

Assessor

Exemptions-

- All exemption renewals have been sent out. Each was sent with a cover letter containing instructions and how to reach the assessor. All are due by March 1st .
- During a reassessment it is important to get the exemptions processed as soon as possible, as many need to be recalculated by hand.

Assessment information-

- The State has supplied the Assessor with Residential Market Trends. Currently, the trend for Residential sales is up another 5%. This is for the time period from 7/1/2022 – 6/30/2023. As a reminder, last years trend was 13% for the time period 7/1/2021 – 6/30/2022. And 17% the year before.
- The reassessment for the 2024 Roll year is underway. Unfortunately, although the market has slowed, we still have an increase in sales prices over the past year.
- All parcels will receive a notice of new assessment around March 1st . There will be instructions included as to the next steps to take should you disagree with the new assessment. Anyone concerned, should prepare information to support their determination of value. A list of sales will be available on the assessor’s page of the website as time gets closer.

Building Department

No report

Business & Economic Development

No report

CAC, Climate Smart & Environmental Management

CAC: Drinking Water Source Protection Plan 2

>

> CAC members Donald Lamonaca and Peg Munves recently completed the final testing for 2023, working with the NYSDOH team that tested in New Lebanon in 2021. We have tested about 70 wells all over town, with several retests, so all totaled we have tested 75 wells. NYRWA and DOH are assisting us and helping us on a way to utilize the information and the most effective way to keep source water safe. Testing is just one part of the plan, and this is a multi year project. We are also preparing a CEA for the aquifers that we will present to the TB in the coming months. We are awaiting feedback from the DEC on the DWSP2 implementation plan - NYRWA got some feedback asking for more info like the qualifications/resume of CAC folks doing the testing etc and we are working with them on this. We have scheduled an educational event for residents on the importance of water testing and keeping wells safe, etc. Feb 10 at the NL Library. A story about NL water testing will appear early next year in a NYSDOH publication titled "In The Field."

>

> INVASIVES/Regenerate NY

>

> Melba Kurman, NL resident, will be applying for the DEC grant from Regenerate NY in 2024 on removing INVASIVES. We will learn more from her about how it went and what the work entails etc, so we can see if we want to pursue for more residents in 2025. We are working with Regenerate NY on scheduling them for an event in March so residents can learn more about the program for 2025 - and we will see if CAC will have involvement with this OR if it is better for residents to do the grant applications on their own.

>

> Open Space Inventory

>

> CAC has budgeted for the matching grant for the OSI study, should we want to proceed with that. We will see where this goes.

>

> CAC and BEDC joint committee on waste water and muni water feasibility study

>

> We have received a partial grant for the muni water study and we are awaiting word on the awarding of the larger grant for the ww feasibility study.

>

> NRCP

>

> We are reviewing goals for CAC via NRCP and are working out how to better get info to the NL Planning board and Building Office in order for them to have deeper considerations for conservation and environment

CSC:

The CSC is feverishly preparing to submit for the Silver level in the program by the end of December. To reach Silver we need to perform actions that total 300 points. This includes resubmitting the 25 actions/130 points we got for Bronze. In addition, we are submitting another

30 actions. These actions reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help New Lebanon adapt to the effects of climate change. Achieving the Silver level will put us in a better position to obtain state grants and offer the distinction of being the smallest town in New York to reach it and one of only 6 other towns/cities. Special thanks to our Cornell grad students Michelle Parks, Alejandra Plaza Limon and our advisor Marc Anthonisen for their help in the Road to Silver.

The grant application for the 6 additional heat pumps for Town Hall from Partners for Climate Action Hudson Valley's Building Decarbonization Grant Program was submitted. We will be informed in February as to their decision.

Another 49 lbs of plastic was turned in for recycling last month. We have crossed the 1000 lb mark in battery recycling since the start of the program.

46 bikes have been distributed this year in the CSC bike program and we have many more to distribute. Please contact Larry Bennett if you or a family member need a bike- underwritekmuw@gmail.com.

The Free Store is starting an exciting new life in the Community Center at the LVPA. Many thanks to Alissa Ross for her leadership in the move and in creating the new home for the Free Store.

EMC:

1. Many towns following lead of New Lebanon with heat smart and ev campaigns. Kinderhook starting to do battery collection and I mentioned our plastic bag recycling, so perhaps others will follow.

2. Tree Planting Campaign: Barbara Hughey of Germantown reported that she attended two (2) zoom meetings with David Newman of Arthur's Point Farm in Ghent about their campaign planning efforts.

