

Assessor

The Board of Assessment Review has finished deliberations and only had a couple of Assessment changes. Notices were sent to all.

- Although, there were many questions prior to grievance day regarding the assessment changes, most people understood the process.
- Those changes have been recorded on the Tentative Roll and we be seen on the Final Roll.
- The Final Roll file has been sent to the county to be processed and printed.
- Final Roll will be available to view on July 1 st
- New Lebanon was set to have an equalization rate of about 74% down from 90% last year. With the changes that were made to all assessments we were able to hold the Equalization Rate at 90%. This has been officially confirmed by the STATE!
- The equalization rate is the overall level of assessment. Much goes into the determination of the rate but a large portion of it is determined by reviewing the ratio of Assessments to Sales prices and the ratio of the state's Model as compared to the assessments.
- I urge everyone to always check the Tentative Roll for your full value. Just because your assessment does not change, that doesn't mean your full value hasn't changed. If the level of assessment is lower than 100% your full value is actually higher than your assessment.
- Through this year's process it became really clear to me that people didn't understand this. In the future, I feel it is in the taxpayer's best interest to keep the assessments at 100%. This is easier to understand. It also makes the Assessments more transparent.

Building Department – No Report

Business & Economic Development

Working with our colleagues on the CAC, we have negotiated a draft agreement with Lamont Engineers to perform research services on the viability of a potential municipal wastewater system for the Town and submitted it to the Town for review by our attorney. Pending that review, we ask the Board to enter into the agreement, which contains a contingency for grant funding. We also ask the Board to commit to submitting Consolidated Funding Applications in the current cycle for research into municipal water and wastewater projects. Lamont Engineers advises that the nature of the grant funding available is such that the water research could come at no extra expense to the Town when coupled with wastewater research.

CAC, Climate Smart & Environmental Management

CAC:

Update on DWSP2

DEC approval status: We are working with M. Theresa Julien, the new Source Water Protection Specialist at the NYRural Water Assoc., to achieve the goals the DEC wants to see for their approval of our plan. We are working on a timeline, testing plan, and outreach/education about protecting water sources. Doing these things will also help us give the NL Town Board an idea

of what the plan is and get approval as well. Once DEC approves, the town will be eligible for grant monies -- our hope is we can at least get a grant to continue water testing in the future.

Water testing to date: Our initial testing is supporting the Waste Water feasibility study grant and we will test many folks on the Rte 22/20 corridor and adjacent streets; all results are sent to Peg only and Peg will share with the residents. Note: this is a change from the original plan of the lab sending results to each property owner (there was a glitch in the system and for our initial testing run to make sure we are doing things correctly, all confidential/no names or address results were accidentally sent by the lab to one property owner so we decided it is best for Peg to simply get everything and reach out to property owners); ALL TESTS are confidential and anyone wanting more information can contact me and I will reach out to property owner; we are also supporting a Citizen Science project and sharing results confidentially with the NYSDOH; for the grant application for the feasibility study aggregate results will be used

T4T Update

We are once again prepping and placing educational signage about the project for the public to read; plants made it through another winter pretty well and we are making sure they are in good shape. Volunteers Doug Godley and Bill O'Neill and I are weeding and pulling caterpillars and mulching and watering; huge thanks to Cassidy Lancelin for providing free mulch to the town. The erosion however continues unabated and we are looking into other options for the town to consider like rocks, etc.

CAC sponsored Summer Camp Program update

Bob Gilson is working with CLC, and with Robert the Camp Director, on a program on streams and stream exploration, and the importance of water protection - details are in process at this time. We will share more when dates are set etc. We decided to shift gears from years past and continue to make water our main educational focus at this time.

Joint BEDC/CAC Waste Water treatment feasibility study

Contract with Lamont engineering for feasibility study has sent to TB for lawyer to look at, testing and testing plans. Testing will be scheduled so that we can do many in one day and bring the tests, that are on ice, to the lab in appropriate time.

