

Assessor

No report

Building Department

No report

Business & Economic Development

No report

CAC, Climate Smart & Environmental Management

CAC:

Drinking Water Source Protection Plan: Residential water testing will start again in April after a three month winter break. We currently have 22 outstanding testing requests. We are starting to look for funding for future testing once ARPA funds have run out. During a recent meeting with the NYSDEC we learned that the plan should be updated every 5 years, which puts the update in 2029. The joint Committee on Waste Water and Muni Water, which is the NL BEDC and NL CAC, has made appropriate results available for the Feasibility Study, and we have been sending survey requests to all property owners and businesses along the 20-22 corridor. It is very important to have as much information on the current state of septic and water along the corridor and we ask that ANYONE who was sent a survey to please fill it out. In April we will start to look at how to get the stream bank repaired in Shatford Park. What is the best way to do this, and possible grant monies to do it. Please contact nlcac.munves@gmail.com if you would like a survey for the Feasibility study or have questions, and if you would like a water test and if you are having concerns with your drinking water.

Trees for Tribs: Come have fun in the park and get your gardening on. We are looking for a couple of volunteers to help us with the tree clean up, mulching and tube fixing at Shatford Park: work when you are able.

Countywide Conservation Plan: The group led by Columbia Land Conservancy is getting priorities set and the NL CAC is actively participating. They have a call to residents! Weigh in on conservation and help with the Columbia County Conservation Plan! . You can help with outlining how the Plan will be developed and share your priorities for conservation in Columbia County. Attend the next town hall in-person this spring (DATE tba). To provide feedback on your priorities for conservation in Columbia County, please fill out the following quick survey <https://tinyurl.com/3cam9ejc> or get in touch by emailing Hello@ColumbiaLand.org.

HVAHC Pilot Project: The CAC is looking forward to contributing to this important new project which will look at the needs of housing and conservation in our community.

CAC needs you! Looking for new members! If you or anyone you know is interested in working on Town conservation issues, please reach out to us at the email above.

The NL CAC is: Bill O'Neill, Peg Munves, Steve Powers, Bruce Shenker, Bob Gilson, Donald Lamonaca. We meet on the second Monday of the month at 5PM at NL Town Hall

CSC:

During a period of drought in 2021, two Cornell Grad students, Jessie Hughes and Waqar Ahktar, working on a Climate Vulnerability Study for New Lebanon's Climate Smart Task Force (CSC), interviewed LVPA Chief Steve Houghtling and heard that they were searching for local ponds weekly for water sources for their fire trucks. The students recommended that the CSC seek out funding for a water tank that would alleviate the stress in dry periods. Another Cornell student, Nadia Zaidi, researched tanks. CSC members approached Assemblymember Didi Barrett who graciously offered one of her state allotted grants of \$125,000 for worthy projects such as this. Fast forward to this week when the 10,000 gallon rain water harvest tank was delivered. The grant covered the water tank, a new backup generator and propane tank. Thanks to Chief Houghtling and LVPA President Ed Godfroy for their patience and assistance during this process. And thanks to HL Propane, MK Electric and Darcy Construction for their help in bringing this to fruition. This project is another example of how Climate Smart Task Force efforts are being rewarded with tangible results. In this case, it took the form of State grant money for our community.

The battery backups at the Community Center are being installed now and the solar panels will go up on the roof as soon as the weather permits.

The CSC is planning our annual Roadside Cleanup for April 26 th . We will start from Shatford Park as usual. More details will follow.

A Repair Café will be held in Austerlitz on March 29, New Lebanon at the Community Center on May 10, and for the New Lebanon Seniors June 20 at the Community Center.

Our bike team is planning repair workshops in May at Shatford Park. Dates will follow.

CSC Coordinator, Bruce Shenker, represented New Lebanon on a panel entitled, "How Taking Climate Action Can Also Save Your Town Money," at the Association of Towns Annual Meeting in NYC last month. He reported that many towns were interested in the New Lebanon experience and requested follow up information.

EMC:

No report

Fire, Law Enforcement & Emergency

Fire Calls and Activities – February 2025

- 2/3/2025 Structure Fire 12 people 5.4hr
- 2/10/2025 Drill 7 people 17.5hr
- 2/11/2025 Alarm Activation 5 people 1.15hr
- 2/16/2025 Wires Down 3 people .20min
- 2/17/2025 Osha Refresher 9 people 18hr
- 2/18/2025 Chimney Fire 7 people 8.17hr
- 2/18/2025 indoor smoke investigation 5 people 1.8hr
- 2/18/2025 Chimney Fire 7 people 8.17hr
- 2/21/2025 Structure Fire 5 people 5.35hr
- 2/21/2025 Fire police 3 people .18hr
- 2/22/2025 Alarm Activation 4 people 1hr
- 2/24/2025 Stand By 3 people
- 2/24/2025 Service Call 3 people 1.45hr
- 2/24/2025 Osha Refresher 6 people 15hr
- 2/27/2025 Fire Police 3 people 1.18hr

Totals 82 people 85.25 hours

- AAPD- 1
- Alarm activation – 2
- Fire Police - 2
- Wires Down- 1
- Chimney Fire-2
- Structure Fire - 2
- Standby-1
- Indoor smoke investigation - 1
- 12 alarms

