

Conservation Advisory Council, Town of New Lebanon
Minutes for monthly meeting
January 13, 2025

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:04PM The December 2024 minutes were approved as presented.

Wastewater Feasibility Study: The Wastewater Feasibility Study is progressing. Joint BEDC and CAC committee are developing a needs survey/questionnaire. Along with Josh Young, Pegfand Donald will be going pout in the coming weeks to speak with business owners and residents who would be in the potential water and sewer district

Water Source Protection Plan: Donald and Peg have now done 148 tests. They have recently tested several wells that had high arsenic content – this is likely due to the drought. Residents who had excessive arsenic in their water were encouraged to get filtration systems. This points out why wells should be tested annually. The CAC still has about \$8,000 banked for future testing with CRENV lab. This is an important service to residents. The CAC should look for new funding to continue the service.

Climate Preparedness: Bob suggested that it might be interesting to hold a public information session about how to prepare for hazards related to climate change. He noted that there was a 1,000 acre fire near Great Barrington in the fall, as well as a flood in New Lebanon after a beaver dam burst in Massachusetts. He suggested contacting the Cornell Extension Service to see if they might have someone on their staff who could come to do a presentation to help residents prepare in case of an emergency.

Wyomanock Creek: Bob said that he had spoken with Lisa Gallina of the Cornell Extension Service about the bank erosion of Wyomanock Creek. She said that she might have someone on the Cornell Extension staff who could help the Town develop a plan to stem the erosion. Bob said that he would follow up.

Trees for Tribs: Peg said that the CAC will continue to look after the trees until the Recreation Committee would be ready to take over the care of the trees in Shatford Park. She said that Joanne Amlaw, via Mr. Zema, said that the tubes need to stay on for the present.

Countywide Conservation Plan: Donald attended the inaugural Countywide Conservation Plan meeting. He said that it was more of a survey than a presentation. Attendees were broken into small groups to brainstorm about what is needed.

Climate Smart Communities: The solar panels are hooked up on the Maintenance Facility. Money has been approved to install heat pumps on the Community Center.

No other committee updates.

The next CAC Meeting is scheduled February 10, 2025 at 5:00 pm at the Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Robert Gilson