

New Lebanon Committee Reports – Board Meeting of September 10, 2024

Assessor

August was spent preparing for and attending SCAR hearings, with the last one being held on Sept 6th.

Data verification was conducted on West Hill Rd, Whitetail Trace and Route 20. We did not finish Route 20 and will have that done soon. The other side of Data Collection is Data Entry of those parcels, making changes as needed and loading new photos. The new process went well and we will pick up again in early spring.

Now, we turn our attention to building permit field work and administration.

September is another busy month, Michelle, Assessor Clerk is taking Assessment Administration class.

Assessor on vacation Sept 9th – 13th and will also be attending the annual Assessor Conference Sept 23rd - Sept 26th.

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 proceeding with voluntary water testing for residents with 117 tests done so far, including retests, and if there are specific concerns we are testing for those concerns. 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 underground water flow, etc. We have been testing for PCBs around the brown field near the Theater Barn and so far have found none. Please reach out to us if you live around there.

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 by requesting a test! Contact Donald at nlcac.lamonaca@gmail.com or Peg nlcac.munves@gmail.com

Open Space Inventory Update – We are continuing with an update. This will be a work in progress. The 2015 version is available on the Town website

Trees for Tribs – We continue to maintain the plants and all are looking good.

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, Steve Powers

CSC:

The energy upgrades to the Town Garage, paid for by the \$175,000 grant that the CSC achieved, are progressing. The electrical work is completed. The heat pumps are installed. The roof has been sealed and the solar panels should be completely installed by next week. Then we will have to wait for NYSEG to hook them up to the grid before they will start generating power for the town.

We had to resubmit applications for additional grant points to NYSERDA because of technicalities but luckily we have plenty of time to make corrections before the Oct 1 deadline.

The CSC bike team will be holding the latest tune up day at the Community Center on Sept 19 from 3pm-5pm. Residents are encouraged to bring their bikes and if anyone needs a bike, please come down to request one.

Our team will be participating in the Climate Carnival on Sept 14 at the Chatham Fairgrounds. New Lebanon fixers will be working the Repair Cafe. The CSC will have a booth promoting the activities that have gotten us the elusive Silver designation. We hope residents will be able to attend from 11am-3pm.

EMC:

Climate Carnival was discussed and some towns were not sure what they will be able to show at the carnival so for example Hudson will not have a table. Some towns have combined tables and will be staffed with CAC or Climate Smart Members

Stan Yarian from Livingston presented a proposal to support a resolution to lower leach field size requirements for septic systems that use a new technology that can work with smaller leach fields. This is mostly useful in lakeside communities. The EMC supported his proposal

Taghkanic is in the process of working with CLC on a community forest project near Craryville Road. From DEC website:

This grant program funds municipal land acquisition for community forests, which are vital for wildlife habitat, flood mitigation, recreational opportunities, mental health, air quality, water quality, and to meet the obligations outlined in New York & #39s Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Project is in early phase and they are still figuring it out, but it seems like a good project

Another interesting discussion was about a Smashing Pumpkins program where a community event people bring their used pumpkins after Halloween and rather than throw away pumpkins there is a fun way to smash them and then the results are made into compost. Perhaps we might want to consider that, though most people probably already compost their used pumpkins.

Fire, Law Enforcement & Emergency

Fire Calls and Activities - August 2024

1. 8/9/2024 Wires down 7 people 3.03hr
 2. 8/9/2024 Wires down 2 people 3.22hr
 3. 8/10/2024 AAPI 7 people 4.31hr
 4. 8/12/2024 Class 7 people 28hr
 5. 8/19/2024 Funeral 6 people 12.9hr
 6. 8/23/2024 Alarm Activation 2 people .30min
 7. 8/23/2024 Mutual Aid 2 people .30min
 8. 8/26/2024 Co Alarm 5 people 4hr
 9. 8/28/2024 Structure fire 8 people 20hr
 10. 8/28/2024 Alarm Activation 5 people 1.40hr
 11. 8/29/2024 Indoor Fuel Odor 3 people 1.18hr
 12. 8/31/2024 Parade 3 people 6.6hr
- Totals 57 people 85.24hrs

- 2 Alarm Activation
 - 1 AAPI
 - 1 Mutual Aid
 - 2 wires down
 - 1 structure fire
 - 1 indoor fuel odor
 - 1 CO alarm
- 9 alarms
- - Class – 1
 - Funeral-1
 - parade-1

Highway

No report

Historian & LVHS

Historian:

This summer I have:

- Met with Glenn Fisher; we discussed information to include in a history of the town;
- Registered for the virtual conference of the New York State Association of Public Historians;
- Researched the Election of 1876 for a future presentation;
- Contacted Christopher White of Albany Grave Diggers and we discussed the restoration of the headstones most in need at the Cypress Hill portion of the Cemetery of the Evergreens; he expects a mid-September start;

- Sent an email to members of the group overseeing the Cypress Hill project to update them and to request a meeting to discuss the first phase of the project;
- Participated in a zoom meeting of the Columbia County NY 250 Project;
- Responded to phone and email inquiries regarding cemeteries in town and where to find information on ancestors; and
- Prepared the historian's budget for 2025.

LVHS:

No report

Justice Court

No report

Library

No report

Buildings, Parks & Recreation

Buildings:

No report

Parks:

No report

Recreation Commission:

No report

Seniors

The Office of the Aging is preparing for its annual report and public input session. Watch for dates for the input sessions to be held here in New Lebanon.

The OFA senior picnic is 9/12 at the VFW Stuyvesant Falls, the Senior of the Year winners will be there. There will be raffles, games, music as well as the picnic.

Watch the Senior Scoop for upcoming programs and changes in health insurance and Medicare will be highlighter. HEAP applications will be out soon, and renewals applications have been sent to previous recipients.

New Lebanon Seniors have one more trip scheduled this fall for Lake George. Fall brings the Remembrance Luncheon, a costume party and a Thanksgiving dinner. Everyone is enjoying our meetings of socialization and of course food. See the Facebook page and the newspaper articles to stay up to date on activities.

Traffic Safety

Highway workers are finishing summer projects this month and getting prepared for winter. New signs, and guard rails were on the project list and continued removal of fallen trees.

Volunteers

No report

Quality of Life

No report

Zoning Re-write Committee Update

The ZRC essentially took the summer off, however, members are participating on the Shaker Preservation workgroup and the Central Commercial District committee. The Town has yet to hear back from Mr. Campanelli on its latest mark-up of the draft telecommunications code. Now that we are past Labor Day, I will reach out to him again. The ZRC next meets in October. I anticipate that various projects will come to a head in early fall and that the committee will resume meeting monthly after October.

Community Center/Free Store Update

Free Store:

The Free Store had 525 people come through for the month of August. We had a generous donation from Verizon of 75 back to school backpacks and I'm happy to report that they are all gone. We continue to have wonderful supporters of the store. Many of our frequent guests are now bringing in donations and hanging up their own clothing in an effort to help out. And on busy days, when the donations start to pile up people are always eager to lend a helping hand. It takes a village and I'm proud to be a part of this one.

Community Center:

The Community Center had 120 people for the month of August. The Community Dinner brought in 40 of those guests.

As we turn the page to Fall, we will have new hours, some after school, that will hopefully see the Center being utilized more often.

As a new person stepping into this role, I'm excited to bring a new level of energy and fresh ideas to the Center. I appreciate the opportunity to make this place a true Community Center.

Shaker Preservation Committee

No report

County Update

No report

Depot Committee

No report