

Conservation Advisory Council, Town of New Lebanon
Minutes for monthly meeting – January 8, 2024

Present: CAC members: Tyler Fogg, Bob Gilson, Donald Lamonaca, Peg Munves, Bill O' Neill, Steve Powers
Guests: Lori Krane, Melba Kurman. MJ Julien

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 P.M. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

CAC Budget: There are about \$20,000 of ARPA Funds for water testing remaining in the budget. We have \$4,000 for other initiatives.

Critical Environmental Areas: Peg and Bruce have prepared a proposal to be presented to the Town Board that considers doing the work to identify the Town's aquifer as a CEA.

Water Source Protection Plan : Our Public Education continues with Donald and Tyler preparing a presentation on where we are to date with the Water Source Protection Plan for a NL Library event on February 10 from 1:00 – 2:00 pm. There has been no news about the wastewater management grant application. MJ Julien of the New York Rural Water Association will be present at the Feb event and our NYSDOH water specialists will also likely be present. MJ spoke about the implementation of the Source Water Protection Plan. She asked if the Town Board supported the Plan and yes, the TB approved the plan and is awaiting DEC approval. MJ said that the aquifer was the biggest issue and asked if we have done ditch mapping to understand the impact of storm runoff. She also noted that 4 of the 6 mobile home parks in New Lebanon are in the flood plain and asked if the water had been tested at any of them. Peg said that she and Donald will approach residents of the Shaker Meadows Mobile Home Park about testing their water. MJ recommended that the study be updated every 3 – 5 years.

Regenerate New York: Melba Kurman reported that a program called Regenerate New York offers grants of up to \$50,000 from the DEC to landowners to help alleviate invasive species. CAC is hosting a presentation with the DEC Forester for the Regenerate project at the NL Library on March 16.

Planning Board: Bob Gilson said that at the December 20 Planning Board meeting there was one application for a subdivision that might be of concern. It is: Amlaw Pit LLC would like to buy 84+ acres from the property of Sherman Development. The assumption is that the property will be used for gravel mining. The question is whether there are environmental issues associated with this? Is this where the unsealed dump is with PFAS contamination?

CSC: Steve Powers said that he submitted our application for Silver to NYSERDA. He said that the application contained a potential of 372 points for actions completed – 300 points are needed to achieve Silver. We will know by February 23 if our application has been accepted. If we are awarded Silver we will get a grant for \$175,000, which will be used to help make the Town garage more energy efficient.

Hazard Mitigation Plan: Steve said the county has been working on the Hazard Mitigation Plan and it should be done by September. He said the CAC will have to be involved. He also said that the Town is ineligible for FEMA funding until the plan has been update.

Zoning Re-write Committee: The ZRC will be giving a presentation about storage units at the January 9, Town Board meeting.

Water Testing: Peg said that over 70 wells have been tested. She noted that to date, the only area where there have been issues with contamination are in the central business district.

Water Source Protection Plan: MJ Julien of the New York Rural Water Association spoke about the implementation of the Source Water Protection Plan. She asked if the Town Board supported the Plan and yes, the TB approved the plan and is awaiting DEC approval. MJ said that the aquifer was the biggest issue and asked if we have done ditch mapping to understand the impact of storm runoff. She also noted that 4 of the 6 mobile home parks in New Lebanon are in the flood plain and asked if the water had been tested at any of them. Peg said that she and Donald will approach residents of the Shaker Meadows Mobile Home Park about testing their water. MJ recommended that the study be updated every 3 – 5 years.

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 P.M. The next CAC Meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2024 at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted by Robert Gilson