

Conservation Advisory Council, Town of New Lebanon
Minutes for monthly meeting
October 7, 2024

Present: CAC members: Bob Gilson, Donald Lamonaca, Peg Munves, Bill O'Neill, Steve Powers – Bruce Sheker was absent

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 P.M. The minutes were approved as edited.

Water Source Protection Plan: The water testing plan was approved in July by the DEC. Peg has not been able to reach the NY Rural Water Association since we are not sure if we are now on our own. Over 125 wells have been tested to date. The Community Center was tested at a cost of \$3,000. No major problems have been found. Overall, when there is a problem (like coliform,) Peg and Donald go back to test again.

OSI: Bob and others will talk to Nan Stolzenberg to assess next steps to doing the rewrite

Landfill: The town board is getting a commitment letter to donate the parcel to the town from the owners of the property where the landfill is located. The transaction should be completed within the next week. The project could go out to bid in November but wouldn't start until next year.

Wastewater Feasibility Study: The study is moving forward. The engineer is working on getting permissions to perc on people's properties. Perc testing involves digging a 1 x 2 foot hole, filling it with water and watching the drainage. The joint BEDC/CAC committee is working on developing a survey for landowners in the business district to learn about their needs and concerns. The committee needs to home in on what the engineer needs to complete the feasibility study.

Hazard Mitigation Plan: Steve said that he has submitted the latest assignment, but it has been complicated. He will be working with Cornell to develop the culvert study.

Trees for Tribs: The trees are looking good. We are waiting for the Rec Committee to take over maintenance of the trees. The CAC continues to work on them. They need to be mulched before the winter. Peg said that there are grants available to counteract stream bed erosion (the Trees for Tribs trees have not stemmed the erosion.) If funded this would be a joint project with the CAC and the CSC. This is especially helpful since the CSC has enough points to be moved to the top of the list for a grant. The Rec Committee has gotten an estimate from Darcy to do the work for \$80,000.

CSC: Steve Powers reported that enough actions had been completed to earn points and that he had just applied for a \$250,000 grant from NYSERDA. The money would be used for insulation for the highway garage, solar panels and heat pumps for the community center, and battery backups for both the garage and the community center.

Zoning Rewrite Committee: The ZRC is not going to look at updating the Comprehensive Plan at the moment. Recommendations for updated changes to zoning in the Central Business District have been submitted. Work on telecommunications plan are at a standstill. They are waiting for the lawyer to respond to the update.

The next CAC Meeting is scheduled November 11, 2024 at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Robert Gilson