They visited a farm on Route 9G with Kite's Nest in Hudson. They also visited Sweet Freedom Farm in Germantown which grows and distributes food in the community for a local prison. The Farm also provides a prison release work program. Hudson High School Science Teacher, Jim McDarby, is training the Biology Club on how to identify all the trees in New York State. He will participate and incorporate the Tree Planting Campaign in his classroom curriculum. A meeting is scheduled with Dr. Steven Gavlik, EMC member and Professor in the Science Department at Columbia-Greene Community College to assist in the creation of the project. Site assessments are now taking place, and the goal is to have a scope by next month.

3, Ancram –

Colleen Lutz announced a program for the public geared toward homeowners will take place at the Roe Jan Library on Friday, January 26, 2024. A detailed flyer will be distributed to all. Program topics include Affordable Housing and the Homegrown Park.

4. Interesting discussion on role of renewables and whether they can come in soon enough to meet goals of state Climate Leadership and Community Protection ACT (CLCPA) and town control of large solar projects. Good publicity for New Lebanon when Tara mentioned the 120K in Grants new Lebanon has received from Clean Energy Program

Fire, Law Enforcement, Emergency

No report

Highway

No report

Historian & LVHS

Historian:

No report

LVHS:

No report

Justice Court

No report

Library

No report

Buildings, Parks & Recreation

Buildings:

No report

Parks:

No report

Recreation Commission:

On Saturday 12/2, volunteers Adrian Shoobs, Jesse Newton, and Craig Skerkis, with Donnie Sears (who got paid) set up the rink form, making it slightly shorter, now it is square.

On Sunday 12/3, Pete McCagg and a few friends set up the TPO rink liner. Ed Godfroy of the LVPA brought a tanker of water and filled the rink.

Because of the reduction in rink size, we have a leftover full roll of TPO. I will call Beacon and see if it is possible to return it for a refund.

As soon as we have some colder nights, it should freeze nicely. When it does, we'll put out the skates for people to use, and have the Town Clerk announce it. Hopefully it will be skate able for the school break.

Seniors

Seniors/Office of Aging: The Office of the Aging continues to assist residents with accessing HEAP and Medicare Renewal which completed today 12/7.

The Council continues to work on developing a survey for all residents over the age of 60 who live in Columbia County to determine what the needs are and how the existing programs are helping and what may be needed in the future.

Ever Home continues to accept clients for its service although the free service has stopped.

The staff of the Office of the Aging has been purchasing gifts for the Senior Star programs.

The Office of the Aging has Covid protective products if you need any, please call 518-828-4258

The Advisory Council updated their Constitution and By-laws to address the dates of meetings and the location.

Officers were elected for the year 2024. President Stephen King, Vice-President Joyce Thompson, and Secretary Mary Young.

The Philmont Nutrition Center reported that they received enough donations from the groups in Columbia County to make 47 Turkey dinners for the veterans and will be able to make Christmas dinners as well.

Seniors of New Lebanon: The seniors elected the officers for the coming year: Mary Defreest and William Shannon President, Donna Moshimer Vice President, Wanda Prichett Secretary, Cathy Shuhart Treasurer.

The Seniors enjoyed a Christmas party at Wood life Garden and Market Center on 12/1/23. The High School choir will perform for the seniors on 12/8 as a dress rehearsal.

The last meeting of the year will be 12/15. The Seniors will meet only on the First Friday of the month for January, February and March and will be canceled if school is canceled due to snow.

Submitted by Mary Young Senior Rep.

Traffic Safety

In addition to the written report below, please see graphs at the end of this document
Traffic Safety Committee:

The County and State DOT have completed the road work for 2023. Work projects are being developed for 2024, no projects are scheduled for New Lebanon currently.

DOT is continued to work on the Bell's Pond project to reduce speed and improper turns.

The Safety Committee is requesting a meeting with the Town of New Lebanon on January 25th at 7pm at the Safety Building. They want to review the accident that occurred on Rt 20 by the racetrack to see what additional safety precautions could be made.

The committee is looking for someone to set up and update a Facebook page to keep the public aware of what the committee is doing.

Members of the Town of Chatham traffic safety committee met with the County committee and asked for suggestions on how to improve the traffic safety in the

Town. Suggestions were given and they will meet with the committee again at the March meeting.

The meeting schedule for 2024 was announced.

The traffic speed sign is turned off for the winter, no report.

Volunteers

No report

Quality of Life

We are having our health and wellness day on Sunday 12/10 from 11-3 at the LVPA located at 523 US Route 20 please come out and attend – Tistrya will update at Tuesdays meeting

Zoning Re-write Committee Update

No report

County Update

No report