

Assessor

- The informal review time period is over. All informal requests have been reviewed. New Notices will go out to those people around May 1st. There were approximately 7 parcels to be reviewed.
- All the work to produce the tentative roll has been completed. The File will be sent to the County for production.
- The Tentative Roll will be published and available by May 1.
- Grievance will be held in person in the meeting room of the Town hall. May 29th from 1-4 and 5-8.
- The website will be updated with information regarding the grievance process.

Building Department

No report

Business & Economic Development

No report

Outreach & Marketing

We have completed the update to the tourism brochure (thank you Sharon!) and sent it off to the printer. Distribution will begin May 1st. We will also have an updated smaller version of the business directory in the May 1st town newsletter with the announcement of a new website page on the town website with clickable links to all the businesses in Town.

CAC, Climate Smart & Environmental Management

CAC:

DWSP2: The CAC continues to work with MJ Julien and New York Rural Water Association and we are working on next steps. CAC members Donald Lamonaca and Peg Munves are also scheduling more water testing for residents starting in April or May, having received a few dozen requests since the February 2024 Water Talk at the NL Library. We are still waiting for the NYS DEC to approve our implementation plan, which has mostly been implemented at this time. DEC acceptance should bring some grant monies for further testing and other things needed to continue with this study.

Trees For Tribs (T4T): The CAC is sharing an in depth update on the project in the next town newsletter. The plantings are generally thriving, but erosion is quite severe. Look for the article which includes an explanation of the reason for the project, why the tubes, why they are still needed, and how the overall original plan was changed due to resident's concerns.

CSC:

Since the word has leaked out already, it seems appropriate to inform the public that New Lebanon's Climate Smart Task Force has been informed by the DEC that we have achieved the elusive Silver level in the CSC program. To qualify, we needed to perform and submit actions totaling 300 points. We submitted 353 points and the DEC approved 337 points. Many of the actions were for energy saving programs like installing heat pumps and solar panels at Town Hall that not only reduce our carbon footprint but save taxpayers money.

One of the tangible outcomes of achieving the Silver level is the points it gets the town in CSC partner NYSEERDA'S Clean Energy Communities program which is also points based. We now qualify for a \$175,000 grant that can be used for other energy and cost savings projects on Town buildings. More on that at future meetings.

I would like to personally thank all the CSC volunteers who have worked on projects of their choosing that helped us get to the Silver level: Bruce Shenker, Adelia Moore, Elizabeth Poreba, Julie Fraad, Cathy Wilkerson, Bob Gilson, Kris Cottom & Frieda Pearce. And special thanks to our advisor extraordinaire, Marc Anthonisen who continues in his role wherever he travels in the world. We were also fortunate enough to have an exceptional Cornell graduate student, Michelle Parks who helped in the compilation and filing of the docs needed to qualify. That was no easy task which is why there are only 6 other towns/cities in New York State who have achieved this status. Alejandra Plaza Limon, another former Cornell grad student produced an excellent report of our work that helped put us over the top. And special thanks to Professor Rebecca Morgenstern Brenner from Cornell who was kind enough to work with us and provide the students and valuable guidance. So, thank you Rebecca, Marc, Michelle and Alejandra along with the others we have worked with over the last 4 years for showing what a small rural community could achieve to help and mitigate Climate Change. But the bottom line is we couldn't have gotten this far without the foresight and support of Supervisor Houghtling who started this process when she was Town Clerk and solicited the approval from the past and current Town Boards. So thanks to them and all of our neighbors who cheered us on!

On April 20th, the CSC will be sponsoring our 3rd Roadside Clean-Up in New Lebanon. We encourage all our neighbors to join us in cleaning the trash that has accumulated over the last year on our road sides. Meet at Shatford Park pavilion at 10am for an hr + of cleaning. Afterwards, snacks and warm drinks will be provided by our friends at Maverick's.

EMC:

1. Discussion of various town CSC projects:

- Kinderhook Village - community Solar for municipal buildings
- Taghkanic - Forestation project with Lake Taghkanic. Betsy A. is working on a reforestation project. Looking to add trees in the picnic area and cabins, and a small area of pollinator garden May 11th .
- Gallatin will be working on the white trail doing trail maintenance. Trying to create pollinator gardens in public spaces to help educate and build a brand for climate smart. Homegrown National Park.
- Livingston - they are working to deal with contamination of lakes by aging septic systems. A woman will be presenting on a company that has a septic system that is self-contained, smaller area, with a coconut shell filter, release free of pathogens and nutrient loading. April 27th, 2024 at 10:30 at Livingston Town Hall.

2. Discussed support for Support for the New York State Assembly and Senate to Pass a Strong Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act (A.5322-B/S.4246-B) and Expand the State's Bottle Bill (A.6353/S.237-B). Did not seem appropriate for EMC to do a resolution and timing of recommendation to Board of Supervisors would not work. Suggested each member take to their town to seek a resolution to support.

