

Assessor

The Final Assessment Roll has been filed with the Town Clerk.

We are starting our yearly rolling Data verification. We have implemented a new process. We are now sending letters to the parcels that are going to be verified in the near future. This will alert the owners to our presence. If data can not be verified from the roadway due to obstructed view or unsafe conditions, we will enter the driveway, attempt to make contact and take a photo. Unfortunately, we cannot make appointments for these verifications due to ever changing workload and weather conditions. The roads that we will be starting on July/August are Westhill, Whitetail and Route 20. Anyone wishing to deny access can call the office and make other arrangements.

At this time 1 SCAR hearing has been requested.

Building Department

No report

Business & Economic Development

No report

Outreach & Marketing

No report

CAC, Climate Smart & Environmental Management

CAC:

Drinking Water Source Protection Plan 2 (DWSP2) -- We are still waiting for DEC approval of our implementation plan and are waiting to hear from our new contact at NYRWA for next steps. In the meantime we are proceeding with voluntary water testing for residents. 97 tests done so far, including retests, and if there are specific concerns we are testing for those concerns. Anyone with a persistent issue with coliform and or e.coli we are recommending UV filtration for the whole house. We are going out to test another bunch in a couple of weeks. Thank you to all the residents who have all reached out voluntarily. If any resident has concerns over potential contaminants we do explore the concern looking at water flow, etc. and we need help identifying what to test for. n We have been testing for PCB in wells around the brown field, for example. We have tested for chemicals associated with the car wash and we have not found contamination. If anyone has a well they want tested please let us know, or has information on something to test, let us know! The NYSDOH continues to be helpful and will map the test results on 20/22 to use for the Wastewater Feasibility study. We plan on testing next year as well and would like to find a way to utilize the funds the town gave us into next year.

One of our upcoming goals is to assess PFAS potential contamination in town as well as other chemical concerns. In 2019 we hosted a talk at the Library, "Could Hoosick Falls Happen Here?"* and the invited panel of experts were not very concerned about endemic PFAS issues since we are not a manufacturing center. However it is advisable that residents share any information on long-term dumping of cars and furniture and clothing so wells downgrade may be tested. At this time the CAC tests resident's wells when asked and we do not have the knowledge or personpower to do research on our own - we depend on residents to help us! Contact Donald at nlcac.lamonaca@gmail.com or Peg nlcac.munves@gmail.com

To remind folks, in 2020 and 2021 the uncapped Town Dump's Test wells tested positive above the then-acceptable level for PFAS and associated compounds. Several rounds of tests done by the DEC and NYSDOH for private wells downgrade of the dump showed 0 PFAS, However leeching can happen at any time, over time, and there may be other chemicals in there that we do not know about.

*The concern behind "Could Hoosick Falls Happen Here?" In 2016, Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) was detected in the Village of Hoosick Falls' public drinking water supply and Town of Hoosick private drinking water wells above the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) health advisory level" (<https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/site-cleanup/regional-remediation-project-information/region-4/hoosick-falls-area>). The City of Hoosick Falls has been working hard to remediate the situation and provide clean water to all residents.

Open Space Inventory Update -- last update was 2015 and we have started the current update. This will be a work in progress for a few months, and then we will have some public meetings about it and get info and feedback from residents. The 2015 version is available on the Town website

Trees for Tribs -- the plants are looking very good and seeing them as you walk the new path is gorgeous. With help from Joanne Amlaw, CAC members are cutting tubes and checking on things. The plants in the nursery are awaiting planting either in the park or we will give the plants away this fall. There are abundant tubes that we will also give away since these are pricey and eventually biodegrade.

Shatford Park Branch of the Wyomanock Creek -- Erosion is extensive and the Trees for Tribs tree and shrub repair is not doing the total job needed. The Hazard Mitigation Plan (see below) contains information on the need to repair the creek. We recommend that the Town Board take immediate action and get this erosion stemmed as soon as possible.

Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) -- CSC has taken the lead on this and with the help of Cornell Students is in the process of creating a really good update for the Town. As the layers of the plan get clarified, in these times of climate change, it is clear that the CAC will be further analyzing risks that had never been considered. These include forest die-off, erosion from heavy rains, fire potential from dead trees and dry grasses, and more. Draft of the HMP are available through Council Member Powers

Looking for new members! If you want to help the NL CAC, please let us know! Send a letter to Marcie at townclerk@townofnewlebanon.com

The NL CAC is: Bill O'Neill, Peg Munves, Donald Lamonaca, Bruce Shenker, Bob Gilson, Tyler Fogg, Steve Powers

CSC:

On July 1st, the Cornell grad students, Johanna Van Fleet and Alejandro Ramos presented their draft findings to the CSC about hazard mitigations in New Lebanon that the town should consider working on and present to Columbia County as part of the Multi-jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan that is required by FEMA. When their report is completed in the next few weeks, we will present it to the Town Board for consideration and potential approval. Anyone who is interested in watching the presentation can see it here:

https://townhallstreams.com/stream.php?location_id=138&id=61090

New Lebanon's proposed uses for NYSERDA's \$175,000 grant were approved by NYSERDA and I am asking the Town to go out for bid for the heat pumps for the garage, electrical upgrades for the garage and solar panels for the garage roof at this meeting. Also, I would ask that the Town Board convene a special meeting when the bids come in so that work can be started asap. The roofer has spoken to the last solar panel vendor and they agreed that the brackets that hold the panels to the roof should be attached first and then the sealant coating put on. So, the roofer has to wait until the Town Board approves a solar panel vendor. In addition, I am asking the Town Board to approve the Supervisor signing the agreements with NYSERDA on this project.

