

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF
THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
HELD ON MAY 11, 2021**

Present: Tistrya Houghtling, Supervisor
Jesse Newton, Councilmember
Deborah Gordon, Councilmember (online)
John Trainor, Councilmember

Absent: Norman Rasmussen, Councilmember

Recording Secretary: Marsha “Marcie” Robertson, Town Clerk

Others Present: Steve Powers, CAC Member & CSC Chair (online)
Bruce Shenker, NL Rep to CC Enviro Mgmt (online)
Marc Anthonisen, CSC Advisor
Monte Wasch, BEDC Chair (online)
David Farren, CAC Chair
Mary Young, NL Rep to CC Office for the Aging
Jeremy Hughes, Barton & Loguidice, Engineer (online)

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Supervisor Houghtling. A moment of silence was held, followed by the flag salute. The meeting was held in person at the Shatford Park Pavilion, 170 Old Post Road, New Lebanon, NY 12125 and live streamed for the public at:

https://townhallstreams.com/towns/new_lebanon_ny

MINUTES:

The minutes of the **April 13th, 2021 Public Hearing, April 13th, 2021 Regular Meeting and April 21st, 2021 Special Meeting and Public Hearing** meetings were reviewed. A motion was made by Councilmember Newton, seconded by Councilmember Trainor and approved unanimously with the exception of Councilmember Rasmussen who was absent to approve the minutes as typed.

FINANCIAL:

Supervisor’s Report:

Since this was an in person and live streamed meeting the Supervisor’s Report as of April 30, 2021 was available to the public via the Town Clerk’s email and the Town website and the Town Board was emailed the Supervisor’s Report by Supervisor Houghtling.

A motion was made by Councilmember Newton to accept the Supervisor’s report as typed.

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Trainor.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Rasmussen -	Absent
Councilmember Gordon -	Aye
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Newton -	Aye
Councilmember Trainor -	Aye

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she has received one email for POF and will read it into the record:

Supervisor Houghtling read the following into the record:

Dear Tistrya and The Board,

As walking everyday up and down Canaan Road, Steve and I have wondered about a firewood stockpile for anyone in need. On our road and throughout our town, many trees need to come down. The damaged and older trees are taking out power lines during storms or causing extra highway damage clean up.

We are starting to deal with the real threat of the Ash Boring Beetle and Asian Longhorn Beetle. The woodpeckers on Canaan Road and Stonehouse Road have really started going after the trees because of the beetles. With this being said, some forest control may have to be discussed.

We know because of working at Ioka Valley Farms that firewood piles shouldn't be moved due to the spread of these beetles. The question arises, how to do good forestry and supply firewood for those in need?

Don't know how to do this, but 2 great needs that need a chainsaw.

We have a battery operated chainsaw and be more than willing to cut several trees.

The need for trees coming down, healthy forestry and the need to supply those who need firewood desperately. Sounds like a win, win, win. The chainsaw club...

Steve and Margie Muse

728 Canaan Rd, Canaan, Ny 12029

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she thought this was a good idea. Supervisor Houghtling suggested to Steve Powers, CSC Chair that maybe the Climate Smart Task Force could discuss this and maybe Councilmember Newton can discuss this with Highway Superintendent Winestock.

Councilmember Newton stated that he would caution that there is a great deal of liability with logging and chainsaw use.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she will look into the insurance on this, Councilmember Newton can check with Highway Superintendent Winestock and the Climate Smart Task Force can discuss if this is something that they would want to take on.

BUDGET AMENDMENT #4 OF 2021:

Supervisor Houghtling stated that one of the budget amendments that they need to do is in the Building Department, it was discussed at the last meeting, to take funds from other departments and put them into the Building Department. Supervisor Houghtling stated that the town accountant will be helping in the preparation of that budget amendment because it is more complex than a regular budget amendment and that will be done for the June meeting.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that the town received an extra \$102,069.00 in CHIPS funding from New York State that the town was not expecting. Pave NY was never put in the 2021 budget because we weren't sure if we would get it, and the town received \$37,098.00. Extreme Winter Recovery was not put into the budget, the town will be getting \$32,083.77. For CHIPS funding, we only put in 80% of the normal \$108,000 that we get because we thought it was going to be an 80/20 split between the town and the state. Not only are we getting the whole \$108,000, we are getting \$140,434.00. Overall, there is a total of extra state revenue coming in the amount of \$102,069. Supervisor Houghtling stated that we are bringing that into the budget, putting it into the different lines (CHIPS, Pave NY, Extreme Winter), we also budgeted around \$26,000 which was the town's 20% of the \$108,000 that is in the town budget.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that Councilmember Newton will talk with Highway Superintendent Winestock to find out if he still wants to use that money towards CHIPS funding or if he wants to put it somewhere else. Supervisor Houghtling stated that we can't take money from Highway and put it into General. Councilmember Newton will work on that with Highway Superintendent Winestock, for today we are just taking the extra revenue in and splitting it out over the lines and the Highway 284 Agreement will need to be updated with all of these new numbers.

Highway Fund:

\$102,069.00	from DA-3501 (State Aid - CHIPS)
\$ 53,741.00	to DA-5112.2c (CHIPS – Reimbursable)
\$ 37,098.00	to DA-5112.21 (CHIPS – Pave NY)
\$ 11,230.00	to DA-5112.22 (CHIPS – Extreme Winter Recovery)

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling and seconded by Councilmember Trainor to approve the above noted budget amendment.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Rasmussen -	Absent
Councilmember Gordon -	Aye
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Newton -	Aye
Councilmember Trainor -	Aye

AUDIT OF BILLS:

2021 BILLS:

General No. 126, in the amount of \$304.50;
As listed on Abstract No. 4A dated May 11, 2021 and

General Nos. 127 through 162, in the amount of \$35,573.22;
Highway Nos. 40 through 54, in the amount of \$59,445.58; and
SF-1 LVPA No. 2, in the amount of \$37,052.50;
As listed on Abstract No. 5 dated May 11, 2021.

A motion was made by Councilmember Newton to pay the bills. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Trainor.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Rasmussen -	Absent
Councilmember Gordon -	Aye
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Newton -	Aye
Councilmember Trainor -	Aye

OLD BUSINESS:

Town Logo & Slogan:

Supervisor Houghtling stated that at the last board meeting, a designer that the town paid to design a town logo, not the Town Seal, a logo for marketing and tourism purposes presented three designs to the Town Board. The Town Board decided to put the logo options out to vote to the public and received a total of 158 votes, with #1 receiving 32 votes, #2 receiving 75 votes, #3 receiving 41 votes and 10 people emailing to say they do not like any of the 3 options - #2 is the clear winner by far and Supervisor Houghtling feels that the public opinion matters and that the board should go with the majority vote unless any other board members feels differently.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Newton and approved unanimously with the exception to Councilmember Rasmussen, who is absent to adopt design #2 as the Town Logo and send it back to the designer, Robbii Wesson for finalization.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that there will be a few different versions; color, black & white and different sizes.

The designer suggested that there only be only two different colors in the color version. Supervisor Houghtling has had several suggestions to do shaker blue and green – some suggested the tree in #2 be green so it doesn't look like a dead tree.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that in addition to choosing a logo, we want to choose a slogan. Robbii did not like the prior suggestion of the BEDC "wrap our hills around you". The BEDC went back to the drawing board and came up with the following five suggestions:

New Lebanon, NY
Planting Seeds of Kindness

New Lebanon, NY
Naturally

New Lebanon, NY
Seeds to Trees

New Lebanon, NY
New Seeds

New Lebanon, NY
Old Ground, New Seeds

Councilmember Newton suggested, New Lebanon, NY Historically Natural

Councilmember Trainor stated that he liked the Naturally one and the suggestion from Councilmember Newton.

Councilmember Gordon stated that she likes Old Ground, New Seeds the best, she really doesn't like any of them particularly.

Supervisor Houghtling asked Monte Wasch as the BEDC Chair what he thought of Historically Natural, Monte stated that he likes it a lot.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Newton and was approved with three AYE votes from Councilmember's Newton and Trainor and Supervisor Houghtling, Councilmember Gordon Abstained and Councilmember Rasmussen is absent to send New Lebanon, NY – Historically Natural to Robbii Wesson, Designer.

Highway Asset Management Plan:

Councilmember Newton stated that Highway Superintendent Winestock has been very busy with the reconstruction of Beacon Hill Road and Councilmember Newton stated that he has been very busy at work so they haven't made much headway at this time.

Cover for Highway Garage Fuel Tank:

Councilmember Newton stated that he has been busy in his time off working on getting the skatepark moved and hasn't had much spare time to work on it, but he will be in the near future.

