

**Conservation Advisory Council, Town of New Lebanon, Town Hall**  
**April 10, 2023**

**Present:** CAC members: Tyler Fogg, Bob Gilson, Donald Lamonaca, Peg Munves, Bruce Shenker: TB Advisor  
Deborah Gordon

The meeting was called to order at 6:39 P.M. The minutes for the February 13 meeting were approved as amended. (There was no March meeting held)

**Water and Water Testing:** The Town Board has approved \$30,000 of ARPA funding for water testing. Donald and Peg will be working on this project. The initial water tests will focus on coliform and E.coli along the Business corridor to support the joint CAC and BEDC Committee efforts to explore the possibility of developing a wastewater treatment system for the town's business district. The hope is to test as many wells as possible and to see if these show a need-basis for wastewater. The town has approved the Drinking Water Source Protection plan. The CAC needs to develop a script to speak with residents about the need for water testing, as well as an education program. Tyler Fogg said that he would work on writing a brochure that could be distributed to churches, the seniors, etc. to help educate people about water issues in town. Immediately following this meeting, the CAC learned that the high school has installed a PFAS mitigation system. We are not aware of what the current contamination levels are.

Deb Gordon said that four engineering firms have attended a meeting with the Town and likely will provide letters of interest as potential vendors to do the wastewater study. She said that an RFQ/RFP had been sent out and that potential vendors were to submit quotes by April 13. The questions are: What will the costs be to business owners and residents along the Route 20/22 corridor? What costs might there be to the town if nothing is done? The study will have to show a need, and if there is a need, the town will have to look for funding to help underwrite the expenses of the project.

Deb said that there have been issues with the Springs – that the water is “impure.” The owner of the Springs is concerned about being sued and has turned off the water. The Department of Health wants to shut the Springs down. This will be problematic for residents of the neighborhood who depend on it for water – they would have to drill individual wells. Deb said that she has installed an ultra-violet purification system, and that she has not had any problems.

**Zoning Re-write:** Steve Powers has been working on creating a solar overlay that will identify where solar arrays might be located in the township. **Donald has been working on telecommunications issues.** The zoning re-write committee has also been looking into hiring a lawyer who specializes in telecommunications.

**Critical Environmental Areas:** It has been suggested that we look into defining the town's aquifer as a critical environmental area. Given all of the dwellings in close proximity to the Shaker Swamp, as well as the Route 20/22 corridor, protecting the aquifer will potentially be staggeringly complex. Peg and Bruce have set up a May meeting with Gretchen Stevens of Hudsonia for advice.

**Open Space Inventory:** We are scheduled to redo the open space inventory by 2025. Peg suggested that the Tax Maps will be an excellent place to start. We can also refer to the past Open Space Inventory as a starting point.

**Trees for Tribes:** Everything wintered over and is doing well. There are still about 25 trees to plant.

**Corkscrew Rail Trail:** Bruce that he and Steve have walked to the old railroad bed and are speaking to landowners about access. He said that the owners of Suburban Propane seem open to the idea.

**Facebook/Instagram:** Tyler Fogg and his wife have been looking into using Facebook to help educate the public about the CAC's efforts. It was suggested that we coordinate with the CSC so that the town does not have too many different social media sites. Bob noted that if one posts on Instagram, it is possible to automatically link the same post to Facebook. It was decided to try to write two posts per month about the CAC efforts.

Peg asked if the CAC might want to consider meeting every other month instead of monthly? A vote was not taken.

The next CAC Meeting is currently scheduled for May 8, 2023 at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall. The meeting adjourned at 7:39 P.M. *Respectfully submitted by Robert Gilson*