The CSC Electric Vehicle (EV) campaign through NYSERDA which required us to provide documentation of 5 residents who purchased EVs was accepted by NYSERDA and we are getting another \$5000 grant and 200 points in the Clean Energy Communities (CEC) program. These points along with points we get from installing heat pumps and the solar panels in the garage will get us up to the level that will yield the next \$250,000 grant if completed by Oct 1st.

We also have reached the second tier in the CEC heat pump campaign which required 10 residents to purchase heat pumps after July 2023. I haven't submitted the documentation yet but we will get another \$10,000 grant and 200 additional points from NYSERDA. Not only is New Lebanon a regional leader in the Clean Energy Communities program and in the CSC but I think we are the only town in the state outside of Westchester County that has achieved this level or Silver!

We have reached out to an accountant who is also working with the county on federal rebates and she will help us file the forms to get a \$21000 rebate for the solar panels that were installed last year.

EMC:

No report

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:

We met on 6/18.

Only three of us were in attendance.

We went over logistics about the picnic and discussed the budget, donation updates and MitP. We added two community paddling events (July 18 and August 19, at 7PM) on Queechy, they will be led by Joanna Ezinga.

We discussed other ideas for future events, including for the corkscrew rail trail and also possible extensions to the trail with landowner's permissions. The dream is a walkable path between the schools.

Seniors

There is no new news from the Office of the Aging the next meeting is July 17.

From New Lebanon Seniors, the first trip was well attended, and everyone had a good time. There are a few seats available left for the other trips. The Seniors now have a Facebook page which the members of the Senior group may join, pictures, updated news and reminders for meetings and events will be found there.

The Lebanon Valley Community Group has sent out a survey to New Lebanon seniors inquiring about any needs they might have and for people to sign up to help others. It is available on the Grow the Valley newsletter as well as by calling Sarah Conly, a New Lebanon Senior rep. Once the information is gathered and tabulated, I think Sarah will make it available to the Town Board as well as the Office of the Aging.

I continue to take residents to medical appointments and shopping as well as shop for them.

Traffic Safety

County roadwork continues throughout the town. The Town highway department has been asphaltting some of the town roads.

Volunteers

No report

Quality of Life

The QOL committee is working on our task from the comprehensive plan and we hope to have something to the TB for review in the next couple of months. We will be meeting with the QOL and ZRC in a joint meeting on 7/29 at 7pm to discuss housing and zoning. We continue to work with Habitat for Humanity to find a property for the housing project presented previously to the TB and approved to collaborate on. We continue to work on finding another potential location for the pharmacy.

Zoning Re-write Committee Update

1. Telecommunication. The Town has yet to hear back from Mr. Campanelli on the second and third set of mark-ups to the draft updated code. A nudge will be forthcoming after the holiday weekend.
2. Mt. Lebanon Historic District. The ZRC will participate in an update of the workgroup's activities at this meeting.
3. Central Commercial District. Members of the ZRC met with other stakeholders to develop recommendations for the types of commercial and housing enterprises best suited for this new zone. We are targeting early fall for drafting recommendations.
4. Housing. Committee members will meet with the Quality of Life committee at the end of the month to explore possible needs for zoning changes to accommodate the QoL committee's housing objectives.
5. Self Storage. After meeting with members of the Town Board, it was determined that only a slight change is needed in the Local Law passed earlier this year.

Community Center/Free Store Update

Free Store:

Happy Summer! June's numbers were good!

448. Thanks to a new volunteer we were able to have 17 recorded days plus a super tidy store. The extra set of hands has been a huge help as we have been very busy this month. We added a new shelf unit to the kid's corner to house all the puzzles and games. We have had 5 toddler bike's from the recycle program find new homes. Thanks, Larry and Moy! And we've had a few new families move into town who have been very grateful for our existence.

I've also seen an interesting shift in generosity. More and more people who originally came in to get stuff are now giving back. And not just adults. Kids will bring in their unused toys and exchange them for something "new" and they love it! They want to be a part of the process and it's a really wonderful thing to witness and I'm proud to be a part of it.

Previous months

January (1/2 month) 66
February 142
March 168
April 279
May 231

Community Center:

The overall total for June with events = 168

Community Dinner on 6/13 - another good turnout - 70 people attended and many then stayed and played games.

Ice Cream Social on 6/22 - 30 people attended and stayed and used the community center.

We will reschedule Bingo that was cancelled for a future date.

New Summer Hours have been posted on the website.

Shaker Preservation Committee

No report

County Update

No report

Depot Committee

No report