

**Conservation Advisory Council, Town of New Lebanon**  
**Minutes for monthly meeting**  
**May 13, 2024**

**Present:** CAC members: Tyler Fogg, Bob Gilson, Donald Lamonaca, Peg Munves, Bill O' Neill, Steve Powers, Bruce Shenker. **Guests:** Joanne Amlaw, Craig Skerkis

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

**Water Study:** Peg and Donald tested 97 wells so far. Peg also said that the State has been very helpful with all aspects of the water study. We lost our water specialist at NYRWA and are eager to work with our new person there. A brief discussion ensued about looking for potential PFAS and other forever chemicals in New Lebanon and we are figuring out the best way to approach residents about knowledge of any business that may have used these chemicals.

**Trees for Tribs:** Peg asked if everyone had seen the article about the Shatford Park project in the Town Newsletter. She said that maintaining the trees has been a lot of work, but after 3 years everything that has been planted is doing well. We know that some residents don't like the tubes, but it is necessary until the trees are strong enough to survive on their own. The trees were planted to help to try to stem erosion from the creek. Regretfully, more needs to be done. It was agreed that the transition to the Recreation Committee would begin to maintain the trees. Craig Skerkis said that he would try to get some proposals to help stem the erosion. Steve Powers noted that two Cornell students are working on the Hazard Mitigation project and the stream is included in that. There are still some trees and shrubs that have yet to be planted. It was decided to try to find a place to move them near the back of the Little League fields.

**Wastewater Feasibility Study:** Peg said that for the moment, water protection is the CAC's main focus on the joint committee for the study. The engineer who will be doing the study will speak to the Town Board. An additional \$6,000 is needed. Peg said that, with the Tbs approval, the CAC would chip in \$3,000 of its water testing funds, and that the BEDC would pay the balance. The CAC will be working with RCAP Solutions to do the needs assessment for the feasibility study. Their services are free to the Town.

**Invasive Species:** The CAC has decided to postpone the invasive species presentation. Melba Kurman is currently working with the DEC on mitigating invasives on her property. We will see how it goes.

**Hazard Mitigation Plan:** Steve said that the Cornell Students are working on it for submission in June. Creek erosion and the landfill will be included in the plan

**CSC:** There will be a Repair Café at the Library and a bike tune up in Shatford Park on May 18.

**Landfill:** State Senator Michelle Hinchey and State Assemblymember Didi Barrett each put \$1 million in the State budget to help clean up the landfill. We are under consent order from the DEC to cap the landfill, but the Town Board has to approve the project. The Town has to buy the property then cap it. There is a cap of \$2 million, with NY State Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie informing the town that the Assembly will cover any overages up to \$500,000. We have only had one proposal from a contractor to do the work to date.

**ZRC:** The ZRC has reviewed the communications code with the lawyer. They are close to having a finished plan.

The next CAC Meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2024 at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall. The meeting adjourned at 7:28 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted by Robert Gilson*