CEA Filing update

This is now being done; something fell through the cracks and not just with NL. Marcie is taking care of it and working with Bruce Shenker and Ingrid Haekel at DEC

PFAS & Environmental Advocates of NY and continuing ed update

Donald Lamonaca continues to attend these regular meetings and informs us of needed letter writing or calling

Several CAC members attended a Hudsonia sponsored: May 15 "Planning for Nature in Your Communities" -- New Lebanon was used as a model for other towns to follow!

Hazard Mitigation Plan

in discussion

Open Space Inventory - deadline 2025 for Comp Plan committee

NOTE: Next meeting: July 12, 2023 (Note change of date)

CSC:

CSC Update June 13, 2023

The solar panels are on schedule to be installed at the end of July. There will be 50 panels installed on the court building roofs and some on the south facing roof of the old building. The panels are projected to generate 22,315.00 kWh of electricity every year offsetting 89% of the annual usage of both the Town Hall and the Garage. The entire cost will be covered by a grant from NYSERDA. Our battery recycling program had a successful entry into the Jr/Sr HS. A competition was held and the 7th & 8th graders won a cupcake reward by collecting 189 batteries with a total of 499 old batteries collected by all the students. They will be sent for recycling ASAP. We welcome Cornell grad student Michelle Parks who is working with Steve and Marc to file the completed CSC actions on the CSC website to help us achieve the Silver level. Plastic recycling seems to have caught on and already, this month, there are 6 big bags of plastic bags that residents have deposited in the box in the entry way waiting to be transported to the Chatham Price Chopper. We continue to pursue funding options for an underground water tank for the new fire house. CSC Chair Steve Powers has an upcoming meeting with NY State Rep. Didi Barrett's staff. At the last Town Board Meeting, Supervisor Houghtling asked the CSC to evaluate neighboring EV chargers to see what they charge in preparation for New Lebanon having to charge starting July 1. CSC Advisor Marc Anthonisen and our Cornell related intern, Morgan Brenner took on the task. We thank them for their hard work.

EMC:

Much discussion of fast charging station for the county. Locations identified based on traffic and available grid. New Lebanon 20/22 corridor one area under consideration.

Discussion of a combined EMC /County Climate Smart Website that would have pages for various topics as well as becoming the go to place for resources including a calendar for all relevant environmental events in the county.

The Greenport Transfer Station's ECORICH Food Composting Digester recycles food waste on site. It was implemented by Columbia County as a food waste scrap program to assist residents and community in reducing the waste taken to the landfill. A demonstration took place in April on how the digester

functions. Acceptable and unacceptable types of materials were identified. Members commented on the need for more promotion and publicity.

Water sampling is ongoing at the Lebanon Springs public drinking location. It is a critical environmental area.

Sarah Crowell spoke about available grant opportunities and shared information on the New York State Regional Economic Development Councils Available Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) 2023 Resources Guide. See a copy of this guide attached separately as a pdf.

Fire, Law Enforcement, Emergency- No Report

Highway- No Report

Historian & LVHS

Historian:

I met with Glenn Fisher and we conducted research together on finding a marriage certificate for a couple married in New Lebanon in 1936. We were successful in our quest. Glenn and I also talked about our current research projects.

I responded to several inquiries both voice mail and email:

- A former resident wanted information on the Ski Lodge and skiing area in West Lebanon Center;
- A request for information on the West Lebanon Cemetery (Methodist Cemetery) specifically on a Revolutionary War veteran and a relative's burying place.
- A resident of Pittsfield, MA requested mailing information for the LVHS in order to send documents regarding the Pillars Restaurant.
- A frequent visitor to the warm springs and I had an interesting phone conversation regarding the inaccessibility of the water of the Lebanon Springs and her concern regarding preserving the vital waters of our land.

LVHS: No report

Justice Court- No Report

Library

New Lebanon Library News:

The New Lebanon Library's Summer Reading Program begins on June 26th and runs through August 15th. Programs for all ages will be held throughout the summer, reflecting this year's Collaborative Summer Library Program theme: "All Together Now." To encourage reading over the summer, children can receive weekly prizes for meeting a reading goal of 15 minutes per day on their reading log. Each time they visit the library, they also receive a raffle ticket. Teens and adults can earn a raffle ticket for each book they read. Grand prizes will be drawn at the end of the summer program.

