

Conservation Advisory Council, Town of New Lebanon
Minutes for monthly meeting
August 14, 2023

Present: CAC members: Tyler Fogg, Bob Gilson, Donald Lamonaca, Peg Munves, Bill O' Neill, Steve Powers, Bruce Shenker

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 P.M. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Water Source Protection Plan: Peg Munves said that Bill O'Neill has been working hard on the Drinking Water Protection Plan with MJ Julien, a Source Water Protection Specialist at the NY Rural Water Association. The goal is to present findings in September, and to submit the report to the DEC in October. Peg and Don did 9 tests in various locations as a control and then tested wells in the business district.. 50% of the tests done in the business district showed problems with the water. There have been about 10 requests for testing to date. A flyer is being designed to promote testing and a table will be set up at the town picnic to encourage people to sign up to have their wells tested.

Planning Board: Bob Gilson had nothing to report.

CSC: Steve Powers said that solar panels have been installed on the Town Hall – he is waiting from NYSEG to complete the installation, so that the system can become operational. Steve has been working on an assessment for a level 3 charger. Given that we can't identify a highly visible place for a charging station, it seems like it might be a better idea to install one at the Love's by the entrance to the Thruway. Steve said that 89 pounds of plastic have been recycled so far. We need to recycle 500 pounds to get a bench. The composting program is going full force. Steve is in discussion with the county to get a digester for New Lebanon. While a digester is probably more than the town needs, it could be used to process compost from the northern part of the county. Steve is working with the LVPA to get a water tank. He is in talks that look promising. There is a Repair Café in East Nassau on September 23.

Zoning Re-write Committee: There are ongoing discussions about storage units.

Wastewater Treatment Plan: The joint BEDC/CAC Committee is no longer needed. The work has been done that shows water treatment is needed. Now funding for the study is needed to determine if it's feasible to provide water treatment for the business district. Information from the well testing will be very helpful in getting funding for the study. They hope to have funding in place by the end of the year.

Conservation Overlay: The discussion about Critical Environmental Areas is on hold until after November.

Hazard Mitigation Plan: Steve said that the Hazard Mitigation Plan is currently on hold.

Open Space Inventory: There is a discussion about the conservation easement on Mount Lebanon's 61 acres. The Open Space Institute purchased the land in 2014 and turned it over to the Shaker Museum. It's not clear where the boundaries are. The CLC will provide input on all future easements.

New Business: Peg has received a request from people who were affected by the flood who are interested in using left over trees from Trees for Tribes to landscape their properties. It was agreed that this is a great idea. Peg will write a letter to the Town Board and then will reach out to people affected to offer them the remaining trees and shrubs.

The next CAC Meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2023 at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall. The meeting adjourned at 7:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Robert Gilson