favorite Thing About Lebanon: Was Assistant City Manager about 27 years ago and helped manage special projects with the recycling program
- xi. Meagan – Coordinator with the Recreation Department, grew up in Lebanon, live in Lebanon now, coach middle school sports and also a joint gymnastics program with the high school Favorite Thing About Lebanon: Tightknit community
- xii. Krissy – Program Coordinator, Hear what folks have to say, Favorite Thing About Lebanon: Home away from home, bring kids to work when she’s here sometimes
- xiii. Laura P (introduced by Rick) – Executive Director at Special Needs Support Center, many years of experience with community development and enhancement for community wellness, committed to a safer, healthier, place to live, play and work, Favorite Thing About Lebanon: The community who works collaboratively to enhance the community, rail trail, park, music, art, safety and play
- xiv. Rick – Interim Recreation Director, father of rising 7<sup>th</sup> grader at LMS, previously was a teacher at HSS, coach and organizes many sport programs, Favorite Thing About Lebanon: Sense of community pride here in Lebanon that drew us to want to raise our family here
- xv. Shaun - Favorite Thing About Lebanon: Great place to be, people here have a great desire to get things done

**b. Review Departmental Efforts**

- i. Rick reviewed the 1998 Master Plan and it was identified that the residents of Lebanon desired more indoor recreation space and especially in the winter. In 2013, there was an effort for potential collaboration with the school district and a former school building that did not work out. Last year, we held public forums to take a look at facility needs in Lebanon but did not focus solely on a community center. Today, we are focused on the community center, that indoor space that the recreation department sees as a need in the community. This team can reach out to help garner that interest and see what a community center could look like.

**c. Review Charge**

- i. All members received the charge in a previous e-mail. Angie read the charge to the team. Laura D. mentioned that she is on board with all of this but thought it was important to talk about funding and the article that was recently put out regarding a budget shortfall that is expected She wants it to be clear how the funding will come and how it will back the team’s findings. Shaun mentioned that every town/city is having impacts from COVID-19. He shared his experience in a previous community that is one of the poorest in the state and how they used partners, grants and donations to make a \$3.3 million community center

happen. He mentioned that the CCBA is a key partner and the thought of potential there. Shaun shared that the ability for the City to borrow money is going to be challenging with the debt service to the CSO Project, etc. With everyone working together, he feels as though we could make it happen here. John shared that we are lucky to have the City Manager on board who understands the value of bringing together key stakeholders.

**d. Process/Timeline**

- i. Jim referred to the Proposed Timeline document. Phase 1 has been accomplished and the team has great diversity. Phase 2 is to hold two virtual forums using Microsoft Teams. The first forum would allow anyone in the Lebanon community. The team should recruit people to come in for 1.5-2 hours to look at an overall broad vision of what the new center could be. These ideas would be developed into a survey and the team would work with the Community College to conduct the survey. All members of the CCLT will share the list with their respective mailing lists. The data would be analyzed and a summary report will be provided. The second community forum would have some working groups. The goal is to set priorities for the new center and each group would put together their ideas. A report could be sent out to the community. Rick plans to send this document to the team with a follow-up email.

**e. What does a community center look like to you?**

- i. 2 out of 4 break out rooms did not work. Group discussion regarding the topic gave the following ideas for a community center: indoor walking track, after school kids programming, nearby to schools, indoor meeting spaces that promote social wellness, indoor climbing, indoor soccer turf field similar to Grantham Indoor, safe and healthy space for kids and teens, support adult activities, bring Lebanon and West Lebanon kids together before LMS, meeting rooms where civic groups meet, gymnasium for sports, birthday parties, adult and youth sports, multigenerational space, flexible space, offices, bigger open space like a track or turf, social space, all ages and all seasons, wellness center for mental health, accordion doors that open to make spaces different sizes, fitness center, pool, policies that go along with a community center so groups can rent at a low rate with low hassle, reasonable fees, make it attractive for everyone and increase utilization, something for everyone in the community, spirit with which we are all welcomed, create a sense of belonging, accessible (remove barriers), safe drop in space for adolescents/youth to be, structured and unstructured so they can be engaged

**4. OTHER BUSINESS**

- a. Follow up to share with Rick your idea of what your community center would have in it and list in order of importance
- b. Troubleshoot Teams and the break out groups issue.
- c. Next meeting date will be sent via Doodle Poll
- d. Lasting thoughts

- i. Deb shared that her dad raised money for their town for a recreation center and she has fond memories of the experience. The end product was great and the whole community loved it. She is glad we talked about funding and there are creative ways to go about this.
- ii. Jill shared that she is also part of the NH Association of Senior Centers and has been the treasurer for 20 years.
- iii. Wendy appreciates being part of the group. She feels it's important to know that the School Board plans to dive in to a Facility Improvement Plan and we should talk about partnerships with public/private groups. She wants to be sure we aren't duplicating things that the CCBA has and can bring community resources together to work collaboratively.
- iv. Mary agrees not to overlap with the CCBA and that it is important to bring more resources than the CCBA already offers. She helped write letters for the renovation proposal at LHS. She felt as though it is important for there to be a place where people can go to escape from school, etc.
- v. Liz mentioned this could be a resource for the Upper Valley, not just Lebanon.
- vi. Laura mentioned that she was having technological difficulties from 7 pm on. She feels as though we should be looking into what the community needs and build on organizations that exist and provide support.
- vii. Angie suggested brainstorming who might be missing from the conversation.
- viii. Feedback Form was provided in the chat.

**5. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.**