Our kick-off event will be held on Monday, June 26th at 1:30 PM. Children and teens can make a tie-dye bucket hat, and participants of all ages can sign up for the program and pick up a reading log. Other programs will include domino-run building, friendship bracelets, painting, game days, an interactive movie night, and a family trivia contest. Please visit our website (www.newlebanonlibrary.org) for program dates and details.

Buildings, Parks & Recreation

REC COMMISSION:

The Rec Commission held a meeting, but I was the only attendee, lots of busy people this month.

We had a great Community Walk at Hand Hollow, a group of 10 met on Sunday, May 28th and walked through the park for about 90 minutes. Our next walk is on the Old Post Road end of the Rail trail on June 11, also at 10:30. There's also a July 3rd 10:30 walk starting at the Darrow end of the Shaker Swamp which will be led by someone from the Swamp Conservancy.

We now have a nice bunch of about 15 people who've asked to be reminded about each walk.

We were hoping to have a kayak/canoe paddling meetup at Queechy Lake, it was going to be led by Joanna Ezinga in August. That may have to wait for next year.

On June 10th, we're having our 2nd Newcomers gathering at Roaring 20's. We're providing snacks. There will be a second one on September 9th at R20. I've discussed (with their manager) holding next year's events at Woodlife. We're expecting a much larger crowd this time, I've had over 20 very enthusiastic RSVPs. We'll have library card applications and Voter Registration forms. Some local businesses including Darrow School will also drop by to meet people. Here's hoping for no rain and less smoke!

We're on track for MITP and the Community Picnic. We've arranged for most of the picnic food to be donated from Hannaford's.

BUILDINGS:

No report

PARKS:

No report

Seniors

Office of the Aging:

Senior survey was discussed, and the results of the State survey were distributed. Results specific to Columbia County will be sent to the Office of the Aging in the future. Once these results are received the office will expand on them and send out an additional survey.

HEAP program has closed for the 2022-2023 heating season except for emergency needs. If

seniors need help with electricity bills, they are to contact the Office of the Aging. The Senior Picnic is scheduled for September 14 th at the Stuyvesant Falls VFW, details to be announced. The State Ombudsman program has added another section called the Family Empowerment Program. The program will work with families in the community as well as nursing homes to assist them in needs met. The kitchen Coordinator spoke about the nutrition program (Meals on Wheels) provided by the County Office of the Aging. She reviewed the meal planning, packaging and distribution taking place since the Pandemic. She thanked the Broad Street Bagel company for giving bagels to the nutrition program from Nov, through April, and cookies for holidays. Soup and sandwiches will be served every other week through the summer.

Traffic Safety

In addition to the written report below, please see graphs at the end of this document

Traffic speed sign: Attached is the report from the speed sign which is placed on Main Street in the Springs. The sign reads the speeds without any display. The new speed is 30 miles per hour, the speed signs have yet to be placed but as you can see the speed of most residents remains less than 45 miles. The sign will be moved to Rt 20 beyond the elementary school to track the traffic going west.

Traffic Safety Committee:

Most of the work being done in the County this summer will be in the southern section. County 5 south in Canaan will be resurfaced starting about June 22. The Governor Traffic Safety Grants have been applied for by the County, Hudson Police, and the Town of Chatham. Applications were made for Child Safety Seats, Overtime for Officers to monitor traffic. The County has applied for 2 traffic speed trailers which will also track license plates, they will be available to be borrowed by Towns. Chatham police have also applied for Child Safety Seat grants and another Traffic Speed trailer. A reminder to all trucks that yellow and green lights are for State, County and Town vehicles only.