Land Donation Offer:

Supervisor Houghtling stated that at the last meeting the Town Board authorized her to move forward with the Town Attorney with the steps necessary to obtain the property. The Attorney has drafted an agreement and sent it to the donor's attorney. The donor has already agreed to it, they will pay the real estate transfer taxes, recording fees for the deed and recording fees for releases, discharges, etc. The Town will pay the title insurance and the due diligence, which includes an environmental site assessment, survey, title examination, etc.

Supervisor Houghtling had the Town Attorney lay out the responsibilities and cost to the town. The attorney recommends performing a phase 1 environmental site assessment. Supervisor Houghtling obtained a quote from Jeremy Hughes from Barton & Loguidice in the amount of \$3,800.00. Supervisor Houghtling stated that the environmental assessment is very important in protecting the town from any unknown possible issues with the land in the future.

Jeremy Hughes, engineer from Barton & Loguidice stated that Supervisor Houghtling has explained things very well and that the environmental assessment is done to protect the town.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that Barton & Loguidice has also offered to obtain grant funding for us to develop this property into a recreation area, there is a lot of grant funding available for this type of project and they know how to obtain it. They will provide a proposal for grant writing after we obtain the property.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she has spoken to the owner of the piece of property that splits the property that is being donated to the town and they seem open to possibly donating that piece as well to the town.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that the approximate anticipated cost from the town attorney is \$3,800.00 for the Phase 1 Environmental Assessment, \$2,000.00 for title and tax search and title insurance, \$1,500.00 for the survey and \$1,500.00 in legal fees for a total of about

\$8,800.00 for the town to own 33 acres of property that with Barton & Loguidice's help with grant funding could potentially cost nothing.

Councilmember Trainor stated that he thinks it sounds great.

Councilmember Gordon asked if there is an expiration date on the offer of this land.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that there is no expiration date but the donors want the land to be donated and there is a lot of grant funding available right now and we cannot apply for any grant until the town takes possession of the land.

Councilmember Gordon stated that the property is more interesting if the rail trail piece of it also becomes town property.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she has spoken to the owner of that piece and they weren't opposed to it.

Councilmember Gordon stated that in the town's Comprehensive Plan there is no mention of the town expanding our parks area to the other end of the town. She stated that the location is not near our park maintenance shed which will add extra cost in maintaining. She feels that free money is always expensive and that town has lots of needs and before the Town Board makes a decision, she thinks they should get public input. Councilmember Gordon stated that she is all for recreational activities but that money has been spent on the skatepark and the town has a lot of other needs to be considered.

Supervisor Houghtling responded to some of Councilmember Gordons points. Supervisor Houghtling stated that they did put money in the budget last year for the concrete pad, but to date no money has been spent on the skatepark, it has been all volunteers. Supervisor Houghtling stated that she has heard from a lot of residents that they would like things more towards West Lebanon. As for the maintenance on it, her vision is not the same as the required maintenance

Councilmember Newton stated that he is neutral about this property. He stated he would like to see it stay on the tax rolls but there is not a lot of arable land there. He stated that as it stands now it is essentially conservation area with a potential for a park and relatively low maintenance. Councilmember Newton stated that we do send a mower to that end of town a couple of times a year anyway.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she does hear Councilmember Gordon's concerns and appreciates them but she feels very differently about it. She thinks this offer of 33 acres for

approximately \$8,800.00 is something that we need to jump on, she feels very confident that residents are excited about it.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling to authorize the hiring of Barton & Loguidice and accepting their quote of \$3,800.00 for a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment. The motion was seconded Councilmember Trainor.

Councilmember Trainor stated that he would like to add that he has always thought the western part of town should have a little more attention and he agrees with what Councilmember Newton said about the potential of this property and that Jeremy stating that the possibility for grants is better now than it has been in the past, so he stated again that he will second that motion.

Councilmember Newton stated that before finishing the vote he would like to talk to the grants. He stated that he would love to see more stuff done grass roots by groups here in town. He understands that the grant money is very handy to municipalities like us that don't have a lot of money coming in from other means but he would love to see it done by a group of volunteers.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Rasmussen -	Absent
Councilmember Gordon -	Nay
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Newton -	Aye
Councilmember Trainor -	Aye

A motion was made by Councilmember Trainor to authorize Supervisor Houghtling to enter into the Real Property Donation Agreement as prepared by the Town Attorney. The motion seconded by Councilmember Newton.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Rasmussen -	Absent
Councilmember Gordon -	Nay
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Newton -	Aye
Councilmember Trainor -	Aye

Federal Funding for Towns – Schedule Public Input Session:

Supervisor Houghtling stated that at the last meeting they discussed scheduling a public input session. New Lebanon is getting upwards of \$280,000.00 and they thought it was important to have a public input session on how they best think the money could serve the community. She stated that they were waiting for the guidelines from the Treasury on how these funds can be used, which did come out today. Supervisor Houghtling stated that in

her initial glance through the guidelines, they are not as open as they thought they would be. They are actually quite restrictive and specific. She stated that it is a very large document and they just got it in the morning and haven't had time to thoroughly go through it.

Councilmember Newton stated he would like the time to go through the document and he thinks they should table this until they have time to go over it and have more detail.

Supervisor Houghtling asked if they wanted to go ahead and schedule a public hearing input session or wait?

Councilmember Newton stated he thinks they should wait because it seems at a glance to be very restrictive in the use of the money.

Councilmember Gordon stated that she agreed to table this as well.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that they will table this completely and between now and June's meeting she will continue to forward any other information that she receives on this. She stated that she did also invite the town board members to attend the Association of Towns online legislation at lunch, it is an hour and specifically focused on how towns can spend this money.

Councilmember Gordon stated that she has signed up.

Skatepark:

Supervisor Houghtling stated that the skatepark has been moved to Shatford park from Ghent, gave a huge thank you to Councilmember Newton, all the volunteers and local businesses that made this happen.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that we already have engineered drawings that have already been paid for out of the 2020 budget, we now need a cement foundation for the skate park. We did put money in last years budget for the concrete materials, hoping to get a volunteer crew to do the labor for the foundation. Supervisor Houghtling stated that the town accountant said that the money is still sitting there and it is very easy to move the money into this year's budget.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that Councilmember Newton wanted to look into the idea of doing a go fund me or Facebook plea for donations for the concrete slab, the Attorney said while the town is allowed to accept donations offered by people, we cannot solicit donations. The town is perfectly within proper action to fund the skatepark slab from the budget and if people, on their own and unsolicited, want to donate towards it they can.

Councilmember Gordon asked what the size of the concrete pad is?

Councilmember Newton stated that it is 50' X 90', approximately 78 yards of concrete.

Councilmember Gordon asked if anyone has run this by the CAC?

Councilmember Newton responded that he didn't think so.

Councilmember Gordon stated that she asks because the amount of impermeable surface you add to a property is of interest because it doesn't drain.

Councilmember Newton responded that he wasn't too concerned about that because the engineer looked at that and because we are at lowest point in the park it would just be a hand off from one type of soil to the other. The area is actually pretty solid there between the pavilion and the town garage. Councilmember Newton stated that technically because it is a town installation, we are exempted from our own zoning codes, so some of the site plan review wouldn't apply.

Councilmember Gordon stated that whether we are exempt or not, if there is an environmental concern, we might want to pay attention.

Councilmember Newton stated that he could probably task the CAC to consider looking into that.

David Farren, Chair of the CAC stated that they will.

Supervisor Houghtling asked Councilmember Newton if he was pretty set on the location to be of the skatepark? Supervisor Houghtling made suggestions of a couple other areas.

Councilmember Newton responded that the other areas suggested would not work for many reasons having to do with soil disturbance and being the lowest area in the park for water issue.

Community Solar Update:

Supervisor Houghtling stated that at the last meeting the Town Board authorized her to sign the town up for community solar through Ampion and to use the town credit card on autopay to pay the bill. She stated that the good news is Ampion no longer requires a credit or debit card on file for auto payments but will rather simply continue to bill through NYSEG with up to the 10% discount.

Deputy Court Clerk Appointment:

Supervisor Houghtling stated that we went out for letters of interest and we received one letter of interest and resume from Jennifer Schroeder. The Judges have requested that the Town Board appoint Jennifer Schroeder as Deputy Court Clerk at a rate of \$13.50 per hour for up to 20 hours per week.

A motion was made by Councilmember Trainor to appoint Jennifer Schroeder as Deputy Court Clerk at a rate of \$13.50 an hour for up to 20 hours a week. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Newton.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Rasmussen -	Absent
Councilmember Gordon -	Aye
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Newton -	Aye
Councilmember Trainor -	Aye

Planning Board & Ethics Board Vacancies:

Supervisor Houghtling stated that we have a vacancy on the Planning Board. She stated that they can either choose one of the two applicants we interviewed a couple months ago, the last time they went out for letters of interest, or go back out for letters of interest again.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that Greg Hanna and Councilmember Gordon both made good points that the person who was on the Planning Board did hold a perspective that is important, so she is inclined to go back out for letters of interest and encourage the other two applicants to reapply and see who applies.