3. Zero Waste

Reuse center is being planned by Zero Waste capital district, modeled on Ithaca's program. Collection point but also helps support small business startups. There is a website! zerowastecolumbia.org. Would like it to be a hub with events and other climate smart events or a forum to share resources.

4. Columbia Northeast Repair Cafe - next Repair Cafe at Austerlitz Town Hall in Spencertown April 13th from 10-2

Fire, Law Enforcement & Emergency

No report

Highway

No report

Historian & LVHS

Historian:

Thank you for the new-to-me furniture in my office. The credenza and shelving is perfect! And more chairs!

Replied to a phone message regarding a genealogical question.

Replied to several emails requesting information on local cemeteries.

Filed papers and catalogued materials for research.

Outlined topics for articles on the history of the Town of New Lebanon.

LVHS:

No report

Justice Court

No report

Library

No report

Buildings, Parks & Recreation

Buildings:

No report

Parks:

No report

Recreation Commission:

We had our first meeting of the year on 3/19.

We have a full committee for the first time in years.

In attendance, Abbie Shoobs, Joe Ogilvie, Joanna Ezinga, and Joanne Amlaw.

Our April meeting will be rescheduled, date tbd.

We picked dates for most of the year's events and will be submitting them to Marcie for the newsletter and pavilion calendar.

We decided not to have a town dance, no one was enthusiastic about organizing it.

Seniors

The spring issue of the Senior Scoop is available online and at the Town Hall. Seniors can get their own copy by calling the Office of the Aging and requesting a copy.

Emergency HEAP is open for Seniors you need further help to pay for fuel bills.

This years' Columbia County Senior Volunteers of the Year are Mr. and Mrs. Maloy of Hudson New York. They will be recognized on 5/14 in Albany at the Older New Yorker's Day recognition ceremony.

There will be a Fall Prevention program on 4/24 at 11 am at the Canaan Senior program which is held in the Town Hall. There will be a disaster preparedness program on 4/26 at 4pm at the Canaan Fire Hall, both programs require an RSVP so see the Town web site if you would like to attend.

The office of the Aging is partnering with a new group called Blooming Health. This group provides a communication platform that enables OFA to reach seniors through voice calls, text messages, and emails. It will automatically call all Meals on Wheels clients if the meal is canceled. Alerts seniors to emergency situations in their area, special events, and to provide surveys. The OFA is looking forward to using this service.

The OFA Council continues to work on developing a survey to be completed by the Seniors of Columbia County about their needs and what programs they would like to see added. It is hoped to have this survey ready to be distributed by the summer.

Traffic Safety

No report

Volunteers

We are in need of a couple good volunteers willing to hang posters up around Town at the 25 various bulletin boards (we provide you the list of locations and posters to hang). I would say the Town has 2-6 posters per month that need to go up. Currently the Town Supervisor is doing it and would love to take it off her plate and put it in the hands of a few capable volunteers. Please contact supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com or 518-505-1535 if you are willing to help.

Quality of Life

We will be working on another health and wellness day at the end of April or beginning of May. Dates and more details will be announced soon.

Zoning Re-write Committee Update

No report

Community Center/Free Store Update

Free Store:

The Free Store had another great turnout for the month of March. My Wednesday/Sunday numbers are 168 customers for the nine days I was there. Donations continue to pour in daily and our selection is bigger and better than ever. The turnaround of merchandise also picked up this month. I'm seeing "new" things find new homes very quickly and it's just wonderful to see. The children's book and toy section has expanded much to the delight of both kids and parents. It's nice to see kids find something fun while their parents shop for essentials.

I predict the warmer weather will bring even more people in, especially if I keep a garage door open during my time there. We had one warm day where I had the door open and music playing and that was our best day yet with 27 happy customers. I look forward to more days like that.

Alissa Ross

Community Center:

In the month of March, we had a total of 146 people coming to enjoy the community center, with 50 people coming for our pizza party! We have 2 more exciting events coming up with a seed starting workshop on April 20th from 10am – Noon and a community dinner on May 2nd from 6pm – 7:30pm. Both events are completely FREE!

For the seed starting workshop, we ask that you RSVP by April 14th to Blaine at 518-242-6778 so that we are prepared with the right amount of materials. This event is co-sponsored by the WBH PTA and the NL Community Center and is being hosted by Blaine Darcy!

For the community dinner, no RSVP is needed. Just show up and enjoy a delicious dinner of Pulled Pork Sandwiches & sides prepared by the NL Jr/Sr High School Food Club, Just Food!

We hope to see you at one of these special events and/or for our regular hours every week on Tuesdays from 6:30 pm – 8:30pm, Thursdays from 5pm – 8pm and Saturdays from 4:30pm – 8:30pm. There is a new full size pool table and a working refrigerator to store great drinks and snacks for all!

Shaker Preservation Committee

No report

County Update

No report