

**Conservation Advisory Council, Town of New Lebanon**  
**Minutes for monthly meeting – December 11, 2023**

**Present:** CAC members: Tyler Fogg, Bob Gilson, Donald Lamonaca, Peg Munves, Bill O' Neill, Steve Powers, Bruce Shenker TB Advisor to CAC: Deborah Gordon

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

**CAC Budget:** The CAC budget has been submitted and approved. The budget includes \$20,000 for an Open Space Inventory grant – the town will have to make a 15% match which is \$3,000. There is still about \$20,000 in the budget for water testing, and \$4,000 for other projects.

**Water Source Protection Plan:** Donald and Peg tested 10 additional wells in the last month. They were accompanied by 3 employees from the DOH, and MJ from the New York State Rural Water Association. The DOH paid for all of the tests, and because New Lebanon is one of only a handful of small communities testing our water, the DOH will publish an article about us in their Winter "In the Field" newsletter.

**Library Event:** The CAC is planning a public education event at the Town library on February 10 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm on water source protection and well health. It was suggested that MJ might do the presentation, if not, Peg has been in contact with a company called RCAP Solutions that might do a presentation at no charge.

**Wastewater Feasibility Study:** Peg said that we have gotten funding approval for part of the study, and she expects that we will get the second part as well. When we applied for the grant to do the study it was suggested to the Town explore both a municipal water system and a wastewater treatment system. This fits into the Town's NRCP goals.

**Welcome Packet:** Peg said that we should have information on the CAC in the Town's welcome packet. Bob suggested that it would be good to combine the CAC's information with information on the CSC. Bob agreed to write draft for approval.

**CSC:** Steve Powers said he is busy working on submitting the application for Silver through NYSERDA by the end of the year. He noted that everything we did for Bronze status has to be resubmitted. Because of the CSC's efforts, there has been a 34% reduction in Town carbon admissions since 2019 – excluding emissions from the Highway departments diesel equipment – which account for 65% of the Town's total emissions – at present the overall reduction is 17.5%.. The goal is to reach a 50% reduction in emissions by 2030. We have recycled 49 pounds of plastics this month and over 1,000 pounds of batteries to date. Four people in town have purchased EVs – we need one more to get funding from NYSERDA. CSC has submitted a grant proposal for 6 more heat pumps for the Town Hall. The bike program gave out 46 bikes this year. Kathy, Chris, and Bruce are actively working on composting. The LVPA water tank and generator is in the third round for funding. The Free Store has move to the LVPA building.

**Zoning Re-write Committee:** Tyler and Donald were nominated and approved to serve on the zoning rewrite committee for 2024.

**Hazard Mitigation Plan:** Steve said that the county has just hired a consultant. It will be a while.

**Open Space Inventory:** We should make a list of specific properties that need protection. Bruce noted that there is chance that the Darrow School may close, and we should try to find a way to protect their portion of the Shaker Swamp. Bob suggested checking with the CLC to see if they can be helpful. Deb said that we should also find a way to protect the Springs.

**Invasive species:** Peg has been in contact with an organization Called Regenerate New York which provided funding for landowners to deal with invasives. She suggested that we promote an event with them in the spring and invite other CACs.

The next CAC Meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2024 at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted by Robert Gilson*