

Conservation Advisory Council, Town of New Lebanon – Minutes for monthly meeting--June 10, 2024

Present: CAC members: Tyler Fogg, Bob Gilson, Donald Lamonaca, Peg Munves, Bill O' Neill, Steve Powers

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M. Steve Powers said that he had amendments to the minutes, and that he would send the changes to Peg. Peg said that she would incorporate the changes before posting the minutes.

Water Testing: Peg and Donald have tested 97 wells to date (some were re-tests.) They still have 20 requests for testing on the list and will resume testing in July. Some people have been asked to boil their water because of the presence of e-coli & coliform until the wells can be retested. There is now an interest in testing for PFOA and PFOS. Before testing, Peg & Donald or another volunteer will reach out to the town historian, and longtime residents, to help identify areas of concern. There was some private well testing for forever chemicals in 2021 downgrade of the landfill. Nothing was found at that time.

Wastewater Feasibility Study: Peg said that all of the paperwork has been submitted for the water study. A map will be made of where water testing has been done.

Trees for Tribs: Bill, Bob & Bruce began removing the tubes from some of the trees in Shatford Park. It's clear that more tubes need to be removed, but we need an expert opinion about how best to proceed. Craig Skerkis and Joanne Amlaw met with Joe Zema to discuss the trees, as well as mitigation of erosion from the stream. We are waiting to learn what he suggested. Craig asked Joe for a quote to help stem stream erosion. Joe said he would prepare a quote for installing boulders and trees.

Wetland and Small Stream Workshop: Donald Lamonaca attended the DEC sponsored workshop to learn about various wetlands, including flora and fauna, as well as regulations for their protection. At the moment, most regulations for wetland preservation are local. Donald said that many people told him how impressed they are by the work being done in New Lebanon.

Hazard Mitigation Plan: Steve handed out a set of draft recommendations that the Cornell Students have prepared for submission in June. There are 6 potential projects the town could work on, and 2 will be selected – 12 Facebook posts about risks to the town; and an assessment of over 600 culvert in town. The Cornell students will be doing a presentation about their work on July 1 at 5:00 pm in the pavilion in Shatford Park. Steve said that the last time FEMA did a disaster assessment for New Lebanon was 1985. We are not even on FEMA's calendar, but they are currently doing a risk assessment in Rensselaer County. Steve said that among the things he is looking into are battery backups for the Town Hall, as well as establishing a chain of command in case of emergency. Steve believes the landfill should be added to the list.

Landfill: The DEC required closure plan is to cover the landfill with a geomembrane plastic barrier which would extend 10 feet beyond the perimeter of the landfill. There will be wells for testing runoff around the perimeter. Hopefully, there will be no cost to the Town other than lawyers fees which are not covered but could be refunded by DEC in the years to come

CSC: Steve is hoping to get approval at the Town Board meeting to put a sealer on the roof of the Town garage and the electrical systems upgraded, so that solar panels and heat pumps can be installed. IF the work is completed by October 1, the Town will be eligible for an additional \$250,000 grant.

Open Space Inventory: Steve said that we really need to update the Town's Open Space Inventory. The last time it was done was 2014. Bob Gilson, and Bruce Shenker (in abstentia,) volunteered to work on the project.

The next CAC Meeting is scheduled for July 8, 2024 as an informal get-together. The meeting adjourned at 8:03 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Robert Gilson