Volunteers- No Report

Quality of Life- No report

Comp Plan Update- No Report

See chart at end of this document

County Update-

The County has passed a local law granting tax exemptions for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers. The goal is to have all the town's and school districts in the

county adopt the same exemptions as the county for our volunteer service workers. I will be bringing a draft local law in front of the town board for considerations in the coming months. The local law should be adopted by December of 2023 for the exemptions to be effective in starting 2025.

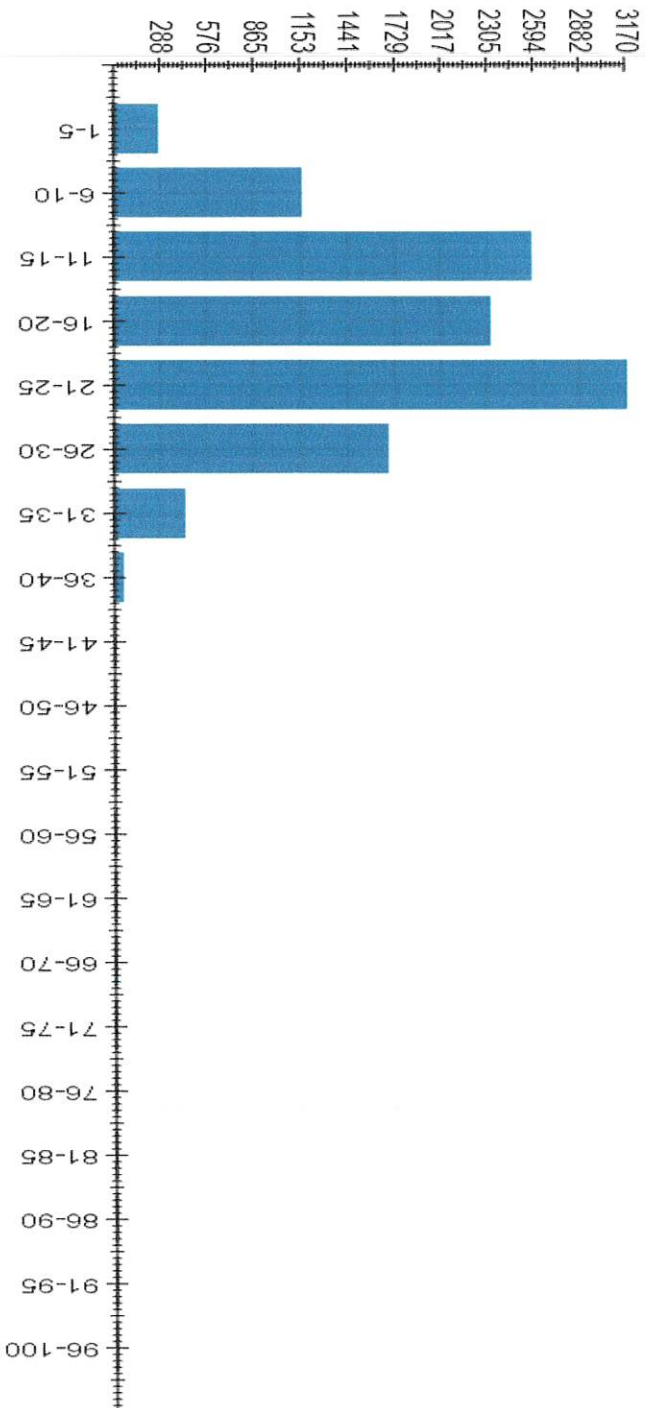
Count by Speed Range Report

Report period: 2023-04-25 to 2023-06-07

Location: 24 Main Street

Count By Speed Range

Speed (mph)	Count
1-5	274
6-10	1159
11-15	2583
16-20	2318
21-25	3170
26-30	1681
31-35	432
36-40	51
41-45	7
46-50	3
51-55	0
56-60	0
61-65	0
66-70	0
71-75	0
76-80	0
81-85	0
86-90	0
91-95	0
96-100	0
Total	11678



