

Present: CAC members: Bob Gilson, Donald Lamonaca, Peg Munves, Bill O' Neill, Steve Powers
Guests: Joanne Amlaw

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 P.M. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Trees for Tribes: Joanne Amlaw attended the CAC meeting to learn more about Trees for Tribes. Peg Munves explained that the trees and shrubs were planted to help prevent erosion of the stream banks where Wyomanock Creek flows through Shatford Park. Over the past 3 years, the bank has eroded more than 6 feet. The project started as a way to repair the stream bank. The hope is that the roots of the trees and shrubs will help to stabilize the stream banks and stem the erosion. Peg said that volunteers have put in more than 100 hours yearly since the 2021 planting – maintaining the trees, repairing, mulching, etc. She said that while some town residents don't like the protective collars, they are necessary to ensure that the plants continue to grow until they are able to stand on their own. Peg hopes that it will be possible to remove some of the collars in a year or two. Ms. Amlaw said that the CAC should have consulted with the park maintenance staff before the trees were planted. She said that it is difficult for Donnie to mow around the trees. Peg responded that the CAC met with the park staff several times before the trees were planted to help ensure that there wouldn't be any problems, and that their suggestions were followed. Donnie and CAC members speak frequently. She and Bill O'Neill are writing a long report for the Town newsletter to try to keep people up to date on the project. Peg said she wants New Lebanon residents to understand what the CAC is trying to accomplish with Trees for Tribes, and that she welcomes feedback. Joanne mentioned that Mr. Shatford's will requires that the land he donated be maintained as open space. The CAC will look at the will to better understand the nature of the bequest. Peg said that there are still several trees in the nursery and that they need to be moved to the back of the park. She said that they need permission to move the trees and will consult with the Town Board. Bill O'Neill has agreed to liaise with Ms. Amlaw about the Trees for Tribes project.

Waste Water Feasibility Study: Peg said that one of the grantors did not realize that the Town had applied to a second funding source. As a result, the Town will need an additional \$6,000 to conduct the study to determine whether wastewater treatment and municipal water are necessary and financially feasible for the downtown business district. Peg asked the CAC if we could take \$3,000 from the CAC's water testing allocation to use for the study and noted that there will be additional testing as part of the study. Bill O'Neill proposed a motion, the vote was unanimous in favor. Peg said that to date 25 business owners have been surveyed about the study, and that 19 of them have approved the process. Peg said that we already have quite a bit of needs information.

DWSP2: To date about 80 water tests have been administered and that they currently have another 36 requests. Peg and Donald will set up appointments to test people's wells in May. Still awaiting DEC approval of the implementation plan. MJ retired and there is a new Source water specialist starting soon.

Hazard Mitigation Plan: Steve said that the results of the recent survey on potentially vulnerable areas in New Lebanon has been submitted to the county. He said that the 3 trailer parks that are in the flood plain have been added to the list. Peg said that Wyomanock creek should also be considered. The next deadline is in June.

CSC: Steve announced that the CSC has qualified for Silver! This will make us eligible for \$175,000 in energy upgrades to the Town Hall and the road maintenance building. Making these improvements will qualify the Town for more points, and potentially more funding. All projects have to be submitted by October 31. There will be a Town Cleanup Day on April 20. Michelle Hinchey and Didi Barrett have put \$2.25 million in the State budget to help clean up the landfill. The Town will have to match ten percent.

ZRC: The ZRC has been developing a policy for wireless service. They have one more consultation with the attorney and the plan should be ready to go.

The next CAC Meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2024 at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall. The meeting adjourned at 7:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Robert Gilson