Councilmember Newton stated that he thinks it is appropriate to go back out for letters of interest because we are looking to fill more than one position. He stated that he did want to be clear that the Ethics Board vacancy has to be filled with somebody that is either a town employee, on a committee or board.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that later in the agenda there is another Ethics Board vacancy. She stated that we can put out a notice for letters of interest for the planning board and one Ethics Board out to the public and the second Ethics board vacancy that we are discussing here, does need to be internal, so that will just go to town staff and board members.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Trainor and approved unanimously with the exception of Councilmember Rasmussen who is absent to go out for letters of interest for the Planning Board due June 4th, 2021 at 4:00PM and with interviews to be held if needed on Tuesday, June 8th, 2021 starting at 5:30PM.

A motion was made by Councilmember Newton, seconded by Councilmember Trainor and approved unanimously with the exception of Councilmember Rasmussen who is absent to authorize Supervisor Houghtling to reach out to all Town Staff, Committee Members and Board Members advising them that we have two Ethics Board positions that need to be filled and one of those positions has to be filled by a Town Staff person, Committee Member or Board Member and authorizing Supervisor Houghtling to solicit letters of interest from Town Staff, Committee Members or Boards Members with the letters of interest be directed to the office of the Town Clerk by June 4th, 2021 at 4:00PM with interviews to potentially be held on June 8th, 2021 at 5:30PM.

Fund Balance Analysis as of 12/31/2020:

Supervisor Houghtling stated that the good news is that we cut way back on expenditures in 2020 because of COVID and we ended up having higher sales tax revenues than we had the year before. She stated that essentially what happened in the General Account is that we got it back up to where we were in 2019. In the 2020 budget we took \$230,000.00 from General and moved it over the Highway for highway equipment purchases, which brought our fund balance down to around \$630,000.00. She stated that we are now back up to \$877,580.00, where as at the end of 2019 we had a balance of \$865,372.00.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that in the Highway fund it shows a net decrease of \$170,000.00 because the Highway money came in, so it is a bit skewed. She stated that the Highway ended up with about \$50,000.00 more than they had in the end of 2019. So, at the end of 2020, the Highway Fund had \$209,206.00.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that these numbers represent a healthy fund balance. Supervisor Houghtling stated that for next years budget, she thinks they should take a look at the park and some of the things that they didn't do because part of the reason that big chunk was taken was to avoid that fund balance getting too high.

Councilmember Newton stated that he knows we are still dealing with COVID, but he started a few years ago working with what the Comptrollers want to see the Town have for fund balances and they really don't offer any guidelines. He stated that they want the Town to have so much working capital but not too much and they can't give a recommendation as to what that should be.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she agrees and that she doesn't think it should be that difficult to come up with a percentage of the budget. She stated that she thinks where it is at the end of 2020 is a bit higher than they like to see it, but in her conversations, they will not give her a number. She stated that in our Town budget we shouldn't be below \$400,000.00 and she doesn't think we should be above \$700,000.00.

Councilmember Newton stated that some of that is projects that we rolled back from.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she thinks going into next years budget they look at some of those projects in the park and the highway. Supervisor Houghtling stated that looking at employee's pay should be a consideration.

Councilmember Newton stated that there has been a request from Donnie Sears, Park Superintendent to go out to bid to replace a lot of the fencing near the park that has been damaged from vehicles or is deteriorating due to age.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that also when Barton & Loguidice was out here they noticed the splash pad in the park and how deteriorated it is as well as other things in the park that need updating.

NEW BUSINESS:

Survey Monkey Subscription:

Supervisor Houghtling stated that had hoped that we wouldn't need to renew this, but as of right now we need to continue doing the health screening. She stated that it expires June of 2021 and the cost is \$385.00 for the year. Last year she had to put it on her personal credit card. She stated that she is looking for authorization to renew this for another year and to submit a voucher for reimbursement.

Councilmember Newton asked out of curiosity why it had to be paid with Supervisor Houghtling's personal credit card.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she wasn't really sure, Councilmember Rasmussen had set it up for her. She stated that she can follow-up with Councilmember Rasmussen on that and look into switching it over to the Town credit card.

A motion was made by Councilmember Trainor to authorize the renewal of the Survey Monkey subscription. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Newton.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Rasmussen -	Absent
Councilmember Gordon -	Aye
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Newton -	Aye
Councilmember Trainor -	Aye

Councilmember Newton stated that since we are discussing the Survey Monkey, he had something he wanted to discuss. He stated that he has been approached by a couple of people about possibly reopening the Town Hall and he would like some input from the

employees about that. He stated that people have pointed out that County is open, why can't the Town be open.

Councilmember Newton stated that he knows it probably would have been handy during hunting season when there is a lot of effort put on the Clerk's office going back and forth so he would like some input from the Clerk. He stated that Cissy Hernandez from the Building Department is relatively open to this and so is Jeff Hattat, so this would mostly affect the Clerk's office.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that actually, out of all the office in the Town Hall, the Building Department is the office that is most by appointment only. She asked Councilmember Newton if he has checked in with them because that office would most likely have the biggest change.

Councilmember Newton stated that the way they have it set up is that if Cissy has people come, she will come outside if it is something that simple.

Councilmember Newton stated that he would like input in the next week or two from the offices. He stated that he had a discussion with the Deputy Town Clerk the other day and she is the one who told him, that yes, during hunting season, it would have been very helpful with not as much back and forth. Councilmember Newton stated that he remembers how busy they were going back and forth.

Town Clerk Robertson stated that as far as her office is concerned, she is open to whatever works best for the building and the overall good of the town. She stated that regardless of how they have had to provide service for the public, her office has not turned anyone away. She stated that she has even made special arrangements for people when necessary and she thinks that the Clerk's office has done a really good job at accommodating people's needs.

Councilmember Newton stated that a lot of that falls on them, he and Donnie Sears have worked on the door bell because there were issues with it not working at times.

Town Clerk Robertson stated that both her and her Deputy Town Clerk were on top of their emails, phones, etc. Town Clerk Robertson stated that she has not received any complaints to date that stated that we were not able to meet their needs. Town Clerk Robertson added that her office remained open even when we had to shut down by working remotely from home and making arrangements to meet people in order to meet their needs. Town Clerk Robertson stated that she didn't have a problem either way the town decides to go but that if we open back up, what will the COVID safety protocols and requirements be as far as screening, disinfecting, social distancing, etc. She stated that the extra work

created by all of this is time consuming and she wouldn't want it all falling on the Town Clerk's office.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she didn't think that we can unlock the door yet unless we have a 40 hour a week employee sitting there because people will not know that they need to be health screened, and that is a NYS requirement.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she thinks there are two options. One is that we hire a 40 hour a week employee to screen and direct people to the appropriate offices, which she doesn't think is really an option. The other option is keeping the door locked and letting people in which according to our safety plan, is fully allowed right now but the problem with that is the logistics of it. She continued to state that the time that the Town Clerk would take to screen someone into the building, disinfect afterwards and enter all of the information on the logs is actually longer than to issue a dog license. She stated that if it is a lengthier service like a marriage license, they can be let into the building but follow all of the screening, disinfecting and entry logs, etc. Supervisor Houghtling stated that there is nothing in the Town Safety Plan that states that offices can't let the public into the building. They can but they have to do the health screening, disinfecting after and complete the office entry log for contact tracing purposes. She stated that this creates a lot of extra office work for a quick transaction like garbage bags.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that we have started letting them in the front door into the entryway because we do not have to screen them in unless they pass that point, which seems to be working nicely.

Councilmember Newton stated that during hunting season they joked around about making a pass through at the Town Clerk's office window so that no one has to come inside, but that wasn't really a doable option.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she did check with some other towns today to see what they are doing at this point. She stated that there are a few that are not letting the public in, many are but the same kind of thing applies, they have to do the health screening and logging. She continued to state that some towns even said that if residents want to come in, they are letting them, but that it is so much easier to provide the curbside service as long as the individuals are not opposed to it.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that the offices that seem to have stuck with appointment only the most are the Building Department, Assessor and Tax Collector. She stated, that being said she doesn't think anyone is turning people away if they are there in the building. Supervisor Houghtling stated that she does think the bell being broken was probably the biggest issue with the front door being locked.

Councilmember Newton stated that if he had any idea that this would have lasted this long, he would have bought better masks and hardwired the bell.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that Councilmember Newton can follow-up with all of the offices in the Town Hall to get a general consensus and get back to the Town Board.

Town Clerk Robertson added that she is fine with what the majority decides, she just would ask that there is a plan in place for how in person will be handled.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she is waiting on the state to pull back on some of the safety screening and safety requirements. She stated that until the state says we don't have to do something, we will have to continue to do it.

CAC Grant Application Request Resolution:

Supervisor Houghtling, along with the rest of the Town Board agreed to waiving the reading of the following Resolution.

