

Conservation Advisory Council, Town of New Lebanon
Minutes for monthly meeting held at Town Hall (minutes taken via Town Hall Streams)
January 9, 2023

Present: CAC members: Donald Lamonaca, Peg Munves, Bill O’Neill, Steve Powers Guests: Bruce Shenker, Josh Young, Town Board Member Advisor Deborah Gordon (Bob Gilson attended online and took minutes)

Bruce Shenker was interviewed as a potential member of the CAC. Bruce said that he is interested in outdoor recreation. He is particularly interested in working on the Rail Trail, the Shaker Swamp, and Critical Environmental Areas. The CAC voted to invite Bruce onto the Committee. His nomination will be presented to the Town Board (TB) at the January 10 meeting. Josh Young is interested in joining the CAC as well and due to the timing his interview will be held at the February meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 P.M. The minutes for the November 14, 2022 meeting were approved as amended..

CAC Goals 2023: Peg Munves said that the CAC’s main goals for 2023 should focus on water testing, and on the Source Water Protection Plan. We need to review Steve Winkley’s report and send it to the TB for approval. Once approved, it will be sent to the State. Josh Young said that he would appreciate the CAC’s support in moving the RFQ forward for the wastewater treatment study. It was decided that the CAC should provide the BEDC with some money for water testing on the Miracle Mile, with the understanding that businesses whose testing is subsidized would share their information. It is not clear yet if the TB will fully fund water testing. Steve Powers said that the High School continues to have problems with elevated levels of PFOAs and PFOSs. They are planning on installing a \$200,000 filtration system. We will offer, once again, to be helpful. Steve also said that the Town has been working on finding funding to cap the landfill – the estimated cost is \$2 million.

Change of meeting date and time: Peg asked if members of the Committee are open to meeting on another night. Her concern is that we currently do not have sufficient time to prepare well thought out responses to issues before they are addressed by TB and the Planning Board. Peg will research alternative meeting days.

CAC Subcommittees: It was decided to formally identify several working subcommittees.

- **Water Study:** Peg Munves, Donald Lamonaca, Bill O’Neill, Steve Powers, (Josh Young.)
- **Shatford Park Committee** (Park Plan, Trees for Tribs): Bill O’Neill, Tyler Fogg
- **Critical Environmental Areas:** Steve Powers, Donald Lamonaca, Bruce Shenker, Tyler Fogg
- **Planning Board:** Bob Gilson
- **Climate Smart Communities:** Steve Powers, Bruce Shenker. Bob Gilson
- **Zoning Rewrite Committee:** Steve Powers, Donald Lamonaca
- **BEDC:** (Josh Young), Bob Gilson, Peg Munves - creating a **joint committee with BEDC and CAC** on waste water

Peg asked if someone should be on the Shaker Preservation Committee. It was decided to table that for now.

Critical Environmental Areas: Bruce Shenker suggested that it would be good to try to identify the Shaker Swamp as a Critical Environmental Area. He said that the Shaker Swamp Conservancy and the Darrow School (the two largest landowners of the Swamp would be interested. Steve Powers said that while there are many landowners who border the Swamp, 100% compliance is not required. Peg suggested looking at the aquifers as a designated CEA and agreed to reach out to Gretchen Stevens of Hudsonia for assistance.

After a brief discussion, it was decided by all present that Josh Young is better situated to stay on the BEDC and form/join the joint committee with the CAC for Waste Water, and Josh will remove his letter of interest to the CAC.

The next CAC Meeting is currently scheduled for February 13, 2023 at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall, but this time and date are subject to change. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Robert Gilson