

New Lebanon Conservation Advisory Council

Minutes for CAC Meeting October 9, 2023, at New Lebanon Town Hall
Convened at 6:30 PM.

Peg Munves, Bill O'Neill, Bruce Shenker, Tyler Fogg, Donald Lamonaca, TB Advisor Deb Gordon in attendance. Steve Powers attended virtually. Bob Gilson was absent. Additional attendees were Melba Kurman, Josh Young

Approved September Minutes.

Update on CAC Budget and ARPA Funds – Of the \$30,000.00 allocated ARPA funds for water testing, approximately \$5,500.00 of it has been spent for testing costs, leaving approximately \$24,500.00 remaining to complete the testing and other avenues to work on the plan. Otherwise, the CAC has a budget of \$4,000.00 in Town funds for the coming year, in addition to the remaining DWSP2 Funds.

Update on DWSP2 – Status of state approval of the Plan is expected in November.

Update on water testing and results. Status of notification of homeowners and further work on public education on water for residents is ongoing. So far over 60 residents have requested testing and 53 tests have been done to date, with more scheduled tests soon. Next steps include compiling and analyzing the results. Debrorah Gordon will check with other towns regarding their preservation of their Springs and we may use those as guides to preserving the New Lebanon Spring.

CEA designation for Aquifers. Deferred to the November meeting for further discussion.

Committee Updates:

Planning Board – no agenda available as of this date. Concern was expressed about the use of asphalt at the Camp DD storage facility under construction at Routes 20/22.

CSC – the solar panels on Town Hall are functioning and providing most of the electricity for the building. LVPA water tank is pending legislative approval.

ZBC – discussion of the efforts pending for the Mt. Lebanon Historic District.

Other Committees

Hazard Mitigation Plan. Nothing new.

Open Space Inventory - deadline 2025 for Comp Plan committee – discussion pending grant funds and the Columbia County Plan

Other business

Town resident Melba Kurman presented information concerning the NYSDEC Regenerate New York Forestry Cost Share Grant Program. This program offers grants for landowners who have DEC approved plans for forest remediation to remove nonnative and/or invasive plants such as bittersweet. The CAC will consider presenting an information forum for the next series of grants.

Next meeting: November 13, 2023

Adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by the fabulous Bill O'Neill