TOWN OF NEW LEBANON

RESOLUTION 18, 2021

CAC GRANT APPLICATION THROUGH THE HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM

MAY 11, 2021

At the regular monthly meeting of the New Lebanon Town Board, held at the Shatford Park Pavilion, 170 Old Post Road, New Lebanon, NY and via video and teleconference, duly called and held on the 11th day of May 2021, the following Resolution was proposed and seconded:

Resolution by Supervisor Houghtling

Seconded by Councilmember Gordon

CAC GRANT APPLICATION THROUGH THE HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the current Open Space Inventory (OSI) for the Town of New Lebanon dates from October 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Town of New Lebanon Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) prepared the OSI with a focus on the *Town of New Lebanon Comprehensive Plan* from 2005; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of New Lebanon approved the OSI as a town document on that basis; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board adopted the *2017 Natural Resource Conservation Plan for the Town of New Lebanon* (NRCP), as prepared by and recommended by the CAC, in December 2017; and

WHEREAS, the NRCP delved into greater depth than the OSI in evaluating the town's open spaces and created a series of 22 new maps of the town; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board in 2019 formed a committee to revise the 2005 Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan Update Committee has been meeting monthly since September 2019 and bimonthly during 2021 to take the steps necessary to revise the Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of New Lebanon is expected to approve a revised *Town of New Lebanon Comprehensive Plan* in late 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Hudson River Estuary Program of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation invites grant applications through the New York Grants Gateway before a deadline of June 2, 2021; and

WHEREAS, these grants made possible through the Environmental Conservation Fund would cover the costs for revising an existing OSI and creating a first-ever Open Space Index to be certified by the Town Board; and

WHEREAS, the minimum grant award would be \$10,000 over a two-year period and successful applicants not announced until November 2021; and

WHEREAS, contracts agreed on by the Town of New Lebanon would not likely be final until January 2022, one directly with an experienced consultant and another with the Hudson River Estuary Program to reimburse outlays with grant funds; and

WHEREAS, the revised Comprehensive Plan would be available by that time to help guide the process of revising the OSI and creating an Open Space Index.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of New Lebanon approves the grant application by the Town of New Lebanon through its CAC to the Hudson River Estuary Program of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation before the deadline of June 2, 2021.

Upon the question of the foregoing Resolution, the following Town Board Members voted "Aye" or "Nay" for said Resolution:

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Gordon	Yes
Councilmember Trainor	Yes
Supervisor Houghtling	Yes
Councilmember Rasmussen	Absent
Councilmember Newton	Yes

The Resolution, having been approved by a majority vote of the Town Board, was declared duly adopted by the Supervisor of the Town of New Lebanon.

Dated: May 11, 2021

Marcie Robertson

Town Clerk

Town of New Lebanon

Resignation from BEDC:

Supervisor Houghtling stated that we have a resignation from the Business, Economic & Development Committee. She stated that the person who is resigning from both the BEDC and the Ethics Board, it is not because they want to, it is because they got a new job which will not allow them to serve in these capacities for the town. She stated that unfortunately, Nina Keller is resigning from both the BEDC and the Ethics Board.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she did speak with Monte Wasch, BEDC Chair and we now have two vacancies on the BEDC and he would like us to go out for letters of interest. Supervisor Houghtling stated that if the Town Board is okay with it, instead of them interviewing if they get multiple applicants she would like to defer to Monte and the BEDC to do whatever interviewing process they deem necessary and make recommendations to the Town Board, similar to what they did with the CSC.

Councilmember Newton stated sure, he stated that they have done this before with the Comp Plan and they did a blind vote and it was very effective. He stated, absolutely they can just appoint per their recommendations.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Trainor and approved unanimously with the exception of Councilmember Rasmussen who is absent to accept the resignation from the BEDC from Nina Keller and to send out for letters of interest due June 4th, 2021 by 4:00PM to the Town Clerk's office, with Monte from the BEDC organizing any interviews necessary and making a recommendation to the Town Board for our Tuesday, June 8th, 2021 meeting.

Resignation from Ethics Board:

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Gordon and approved unanimously with the exception of Councilmember Rasmussen who is absent to accept Nina Keller's resignation from the Ethics Board and go out for letters of interest due to the Town Clerk's office by June 4th, 2021 at 4:00PM with interviews to be held by the Town Board on Tuesday, June 8th, 2021 starting at 5:30PM.

Resignation from NL Rep to CC Traffic Safety:

Supervisor Houghtling stated that Kevin Smith has resigned as our New Lebanon Representative to the Columbia County Traffic Safety Council. Supervisor Houghtling stated

that she did check with Ed Godfroy, because in the past, the Emergency Management and Traffic Safety has been held by the same person. Per Supervisor Houghtling, Ed Godfroy respectfully declined.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Trainor and approved unanimously with the exception of Councilmember Rasmussen who is absent to accept the resignation from Kevin Smith from the CC Traffic Safety Council and go out for letters of interest due by June 4th, 2021 at 4:00PM to the Town Clerk's office with interviews if needed to be held Tuesday, June 8th, 2021 starting at 5:30PM.

Councilmember Newton stated that he seconds the motion but he recommends that the letter of interest should have a description of what the position entails.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she will send Town Clerk Robertson the description of what the CC Traffic Safety Council position does.

Liquor License Renewal:

Supervisor Houghtling stated that we have a Liquor license renewal from Jimmy D's, the Town Board does not have to take any action. She stated that if the Town Board has any opposition to the Liquor License being renewed from Jimmy D's, they can take action, if not, they do nothing.

The Town Board had no opposition to the Liquor License renewal from Jimmy D's.

Lead Agency Coordination Request Letter – Amlaw Pit Mine Expansion:

Supervisor Houghtling stated that we have a request from the DEC to determine who is the lead agency for the Amlaw Pit Mine Expansion. She stated that in the past the town has deferred to DEC to be the lead agency as they have much more knowledge on mining permits. Supervisor Houghtling stated that she did receive a few emails from CAC members asking if it might make sense for the town to be the lead agency, the reason being that the Town Board may have more input this way. Supervisor Houghtling stated that the DEC is really open to the Town Board's local input but she doesn't feel that it makes sense for the Town to take on the extra-legal fees that are involved in the lead agency position.

Councilmember Newton stated that the other issues are with the Code Enforcement office and that they would have to be trained in mine specs, that was why they deferred to DEC in the last mine expansion.

Supervisor Houghtling addressed David Farren, CAC Chair and asked him if he is comfortable with her sending along the full application for the CAC to review and make any recommendations to send to DEC.

David Farren, CAC Chair stated that he agreed and wanted to point out that in the Natural Resource Conservation Plan (NRCP), it calls for gravel pits to continue as a natural resource in the town.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Trainor and approved unanimously with the exception of Councilmember Rasmussen who was absent to appoint DEC as the lead agency on the mining permit modification for the Amlaw Pit Mine Expansion

Request for Town Resolution Against Hate:

Supervisor Houghtling stated that we received a request for the Town Board to consider a resolution against hate. The Resolution that was sent to Supervisor Houghtling was adopted by the Town of Rosendale in Ulster County. Supervisor Houghtling used the same resolution and changed the Town to New Lebanon.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that Councilmember Gordon suggested adding in additional language to broaden the resolution to include economic status and political affiliation.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she agrees with the additional language suggested by Councilmember Gordon, if the rest of the Board agrees it will be added in.

The Town Board agreed to the additional language as suggested.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she had a conversation with a community member, and while they can't legislate people's thoughts or behaviors, she does think it's important for the Town Board to send a message and set an example that hatred and violence of any kind, is not something that the town tolerates and that acceptance and inclusion is something that they encourage. Supervisor Houghtling stated that she has heard from people who are of minority ethnicity, or different sexual orientations who either currently live here or have lived here in the past that aren't feeling safe in the Town of New Lebanon. Supervisor Houghtling stated that is a shame.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that this resolution is saying that the Town Board doesn't condone that behavior and that New Lebanon is and should be a community of inclusion.

Councilmember Gordon stated that she is against hate but it occurs to her that something like this could have the opposite of the intended effect, that if people feel that they are being controlled or that the Town Board is attempting to control them it could rebound in a negative way. She stated that she agrees with the person who said you can't legislate how people think or how they behave to a certain extent. She stated that she is conflicted on

this and that the Board should consider the possible down sides of passing something like this.

Councilmember Trainor stated that there may be a down side but he thinks that the up side is much stronger if the Town Board puts itself behind it.

**TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
RESOLUTION 19, 2021
RESOLUTION AGAINST HATE
MAY 11, 2021**

At the regular monthly meeting of the New Lebanon Town Board, held at the Shatford Park Pavilion, 170 Old Post Road, New Lebanon, NY and via video and teleconference, duly called and held on the 11th day of May 2021, the following Resolution was proposed and seconded:

Resolution by Supervisor Houghtling
Seconded by Councilmember Trainor

RESOLUTION AGAINST HATE

WHEREAS, recently as a nation we have witnessed record high violence based upon a person's religion, race, gender identities, sexual orientation, nationalities, economic status and political affiliation; and

WHEREAS, here in the United States communities that have been built with the guidance, assistance and leadership that is inclusive of peoples of all races, religions, nationalities, gender identities, sexual orientations, economic status and political affiliation are more successful; and

WHEREAS, the Town of New Lebanon Town Board continues to maintain that all people of our community have the right to feel safe and be treated equally and with respect and dignity regardless of their race, religion, nationality, gender identity, sexual orientation, economic status and political affiliation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of New Lebanon, on behalf of our community members, do hereby state that New Lebanon reaffirms our commitment to a status of inclusion for all races, religions, nationalities, gender identities, sexual orientations, economic statuses and political affiliations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on behalf of all residents of the Town of New Lebanon we maintain our position that violence of any kind is unacceptable and condemn any act of aggression, hostility or violence against any member of our community based upon race, religion, nationality, gender identity, sexual orientation, economic status or political affiliation.

Upon the question of the foregoing Resolution, the following Town Board Members voted "Aye" or "Nay" for said Resolution:

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Gordon	Aye
Councilmember Trainor	Aye
Supervisor Houghtling	Aye
Councilmember Rasmussen	Absent
Councilmember Newton	Aye

The Resolution, having been approved by a majority vote of the Town Board, was declared duly adopted by the Supervisor of the Town of New Lebanon.

Dated: May 11, 2021

Marcie Robertson

Town Clerk

Town of New Lebanon.

Request for Town Recommendation About Proposal to Name A Lake:

Supervisor Houghtling stated that they have received a proposal to name a lake.

Supervisor Houghtling asked Councilmember Newton if ever remembers doing this before?

Councilmember Newton responded that no he does not and that the lake they are about to discuss, he knows as Naked Pond.

Councilmember Trainor asked why Spiegelberg Lake rather than Spiegel, it is named after Mr. Spiegel.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she only has the information that she sent to the Town Board. She stated that it does say that NYS DEC already uses the name Spiegelberg Lake on their maps.

Councilmember Newton stated that it is not just on DEC's maps, he believes that he saw an old town map that uses that name as well.

Councilmember Trainor asked if the board has to approve that.

Supervisor Houghtling responded that they don't have to do anything. She stated that she actually wrote back to the individual requesting this and asked if they needed an official motion or resolution. He responded that they do not need an official resolution unless the Town Board feels they need one. A formal statement of support or lack of support would be sufficient.

Supervisor Houghtling asked the Town Board if anyone is opposed to the DEC naming the unnamed lake to match what it already is on the maps which is Spiegelberg Lake?

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Newton and approved unanimously with the exception of Councilmember Rasmussen who is absent to authorize the US Board on Geographic Names to name the proposed lake Spiegelberg Lake.

21/22 CHIPS Funding Allocations:

Supervisor Houghtling stated that this was already discussed in the budget amendment, the town is getting more CHIPS funding, bringing in another \$102,069 than budgeted for.

DCO Request for Fecal Stations in Park:

Supervisor Houghtling stated that they received a letter from Maggie Banker, DCO asking that we install two dog fecal stations in the park at either entrance with bags and a disposal container.

Councilmember Newton stated that a lot of people use the park as a dog park, very rarely does he see people actually pick up the dog feces. He stated that he has not had a chance to speak with Donnie Sears, Park Maintenance Supervisor and he feels he may be opposed to this.

The Town Board agreed to table this until Councilmember Newton has a chance to speak to Donnie regarding this suggestion.

Supervisor Houghtling asked Councilmember Newton to also reach out to Maggie Banker, DCO to update her with the status.

Estimates for Highway Furnace:

Councilmember Newton stated that we received two quotes for the furnace at the Highway Garage from Galusha HVAC, LLC. One is for \$7,716.34 for a Hiboy/Horz furnace and a Beckett burner and the other one is for \$8,057.62 for a Reznor oil fired unit heater.

Councilmember Newton stated that one is a little more expensive but there is not as much maintenance to it and he thinks there is added value in that.

Councilmember Newton stated that he thinks we have to see how this fits into our competitive bidding but he thinks we have to get two verbal quotes for the equipment purchase.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she doesn't think we have to do an actual RFP or bid notice but once they decide if they are going with the furnace or the unit heater, she thinks they need to reach out to one or two other contractors for written quotes.

Councilmember Newton asked if it is contractor or supply because we already have an hourly rate on the install.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that we already accepted the quote on the hourly rate for the install, so it will be just the equipment that they will need the additional quotes for.

Councilmember Newton stated that both he and the Highway Superintendent Winestock both recommend the unit heater as the best heating device for the Highway Garage. Councilmember Newton stated that we should act on this relatively quickly because the cost of goods is going up exponentially.

Supervisor Houghtling tasked Councilmember Newton to get one other quote on just the unit heater piece of equipment.

Councilmember Newton stated that he wouldn't include the equipment cost in the motion until they get a firm price from Galusha.

Supervisor Houghtling started to make a motion to authorize Councilmember Newton to work with Galusha HVAC, LLC to install a unit heater at the Highway Garage for an estimated installation cost of \$2,040.00 but then further discussion took place and the Town Board decided to strike the motion and to wait until the June meeting for up-to-date quotes.

COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS:

Assessor (Councilmember Rasmussen):

Councilmember Rasmussen was absent for the meeting but the Assessor had a report that Town Clerk Robertson will read.

Town Clerk Robertson read the following:

Tentative Roll is published and online, in the clerk's office and the assessor's office. Assessor is holding appointments by phone for anyone that feels they need to discuss their assessment. Grievance day is Wednesday May 26th from 4-8pm. It will be held in the meeting room and all covid protocols will be followed. Appointments are highly encouraged and can be made by calling the Assessor prior to May 26th.

I do not expect many due to the change in the market.

Kimberly Smith

Assessor

Town of New Lebanon

Building Department (Councilmember Rasmussen):

Supervisor Houghtling stated that there is no report.

Business & Economic Development (Councilmember Gordon):

Monte Wasch, BEDC Chair stated that they had their monthly meeting on May 3rd. He stated that they sent forward the slogans that the Town Board discussed at tonight's meeting.

They had a presentation from Mike Munsinger of M&M's Tap and Tavern on a new business proposition. When the OTB moved out, he thought of turning that into a banquet space but this changed with Covid. Now he wants to make it an axe-throwing facility. There are only 375 of them in the whole country, with 3 in Albany that are always booked. Great way to bring people into the town. There would be two targets in a lane, and there are three lanes planned plus a kid's lane with Velcro targets. He would also add two pool tables, a corn hole game, and dart lanes too. It would be Covid-friendly, with a pass-through to M&M's. The area would have an independent bar and food will be brought in from the restaurant only. Open only Thursday through Sunday and hopefully would add a league on Tuesday evenings, 4-10pm.

The BEDC has endorsed this plan. Monte spoke on behalf of the Planning Board as well and they saw no problem with the use, it is essentially the same use as the banquet hall.

CAC & Environmental Management & Climate Smart Task Force (Councilmember Gordon):

David Farren, CAC Chair stated that they were awarded free training and assistance on critical environmental areas by the Hudson River Estuary program who is contracted with Hudsonian, specifically Gretchan Stevens, and she is going to push forward and wants to start with us early to mid-June with a Zoom call. She would like to involve Supervisor Houghtling, Councilmember Gordon, Bruce Shenker, Steve Powers and Himself. David stated that he also suggested that she include the members of the CAC as well.

David stated that their other big project is Trees for Tribs. David stated that he has to come on the 16th to mark a perimeter with white flags so that Dig Safe NY can come within 10 days and testify that there are no underground utility lines. David asked that Donnie Sears, Park Maintenance Supervisor be informed as to what the white flags are there for and to please leave them until after Dig Safe NY has done what they need to do.

Trees for Tribs is coming on the 27th with a delivery and they plan to start digging the holes. They have promised to dig almost all of the holes, which is most of the labor and the CAC is lining up volunteers to help get 500 seedling trees and shrubs into the ground.

Supervisor Houghtling thanked the CAC for all of their hard work.

Supervisor Houghtling added to the CAC's report on the water testing through the Department of Health, all of the water testing has been completed. The NYS Department of Health has completed their well testing at twenty-one sites throughout town. She stated that David Farren, Peg Munves, Steve Winkley and herself are meeting with the DOH on

Thursday to discuss the results. She stated that all of the results are confidential as far as whose results they are, but they will have some assemblance as to if our water looks good, is healthy or if there are concerns. Supervisor Houghtling thanked everyone involved and stated that they should have a report for the June meeting.

