

## Community Conversation Summary

### *3-paragraph Format*

1. *Aspirations*
2. *Concerns & Specific Concerns*
3. *Follow-Up (Actions)*

### **Aspirations**

The majority of Participants expressed a strong desire for a more vibrant community in which people interact and communicate much more than they do now. This includes the need for a “Town Center” and economic development that would have a significant and broad beneficial impact.

### **Concerns**

The ongoing economic decline was a major concern expressed amongst the participants. Lack of infrastructure, such as sewers and high speed internet along with services--including a grocery store and an overall Town center--were mentioned. There is concern about apathy toward town issues, mistrust between various groups, separate networks

and a lack of communication of town information that has come with the loss of the newspaper and churches as sources of information. Other specific issues included the desire for a noise ordinance at the Speedway and more venues to interact with neighbors. The highways dividing the town, transportation for certain subgroups, and the higher taxes are also specific concerns.

### **Follow-Up**

Some actions that could be taken would be to create a community Listserv where events, skills, tools, etc. could be published and keep the community members informed about town happenings. Participants also expressed a desire for more community-wide events and reasons to bring people together. Several specific ideas mentioned developing geographic community committees based on the various segments of the New Lebanon area to report to the Town Board on a regular basis, reaching out to high school kids as tutors for seniors as part of public service requirements, reaching out to seniors as tutors for students and establish scholarships for kids, and establishing a community tool library.