

## **Assessor**

Exemptions –

- All exemption renewals have been sent to owners and are due back no later than March 1, 2025. Exemptions can be dropped off to the Town Hall in person or mailed to the Assessor. Exemptions not received before March 1 will be removed with no recourse.
- The States trend is up 5% over last year for most of the County. The assessor is now doing analysis to determine the best way to move forward. We can make small changes yearly and remain at or near 100%. Keeping assessments at 100% makes them more transparent and understandable for taxpayers. It would also make for smaller assessment changes in the year of a complete reassessment. If we do not make any overall changes, we will start to see a drop in the equalization rate.
- Reminder- it is the taxpayers responsibility to inform the assessor or tax collector of any mailing address change.

## **Building Department**

No report

## **Business & Economic Development**

No report

## **Outreach & Marketing**

No report

## **CAC, Climate Smart & Environmental Management**

**CAC:**

**Drinking Water Source Protection Plan (DWSP2)** - The CAC has paused tests for a couple of months and will get back to it soon - to date we have done 148 tests. Testing is 100% voluntary by residents. We are interested in information on anything concerning residents, like things that have been buried or dumped uphill/upstream from their wells.

**Joint BEDC and Conservation Advisory Council Wastewater Feasibility Study** -

The joint BEDC and CAC committee on Wastewater and Muni water is finalizing a draft survey that is for all participating property owners to assess more in depth concerns on water issues along the business corridor. For the study, Lamont Engineers will calibrate water test results along the business corridor to get a better picture of water quality and concerns.

**Open Space Inventory (OSI)** - No update yet since the County Conservation plan is just beginning its process and our OSI will be folded into that as well as available on its own to NL.

**Trees for Tribs** - CAC volunteers will continue to monitor trees in 2025 and we will work with the Rec Committee to see if we can get more volunteers. Town Board Member Amlaw met with Mr Zema over the last summer and shared that he recommends leaving tubes on for a while longer since most of the tree trunks are not strong enough yet to withstand wind etc. Note that this has 0 to do with having tubes on for too long, as many have commented to us. The tubes do a great job of allowing light and rain in. The plants themselves are just small right now but are growing a lot.

**Stream Erosion in Shatford Park** - We are getting an assessment from an engineer about the best recommendations we can make to the TB about fixing the erosion. DEC's Christine Vanderlan is helping us by sharing information on other projects like this one. We hope to have information for the Town Board by April if not earlier.

#### **CSC:**

After the Town Board approved the bids for the heat pumps, solar panels and storage batteries at the Community Center, the contractors informed us that work could be started this month.

The head of the NYS CSC program asked either Steve Powers or Supervisor Houghtling to be on a panel at the AOT meeting in NYC on Feb 17. Neither of us can attend but CSC Coordinator Bruce Shenker has agreed to go in our place and inform attendees about the New Lebanon successes in both the CSC and NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities program.

Plastic recycling has expanded in town and to date we have recycled 477 lbs but, sadly, we won't be able to make the 1000 lb/year requirement to get the free Trex park bench by the Feb 17 deadline.

The solar panels on the Town Garage were finally hooked up to the grid on Dec 13 after NYSEG installed a new transformer. We are working with High Peaks Solar to get a link for the website so that residents can see how much energy is being generated. Once the Community Center solar panels are installed we will also have a separate link on the town website to monitor electricity generation.

#### **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:**

The recreation commission did not have any December activity.

I was able to connect with Pete McCagg about the rink setup. Sounds like he should be able to get to it soon. The early storms messed up the plans.

## **Seniors**

No report

## **Traffic Safety**

No report

## **Volunteers**

No report

## **Quality of Life**

No report

## **Zoning Re-write Committee Update**

No report

## **Community Center/Free Store Update**

### **Free Store:**

The Free Store was hustling and bustling as it always does. We had 608 people come through. I did have to ask that people stop just dumping things outside of our building and the Town Hall when we are not open. Hopefully people will listen, we will see and I'll update you all in the January report.

### **Community Center:**

The Community Center had 366 people come through and enjoy all we have to offer. Adults and children enjoyed coming in to play and to make stuff all month long. The art center is a big hit and people made cards and painted ornaments. The annual Tree Lighting was a huge success as well. I was expecting a lot of people but I was floored to see so many people walking through the door that night. We had over 160 guests (some people did not sign in). So many people helped out with cookie making and lending a helping hand the night of. It was a real team effort. It was so much fun and I'm really looking forward to next year when we do it all over again. The Seniors hosted a lovely morning event with the High School Choir on Dec 4. 55 kids led by the incredible Val Synakowski wowed us all with their performances. We have just opened up the space for rentals and slots are filling up fast. We've got some private parties booked as well as a few that are open to the public. so far, 2025 is shaping up nicely.

## **Shaker Preservation Committee**

No report

## **County Update**

No report

## **Depot Committee**

No report