Steve Powers, CSC Chair stated that The CSC has applied for the first \$5000 grant which we get for completing 4 Clean Energy Communities items. We also achieved the minimum number of signups (10) for the Community Solar program which entitles us for another \$5000 grant. I have submitted all the documentation required for that. NYSEG has simplified the signup process for community solar so you no longer need to provide your billing details and they will just credit the 10% reduction on your bill. That is in addition to a \$100 gift card for each resident who signs up and the \$100/residence donation to the town. So, I hope all those on the board who haven't signed up will do so now and I will call you to follow-up so we can get our solar panels on town hall!

The CSC has also approved a plan to recycle small alkaline, NiCad & Lithium-Ion batteries that are found in most of our homes via a company called the Big Green Box. They send out boxes that are Dimensions: 12.0"W X 11.0"L X 8.0"H and can hold 43lbs. We will collect them at Town Hall, the Post Office and possibly the High School and ship them back to the company which actually recycles them. We are asking the board to approve the purchase of 5 boxes at \$290 + shipping from the CSC previously approved budget.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Trainor and approved unanimously with the exception of Councilmember Rasmussen who is absent to authorize the CSC Task Force to move forward with the battery recycling program in New Lebanon using funding that is already in their budget line.

Councilmember Newton suggested putting battery recycling boxes in the businesses that sell batteries.

Steve Powers responded sure! He stated that each box will hold 43lbs.

In addition, we would like to organize a town electronics recycling day this summer in conjunction with the county. I spoke to them and they will accept it all as long as we coordinate in advance. The electronics are sent to a certified recycler in MA called ERI. Can we get approval for it without a specific date?

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Trainor and approved unanimously with the exception of Councilmember Rasmussen who is absent to authorize the CSC Task Force to coordinate an electronics recycling date in New Lebanon.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that Mary Young had a great idea about battery recycling at both of the schools. Supervisor Houghtling will connect Steve with Mr. Kourt, Superintendent, even if they don't put a box there, maybe they can collect the batteries and someone from the CAC can pick them up.

We held a cleanup at the EV Charging station site in April and according to Tistrya the station will be up and running by the end of the month. The CSC will handle the quarterly reporting to the DEC.

Supervisor Houghtling gave a huge thank you to the CSC for taking on the EV Charging station project. She stated that this is something that she started when she was the Town Clerk and it is a lot of work. She stated that the Town has put in a Building/Zoning permit to the Building Department for the installation. She continued to say that they do not need a driveway cut or permit because it is an existing driveway. She stated that she is working with the County now on the signage.

Supervisor Houghtling gave a huge thank you to Andy Sandstrom who volunteered his time and equipment to come and lay down the crusher run.

Our Repair Café subcommittee is looking into organizing a New Lebanon Repair Café sometime this summer possibly in conjunction with one of the town's outdoor musical programs.

The bike recycling program is in full swing and has refurbished and donated 14 bikes already this Spring with another 22 available. The Free store rack in front of Dollar General sees a lot of activity.

The Cornell students working on the climate vulnerability study for the town are in the final stages of their report and will hopefully be able to make it here next month to give a presentation in person.

Supervisor Houghtling mentioned that she thought Steve had a Facebook request. The research as to how the Facebook posting was approved is not complete yet so she is making a motion.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Newton and approved unanimously with the exception of Councilmember Rasmussen who is absent to add Peg Munves as an authorized poster to the Climate Smart Task Force Facebook page for the Town.

Supervisor Houghtling thanked Steve and Mark and the entire CSC Task Force for all of their excellent work.

Supervisor Houghtling reported that the County CSC Task Force has started meeting and that Steve Powers, Bruce Shenker and herself are on that Task Force. Mark Anthionsen is advising on the County Task Force like he does on the New Lebanon Task Force and they are excited by the great Task Force they have on the County level and how they can coordinate and collaborate between towns and task forces and the county to town levels.

Bruce Shenker, Environmental Management stated that the NRI training is next week, the 17th and the 19th, Town Clerk Robertson has already sent out the page for registering. If anyone is interested that is available.

Bruce stated that there are still 5 more days to nominate people for the Good Earth Keeping

Award, it closes on the 17th. If you are looking for forms, he can get them for you and they are available on the County website.

The County CSC Task Force had an actual meeting and they may have someone hired to be a full-time employee who will work with them as there is funding for that now. They are starting to come up with the proper actions that they can do right away. A lot of them involve programs to make people aware of actions they can take, including putting in an EV Charging Station on the County level. Bruce stated that a lot of the actions are the same as what they have done on the Town level but they are done at the County level. He stated that the Repair Café is on everybody's radar, it was brought up at the EMC meeting, if anyone knows anyone in town that is handy and can be useful, that would be helpful.

Bruce also mentioned that the Rail Trail, the Lovers Lane property is about ready and they hope to have a soft opening because of COVID but they planning on making that section of trail in town open. He stated that with the Town acquiring that property for free, he is very much optimistic in opening up a much larger piece starting at County Route 9 and going Northeast. Hopefully things will start to pick up with the County Rail Trail as well.

Fire, Law Enforcement & Emergency (Councilmembers Newton & Trainor):

Councilmember Trainor stated at their last meeting he and Councilmember Newton both attended and that Ed Godfroy, LVPA said that the LVPA was successful in their recruitment and they will make decisions on who they will accept in their organization. The LVPA was able to get rid of the truck that they wanted to and they have their new truck.

Councilmember Newton stated that in the process of downsizing their fleet, they got rid of a large rescue truck that carried power packs and air packs. They stepped down to a smaller truck that they bought from a neighboring company, almost everybody can drive it, it is 4-wheel drive, it is a little lighter of a truck and it is easier getting in and out of roads. He stated that they showed it to him, it has 14,000 miles on it and is in excellent shape.

Supervisor Houghtling thanked our LVPA and all of our volunteers.

Highway (Superintendent Winestock & Councilmembers Newton):

Councilmember Newton stated that there are no major updates. The Highway Department has been quite busy, Beacon Hill pretty much got a complete makeover top to bottom. He stated that Highway Superintendent Winestock and the Highway Department will now be concentrating on potholes and a lot of chip sealing coming up next week, starting the 17th.

Councilmember Newton stated that Highway Superintendent Winestock did promise him that at some point he will get the guardrail picked up off of Main Street. Councilmember Newton stated that he went up and looked at it the other day, it doesn't really seem like a safety hazard, just unsightly.

Councilmember Newton stated that if Highway Superintendent Winestock wants him to he

will change the lock on the Highway Garage door. He knows that the Highway Department has been flat out busy and the lock is partly his fault because they were not able to get the blanks for the lock that Councilmember Newton provided to him for the Highway Garage.

Historian & LVHS: (Councilmembers Trainor):

Historian:

Councilmember Trainor read the following report submitted by Bisty Sheffer-Winig, Town Historian:

**Historian's Report
April 14 – May 10, 2021**

Met with Glenn Fisher to talk about and share research information, web sites, and archival materials.

Participated in a Region 4 Association of Public Historians of NYS Zoom meeting

Participated in a Columbia County Historians group Zoom meeting.

- *Volunteered to be on the Columbia County Historical Mapping subcommittee.*
- *Appointed chair of the subcommittee.*

Continued research Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt's connections to the Lebanon Valley, particularly with Margaret and Charles Fairweather.

Recorded an interview with Rob Gelles for his WGXC-90.7 FM radio show, "Rob Around the County: Interviews and history about Columbia County." The interview was about Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt's ties to New Lebanon. I did the interview with Jennifer Allard, who has done extensive research on the Roosevelts. When the interview is posted, I will list the link on the historian's page on the town website.

On April 22, 2021, the New Lebanon District No. 8 School was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Upcoming events:

Meeting with Glenn Fisher

Zoom meeting with the Columbia County Historians group

Zoom meeting with the APHNYS Region 4 historians

Councilmember Newton asked Councilmember Trainor about the historic photos again. Councilmember Trainor stated that he did mention it and that they are planning on having some for Music in Park.

LVHS:

Councilmember Trainor stated that the LVHS had to cancel their last meeting due to inclement weather, they will try to organize one by the end of May.

Justice Court/Constable (Councilmember Trainor):

Councilmember Trainor stated that the only thing that had been mentioned was the need for a Deputy and that was filled at tonight's meeting.

Library (Councilmember Trainor):

Councilmember Trainor stated that Michelle Hoffman has taken over since Moriah Sears left. Michelle and Councilmember Trainor spoke and she will bring forward anything that she wishes the Town Board to discuss. There is a meeting of the Library Board on Thursday.

Buildings, Parks & Recreation (Councilmembers Newton):

Councilmember Newton stated that the one thing was they would like to go out to bid for fencing here at the park. They would also like to look into providing power to the new park mower shed.

Councilmember Newton stated that he was reached out to about the CSC Town Fix It Day, bring your stuff down to be repaired. He would like to get that lined up as soon as possible and have it at the Shatford Park Pavilion.

