

Conservation Advisory Council, Town of New Lebanon
Minutes for monthly meeting
September 11, 2023

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

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

CAC Budget: The CAC budget has been submitted to Tistrya. We have not heard back yet. An application has been submitted for matching funds for the Open Space Inventory. There is about \$27,000 left in the budget for water testing. Peg didn't renew the lease on the tablet since it has not been used recently.

Water Source Protection Plan: MJ from the New York State Rural Water Association will give a presentation to the Town Board at the meeting on September 12. Peg said that the DEC is interested in towns having community partners. She noted that New Lebanon has several stakeholders with interest in the project.

Water Testing: Donald said that water testing is going well. There have been about 30 requests for testing to date. The next scheduled test dates are September 21 & 22. At present most of the requests have been in the Routes 20/22 corridor. The hope is to do testing in all 5 geological substrates to have a comprehensive understanding of New Lebanon's water resources and their respective health. While a substantial amount of work has already been done, the project is still at the beginning stages.

Lebanon Springs: Sean/Shawn, from the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans has expressed interest in getting access to the Springs. The Town was offered the Springs but turned down the offer. At present, the property's previous owner's will is currently being contested. It was agreed that we would like to see the site become meaningful again. He has been invited to our October meeting.

Planning Board: Bob Gilson said that there were only a couple minor subdivisions discussed at the last Planning Board meeting.

CSC: Steve Powers said that solar panels have been installed on the Town Hall and are working well. So far they have generated 1.7 megawatts – that's enough to power 49 houses for one day. New bike racks have been installed behind the bank at the Valley Mall. The grant for the water tank for the LVPA is moving forward. When awarded the grant will provide funds for a 10,000 gallon water tank, and a new back-up generator. We have collected 135 pounds of plastic to date. The composting program is going full force. Kathy is bringing six 5 gallon buckets to the Chatham dump's digester every week. In addition, six 5 gallon buckets from the Farmer's Market are being collected by a local farmer to feed his pigs. There is a Repair Café on September 23. The Town Clean-up Day is September 16. The Free Store will be moving to the new community center.

Zoning Re-write Committee: Donald said that there was nothing to report.

Trees for Tribs: Peg said that the trees are doing well. Volunteers have spent 97 hours caring for the trees this past summer. The plan is to offer the remaining trees and shrubs to residents who had property damage during the flood. A Facebook post will be created to let residents know about the availability.

Streambed Erosion: Peg said that there has been significant erosion to the streambed running through Shatford Park due to the recent storms. Tyler Fogg has been doing research into erosion control. He suggested that we look into what can be done. It was suggested that perhaps the DEC T4T program or Columbia Land Conservancy could provide advice.

Hazard Mitigation Plan: Steve said that it will be at least a year before the Hazard Mitigation Plan is available. It can't be used on the quest for silver.

Open Space Inventory: Peg said that she has received a quote of \$20,000 from Nan Stolzenberg to update the OSI.

The next CAC Meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2023 at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Robert Gilson