

Conservation Advisory Council, Town of New Lebanon
Minutes for monthly meeting June 10, 2023

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. The minutes for the May 8 meeting were approved as amended.

Water Source Protection Plan: Peg Munves has met with the DEC. She said that we need to create a plan to determine what areas of Town we should be testing (like around old industrial sites on Route 20?) The plan has to be approved by the Town Board. MJ, who has taken over for Steve Winkley, at the Department of Health is eager to help. Peg and Donald Lamonica have begun testing wells in New Lebanon. The process takes longer than expected. They have 29 well owners on the Routes 20/22 corridor that want their wells to be tested. Peg and Donald will begin scheduling appointments. Peg said that a script need to be developed that educates and encourages well owners to get their wells tested. The study is particularly important as the Town applies for funds for wastewater treatment – there is a need to demonstrate to the State that a water treatment system is needed. Steve Powers said that he needs to submit documentation of educational outreach for the water study to NYSERDA. Bob Gilson suggested that it might be good to hold a public information session on water testing. Peg is looking into possibly holding an event at the Town Hall in early October.

Trees for Tribs: Peg said that everything is doing well. They have put in over 32 volunteer hours watering so far this year. She also said that the TFT educational materials are looking worn and need to be replaced. Bill suggested that the information be displayed on the garage, and not on the trees.

Education: Bob that he had been in contact with Jenifer Rosete the education coordinator at the Columbia County Land Conservancy about doing stream side ecology program with New Lebanon campers. Kids will be divided into several age-appropriate groups to explore the stream in Shatford Park. The CLC will bring waders and all materials needed. There is no charge for the service. Bob's will meet with Jenifer to show her the stream and to introduce Jennifer to Robert Long this summer's camp director so that they can schedule mutually beneficial times for Jenifer to work with the campers.

Planning Board: Bob said that there was not much to report from the previous planning board meeting. There was an application for a minor subdivision on County Route 5, and Coon's asked from the moratorium on storage units to be waived so they can build additional units. The Planning Board referred Coon's to the Town Board to waive the moratorium.

CSC: Steve Powers said that solar panels would be installed on the Town Hall by the end of the month. There is a Repair Café in Chatham on June 24. Steve said that the Town is in talks with the State about the landfill. Hopefully additional funds will be available next year. The CSC held a battery recycling program at the high school. The 7th and 8th Graders collected 168 batteries, and 499 batteries total were collected. CSC is looking into getting Level 3 EV charging station for New Lebanon. They are looking for a place to locate it.

Hazard Mitigation Plan: Steve said that the Hazard Mitigation Plan is currently on hold. He is waiting for information from the county.

Open Space Inventory: Peg asked if we need to update the Open Space Inventory. Steve said that there is a \$20,000 grant that is available to do an Open Space Index, but the application deadline is July 12. It was agreed that we would wait until next year to apply, but the index needs to be completed by 2025.

The next CAC Meeting is scheduled for July 12, 2023 at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall. The meeting adjourned at 7:39 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Robert Gilson