Supervisor Houghtling will put these items on the June meeting agenda and Councilmember Newton will come with specs on the fencing and what possibilities there are for the electric to the shed.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that about a year ago, Councilmember Gordon very graciously offered some raspberry bushes to be here in the park, it goes right along with the edible orchard that Kevin Smith started when he was on the Town Board.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she connected Councilmember Gordon with a local Girl Scout Troop that came and planted flowers in the park and have tried to be involved in the community and the town. She stated that originally the raspberry bushes were going to go along the stream out by the highway. Then Trees for Tribes came in and that was going to be their location, they gave Councilmember Newton and Donnie Sears, Park Maintenance Superintendent a detailed map of where the plantings were going to go.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that there were some lapses in communication and the raspberry bushes have been planted along the stream by the pavilion. There have been some concerns from some residents and some CAC members about this location. Supervisor Houghtling stated that she did also speak with Donnie Sears, Park Maintenance Superintendent who also has some concerns, one being a safety concern about falling into the stream. Supervisor Houghtling stated that there is a really nice location that she thinks everyone would like, but she feels that the one issue they need to be sensitive to are the nine- and ten-year-old girls who worked very hard on planting

these raspberry bushes and are very proud of their work.

Supervisor Houghtling read the following email that she received from the Girl Scout Troop Leader:

Hi Tistrya-

Here's a little background on our troop and the project at the park. I'm sorry I can't be at the meeting this evening!

New Lebanon Troop #1759 is made up of nine fourth graders, ages nine and ten.

The main goals of our troop are:

- 1). To help foster compassion, kindness and friendship.*
- 2). To guide the girls in discovering a sense agency and self-confidence.*
- 3). In the words of the Girl Scout pledge to serve our community and country, and to help people at all times.*

In February we began the Agent of Change Journey badge, which is a three part badge that requires the girls to learn about themselves as individuals, as working members of the group, and it requires that the troop identifies and addresses a problem in their own community. The troop identified hunger and lack of access to healthy food, as problems in our community. When our troop began three years ago, one of the girls had never eaten an orange. We spent months tasting new fruits at every meeting. The girls eat fruit voraciously now. They're hungry for fruits and vegetables, for nutrition. They know access to healthy food is a problem for kids in our community either because they don't have adequate food themselves, or because they see what's in their friends' lunch boxes at school. This problem is real to them.

As a collective the troop chose to address hunger through two projects. They planted over 200 hundred seedlings this spring, and are creating an educational pamphlet that will contain tips on how to grow a garden and healthy recipes. Both the seedlings and the pamphlets will be shared for free with our community members during the first weekend in June. Initially the troop hoped to create raised bed gardens at the playground in Shatford Park, so that children could eat a healthy snack while they play. The troop earned funds to buy their own hand tools, which they used to build birdhouses this winter. Although they hope to build raised beds at the playground in the future they decided as a group that project was a bit above their carpentry skills for now. We were directed to the raspberry project and the troop was excited to be able to provide raspberries to playground goers. The girls will be awarded a Bronze Award, the third highest award in Girl Scouts, (and highest award for their age) based on their community projects this spring.

As we planted berries on Saturday the girls talked about how excited they were to go to the park this fall and see kids eating what they planted. They talked about the muffins and cakes, pies and smoothies they would make with the berries. These raspberry plants have allowed a group of nine little girls to feel powerful, helpful, and connected to their community during a time when they might have felt powerless, and a profound sense of disconnection. Audrey Hepburn said "To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow." Planning this raspberry project, in the depths of winter during a pandemic via Zoom meetings in their PJs, was one of the things that kept these kids going through a tough time. They waited months to meet in-person so that they could do a nice thing for hungry kids in their community. They are proud of themselves. They set out to make a difference in their community and they did it. How many adults take the time to examine the needs of their community members and the follow through to make meaningful changes?

The health of the environment is important to this troop. (We've done projects with the CLC in the past). We're serious about upholding the principles of service to our community, and helping at all times. If it is decided that the raspberries will be ecologically detrimental to the park and need to be moved we would appreciate if the town/C.A.C. could attend one of our meetings and explain to the girls (gently and with regard to their feelings) why. We are hoping to help guide these girls into lifelong service to their community. We worry that if their raspberry project is vilified it will be a turn-off for life. Please handle New Lebanon Troop #1759 with care now, so that they will remain, as adults, the thoughtful, hard-working community members they are today. Thank you very much for your time,

*Schuyler and Liz
New Lebanon Leaders Troop #1759*

P.S. The girls noticed on Saturday that the watercress, mint, and Iris growing in the creek/culvert we planted along seem to be taking over the stream. They wonder if those plants are native or invasive. If the raspberries are moved they'll definitely have questions about those plants and whether they are healthy in that ecosystem.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she did also receive emails from two CAC members and she also received communication from David Farren, CAC Chair, that as an organization the CAC has not taken a stance on the raspberries being planted where they are.

Supervisor Houghtling read the following email:

I am sorry not to be able to be at the meeting tonight but I wanted to share some thoughts about the raspberry bushes in the park situation, I am a new CAC member and have been concerned in recent weeks as we plan for the Trees for Tribes project that there's no official process for including the CAC in the relation to planting in the park. This is frankly surprising to me and might have prevented this difficulty. In relation to the current situation it is clear that whatever process and communication there is about the park between the Town Board and the CAC has broken down. As a result there are a bunch plants in a place that is not good for either the plant or the humans who use the pavilion or the playground or who are imagined as the potential raspberry pickers. Happily it is a big park, the plants can survive another transplanting and there are other more appropriate places for the bushes in the park. Of course the girls will be disappointed but that disappointment should not be the reason to make a wrongheaded decision going forward. Grownups made some mistakes, grownups didn't communicate well and the girls did not only replant the raspberries but help plant and maintain the Trees for Tribes all along the Wyomanock, including where the raspberry bushes were going to be. I hope everyone learns from this experience and puts in a better system for managing park planting.

Supervisor Houghtling read the following email:

To the Town Supervisor and Board

The CAC would like the raspberries moved. We are sorry about the miscommunication and any disappointment this is causing. We would also love to have the Girl Scouts help with Trees for Tribes where they can adopt many trees and plant and care for them for many years.

Tistrya had two concerned residents come by to ask that nothing be planted along the stream by the playground. One said they watch their children from the pavilion and plantings may block their sight line. Many pick the watercress from there

Donnie Sears who manages the park has expressly asked us to please HOLD the raspberry planting for now and we agree. We thought it was being held off, as Tistrya had emailed Deb, and apparently that message wasn't seen or received which is unfortunate.

For the CAC, there are many reasons that we want the raspberries removed -- the children's safety, visibility, and maintenance of the area, among other things.

*The suckering nature of **raspberry** plants means that **if** left unpruned **they** become very congested, produce small fruits, and outgrow their allocated space. The planting site needs rich and well-drained soil, great air circulation, and shelter from wind. **Avoid a wet area**, as well as a windy spot, as raspberries do not like to stand in water nor totally dry out.*

Raspberries yield nice fruit for a few weeks but become impassable and are thorny and hard to navigate. They spread fast as well. The park space in an active area is NOT a good spot for thorny fruit canes.

T4T and CAC will be monitoring the area over the next few months as part of our project in Shatford Park, and to assess if any flood mitigation will be needed in that area - the area in question has ALWAYS been on the T4T radar and to my knowledge there are no concrete plans yet and the CAC is sensitive to the Town's enjoyment and safety of that tributary.

*THANKS so much,
Peg Munves for CAC*

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she did also receive an email from a community member but she didn't read that into the minutes. Supervisor Houghtling stated that this community member is concerned because they feel that tributary there is a really unique ecosystem and putting in raspberries which are not native to that area would create potential ecological effects to the watercress and other things that grow there.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she wanted to point out that the raspberry plantings were approved by this Town Board before Trees for Tribes existed, so the idea that that's Trees for Tribes location, already the raspberry bushes which were going to go over there, kind of deferred to Trees for Tribes going over there. Supervisor Houghtling stated that although she thinks they should consider everything, she doesn't think the argument can

be that's the CAC's spot because already Councilmember Gordon moved the location. Supervisor Houghtling stated that there was miscommunication and she apologized that she didn't pick up the phone and call Councilmember Gordon because she thinks this conversation would be an easy one if they weren't already planted. Supervisor Houghtling stated that she is not sure of the best path forwards and deferred to Councilmember Newton first, as the park maintenance liaison because he was the person who was to coordinate with Councilmember Gordon on the raspberry planting and coordinate with Trees for Tribes.

Councilmember Newton stated that Donnie Sears, Park Maintenance Superintendent had expressed some concerns about maintenance there, he does wait until certain times of the year to clean up that little stream, there is not a lot of water there those times. He stated that people do come and harvest the watercress there regularly. He stated that honestly, it is not a great spot for raspberries but that he is fine with it either way. He stated that if the Girl Scouts do want to come back, he would be volunteer to put up some posts and wire so that they can actually be trained and easily maintained. He stated that at some point he would like the contact for the Troop leader, the store donates seeds at the end of every season and he would like to donate a bunch of seeds for the community garden that the Girl Scouts are interested in doing.