■ COUNT

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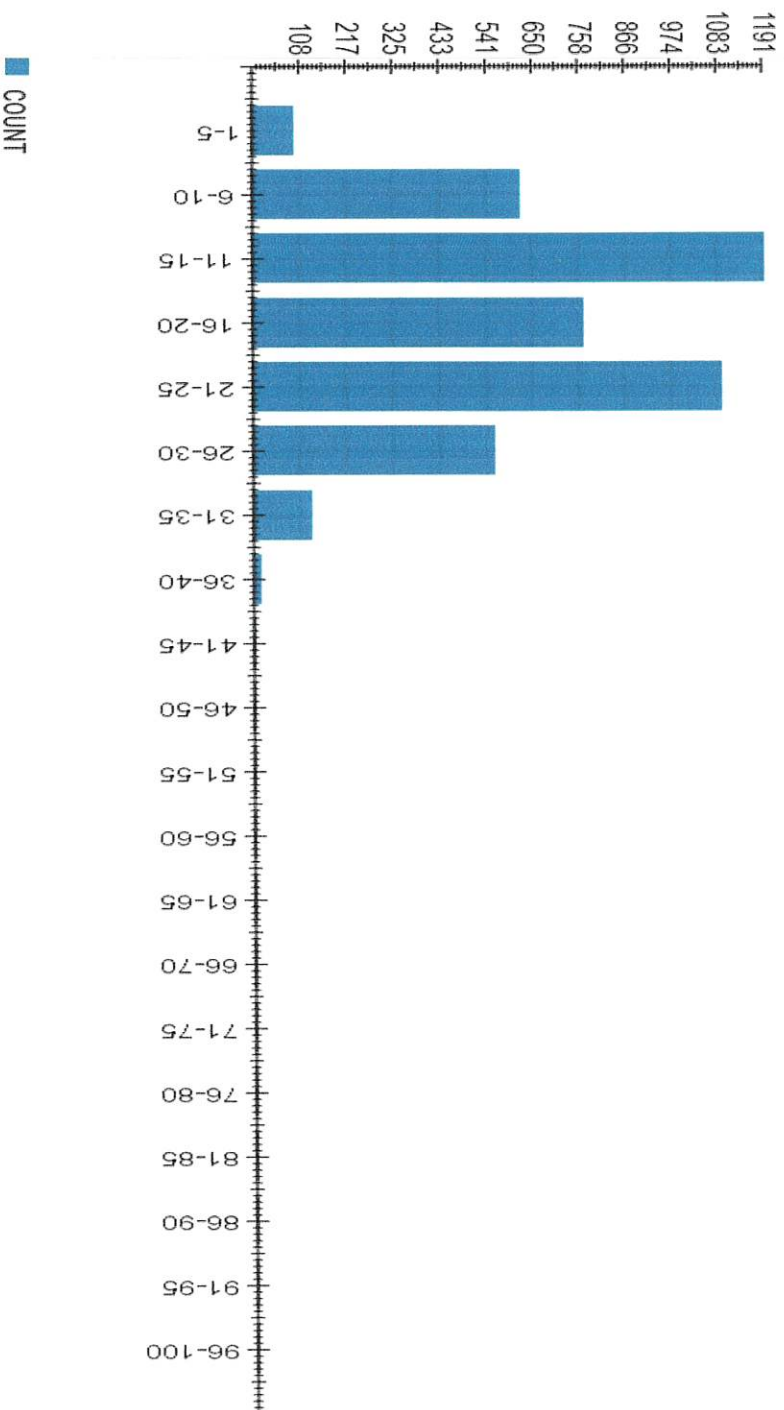
Count by Speed Range Report

Report period: 2023-04-25 to 2023-05-09

Location: 24 Main Street
Address: 24 Main Street New Lebanon, New York

Count By Speed Range

Speed (mph)	Count
1-5	96
6-10	621
11-15	1191
16-20	770
21-25	1094
26-30	558
31-35	134
36-40	16
41-45	3
46-50	0
51-55	0
56-60	0
61-65	0
66-70	0
71-75	0
76-80	0
81-85	0
86-90	0
91-95	0
96-100	0
Total	4483



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