Councilmember Newton stated that the location is also where they had talked about putting in the slab for the skate park, but he stated again that he is fine either way.

Councilmember Gordon stated that she finds this all mystifying, the raspberries are not like a force that is going to change the environment. She stated that she found the fears of the people who spoke out against it to be, uh, she didn't understand them. Councilmember Gordon stated that she also found that when they went to plant them the soil is clay, which she didn't know before they went there and clay soil is not hospitable, particularly for raspberries, so the likelihood of them thriving there is in question. Councilmember Gordon stated that her experience with the raspberries is that they are unstoppable, that they will grow anywhere and she thought that would be a good thing for the Town, they would require minimal maintenance and they would just grow.

Councilmember Gordon stated that she doesn't understand the objection and she thinks the whole process of involving another two generations of people in volunteerism, not just kids, which is extraordinarily important, but also the parents of those kids is something that we should be grateful for. She stated that she has looked at the objections to planting them along the creek and frankly she doesn't understand them. She stated that she has gone on line and looked up growing raspberries and she doesn't see the problem. She continued to say that she also doesn't see the problem that if the Town decides that is it a bad idea to grow raspberries there, to just mow them down. It is not a huge investment either way.

Councilmember Trainor stated that he hasn't seen them and he just learned of this tonight. No decision yet on his part, lets table this.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she doesn't think they should mow them down because she thinks that would be devastating to the Girl Scouts, she thinks the options are to leave them where they stand or to move them. She thinks there is a great spot that Councilmember Newton, Donnie Sears, Park Maintenance Superintendent and herself all agreed that was a great spot that is still next to the playground.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she thinks maybe the CAC members who have concerns, have a conversation with the Girl Scouts and if they can get everyone on board that it is not a horrible thing for them to get moved and the CAC is willing to do the labor, she doesn't think they can put that on the Girl Scouts, that it could be a win, win. The raspberries get to a better location, the Girl Scouts understand why they are being moved and the CAC does the work in moving them. She stated that she doesn't want to make that decision until they know they can get to that balance. Supervisor Houghtling asked if everyone would be okay with her connecting those two entities as a starting point, the Girl Scout Troop leaders and the CAC members who have objections and see if they can't find the win, win situation.

There were no objects to Supervisor Houghtling taking these actions.

Seniors (Councilmember Gordon):

Supervisor Houghtling commented to Councilmember Gordon that we have Mary Young here, who is one of their senior reps, would she like her to present any updates for the seniors.

Councilmember Gordon responded absolutely.

Mary Young, NL Rep for Office of the Aging read the following report:

The meeting was held on 4/16/21 via Zoom with 20 people in attendance.

Kevin from the office reported that they are working to reopen sites in May, locations and dates to be announced via the Web site, the new Facebook page and newspapers.

The HEAP program has been extended into August as of this morning. This program will assist to pay for utilities and the Social Services department will help with home repairs. Applications are available from your fuel/utility provider.

Vaccine program continues in the County and there is a new call center to assist residents that do not have computer access or are unable to get to their appointment, that number is 518-697-5560. Home bound residents can also make appointments for the vaccine to be brought to them via this group.

The Office of the Aging has a new Facebook page which has information that people may be interested in and hopefully young people will see this site and assist their family members who may

not have access to this information. To access the page, look at Columbia County Office for the Aging.

Meals on Wheels have increased the number of meals delivered to County residents both hot and frozen meals are available, to start call the Office. Drivers are also needed to assist in the delivery. 518-828-4258

The State has started a new program to assist people who have family who died from COVID with funeral costs. Families should contact their funeral director for the forms.

New York Connects has a variety of funding programs to assist people that have had hardships due to COVID, contact their office.

More scams are being reported about people asking for money, gift cards and information including Medicare numbers and Social Security numbers. Residents are reminded to not give out information to people who they do not know or calls not made to the company by you.

There is a public transportation survey online to assist to develop more transportation within the County. The Office will contact the group doing the survey and try to have it sent to County residents in another way since most people who would benefit from additional services may not have computer access. To take advantage of County transportation services now available for residents 60 and over call 518-567-3677 to make an appointment.

The OFA Newsletter has been mailed and has many articles of interest to County residents, including how to file a grievance regarding your property. If you did not receive the newsletter and would like to: contact the Office of the Aging at 518-828-4258 or an email at OFA@columbiacountyny.com.

The next meeting will be the 3rd Friday in May at 1pm.

Submitted by Mary Young, New Lebanon rep. for OFA

Volunteers (Councilmember Rasmussen):

Councilmember Rasmussen is absent, but Supervisor Houghtling stated that she utilized the volunteer spreadsheet again and it was very successful.

If anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact Councilmember Rasmussen at: nrasmussen@townofnewlebanon.com.

Comparison Committee (Councilmember Rasmussen & Gordon):

Councilmember Gordon thanked Supervisor Houghtling for connecting them to the people that they needed to be connected to but because Councilmember Rasmussen is not available, they haven't set up meetings yet but they will as soon as he is.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

JUNE:

Tuesday, June 8th^h at 5:30 pm – Special Meeting (Interviews) at the Shatford Park

Pavilion (weather permitting)

Tuesday, June 8th^h at 7:00 pm – Regular Meeting at the Shatford Park Pavilion (weather permitting)

Supervisor Houghtling stated that it was really cold at the meeting tonight and they talked about moving the meeting to the firehouse but there wasn't time to notice the public. Supervisor Houghtling asked Attorney Tingley about changing locations.

Attorney Tingley responded that they should advertise the meetings as one of the two locations and in the event that the location is changed due to inclement weather that they delay the start of the meeting by fifteen minutes to allow people to have time to get to the firehouse.

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, seconded by Councilmember Newton and approved unanimously with the exception of Councilmember Rasmussen who is absent that the Town Clerk advertises properly that all Town Board meetings are to be held at the Shatford Park Pavilion, weather dependent and to be moved to the LVPA if weather is not cooperating with the start of that meeting to be delayed fifteen minutes to allow people to get there and with us advertising the change as soon as possible when they make that determination until further notice.

Mary Young commented to Supervisor Houghtling to make sure that the LVPA knows this because they are going to start training to avoid a possible conflict.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Supervisor Houghtling mentioned to the public in attendance that they are welcome to stay once they enter into executive session, they may be making a decision afterwards but if anyone stays, the board will have to move to behind the pavilion to be in private.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

In addition to an in-person privilege of the floor, Supervisor Houghtling will read all comments, questions and concerns emailed to supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com during the meeting. Supervisor Houghtling stated she has not received any emails from anyone online.

David Farren stated that he wanted to mention for anyone who didn't know that Jack Yurish, former member of the board passed away on Thursday and his funeral is tomorrow at St. James in Chatham, NY.

Mary Young commented that the schools have those signs for the dogs and it was a waste of time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling to enter into an executive session at 9:25pm to discuss proposed, pending or current litigation and to invite Attorney Tingley into executive sessions with the Town Board. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Trainor.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Gordon -	Aye
Councilmember Trainor -	Aye
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Newton -	Aye
Councilmember Rasmussen-	Absent

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling to exit the executive session at 10:00pm. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Newton.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Gordon -	Aye
Councilmember Trainor -	Aye
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Newton -	Aye
Councilmember Rasmussen-	Absent

Supervisor Houghtling asked Attorney Tingley to put a proposed resolution on the floor.

Attorney Tingley stated that the resolution that is presented before the Town Board tonight is as follows:

Motion to authorize the Attorney for the Town to settle *Matter of Robert Licul v. Assessor of the Town of New Lebanon, the Board of Assessment Review of the Town of New Lebanon, and the Town of New Lebanon* (Index No. E012020015916) on the following terms:

- The assessed value on the 2020 Assessment Roll for property identified as Tax Map Parcel No. 9.-1-59.12 shall be reduced from \$207,500 to \$185,500
- The assessed value on the 2020 Assessment Roll for property identified as Tax Map Parcel No. 9.-1-25 shall be reduced from \$750,000 to \$647,500
- The terms of Real Property Tax Law 727 shall apply to such settlement, without modification.

Supervisor asked if she had a motion on that resolution?

Councilmember Trainor stated so moved. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Newton.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Gordon -	Aye
Councilmember Trainer -	Aye
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Newton -	Aye
Councilmember Rasmussen-	Absent

Supervisor Houghtling thanked Attorney Tingley for his time.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 pm. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Trainor.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Gordon -	Aye
Councilmember Trainer -	Aye
Supervisor Houghtling -	Aye
Councilmember Newton -	Aye
Councilmember Rasmussen-	Absent

Respectfully submitted,

Marcie Robertson
New Lebanon Town Clerk