- Osha refresher -2
- Drills – 1

Highway

No report

Historian & LVHS

Historian:

Since my last report:

- I have been invited to speak to the New Lebanon Senior Citizens in September 2025 on the history of the Town of New Lebanon. I have been invited to speak to the Colonie Historical Society in January 2026 on Samuel Tilden.
- I have received several requests:

- o An email with a question regarding a home in Stephentown that was researched by Rev. Ernest Smith;
- o An email regarding research on a home on County Rte. 9'
- o An email regarding a school house (School #11) on private property;
- o An email requesting a meeting to talk about a private home on County Rte. 9; and
- o An email requestion a meeting with an author who wrote a book on Jesse Torrey. I will invite Glenn Fisher to be a part of this meeting.
 - I will be meeting with Glenn Fisher on March 13, 2025
 - I have registered for the 2025 NY History Conference to be held in Albany, NY June 5-6
 - June 13, 2025 marks the 200 th anniversary of the visit of the Marquis de Lafayette to New Lebanon. The Lebanon Valley Historical Society and I will conduct a recognition of this event at the Lafayette marker.
 - There will be a meeting of Region 4 of the Association of Public Historians NYS on June 14, 2025 in Kingston, NY.

LVHS:

No report

Justice Court

No report

Library

A couple of things from the Library:

- The New Lebanon Library will host a free screening of local filmmaker Ted Timreck's film, Shaker Swamp Four Seasons, on Friday, March 14, 2025 at 6:30 PM (doors open at 6:00 PM). The screening will be followed by a lively post-film discussion and light refreshments.
- The Friends of New Lebanon Library Book Sale will be held May 10-11th, with a preview on May 9th. The Friends will begin collecting donations of gently used books, DVDs, Music CDs, and books on CD on March 15th. They are not able to accept textbooks, encyclopedias, or library discards. Donations may be dropped off at the Church of Our Saviour located at 14660 NY-22 on Saturdays from 9:00 AM to Noon and Wednesdays from 1:00-4:00 PM.

Buildings, Parks & Recreation

Buildings:

No report

Parks:

No report

Recreation Commission:

The recreation commission will have our first 2025 meeting in March.

Seniors

The office of the Aging is working on changes to its programming to meet the suggestions from the State Dept. of Aging after they had their inspection. I am on that committee. More information and guidelines will be forth coming after the Advisory meeting next week. I will contact Joanne regarding her expanded role once the changes have been agreed on.

The Lebanon Valley Seniors start meeting twice a month this month with the first meeting this past Friday. Everyone enjoyed the soup and salad meals and especially the Bingo with prizes held after the meetings for January and February. The expanded programs include guest speakers, fun activities as well as meals and trips. Our numbers keep growing, although we lost two members this past month. It is a joy to have the Community Center as our meeting place, Alissa makes the room look so inviting and helps with new ideas for prizes and games, from other Community Center programs. Any of you are welcome to come to a meeting and see what we are about.

The LVCC is continuing to build a data base of all seniors in New Lebanon and hopes to be able to start groups to help with transportation and home repairs by the summer, Sarah Conly is heading this up. They are talking to the executive board of the LVS about this. Once this is set up, Sarah and I will share the information with the Advisory Council of OFA.

Traffic Safety

Now that spring is on the way, new projects will be proposed, and I will get a list of those at the March Meeting. I will be sharing that information with Pete as requested by the Board. Liz and I will wait another month before setting up the Traffic Trailer, anyone with a special area they are concerned about can contact Liz. Hopefully if the snow stays away, the State will work on the potholes I made them aware of at the January meeting on Rt 20 between the elementary school and Rt 9 N. Pete and his crew have been working day and night to maintain our town roads and will continue that now the mud season is upon us.

Volunteers

No report

Zoning Re-write Committee Update

1. 2025 Proposals - I am working with Jon Tingley to shape these proposals into a local law. He has raised some questions about specific provisions which may result in changes. At this writing it is unclear if the package will be ready for this meeting; more,likely for introduction in April.

2. Telecommunications - Your Board held a special meeting on March 5, guided by Attorney Campanelli and attended by members of the public.
3. Mt. Lebanon Historic District - The workgroup continues to refine its proposal.
4. Comprehensive Plan Update - upon the likely completion of items 1 and 2 in the coming months, the ZRC will turn its attention to the Comprehensive Plan. My hope is to provide your Board with a work plan in April.

Community Center/Free Store Update

The Community Center had 343 people sign in for February 2025. This includes the Food Club Dinner which had 137 guests.

The Seniors had one meeting with 45 in attendance.

The Jam Session brought in 14

The Camp Shatford Meet and Greet had 20 guests including the camp directors

Rental 1 had 35 guests (Feb 1)

Rental 2 had 50 guests (Feb 22)

In total we had 507 attendees enjoying the Community Center this month. One renter stated it was the best birthday party they ever had and they are going to book us for their Christmas party this year. We're seeing people of all ages use the Center. One evening we had littles making crafts at the art center while 80 year olds played ping pong. It was a wholesome sight.

The Free Store had 582 shoppers and droppers. We held a very successful 2 day rummage sale to help us clear out our overflow. Ten Darrow School students have offered to help out once a week at the Store which has been so helpful. They come 3 or 4 at a time and they organize like nobody's business. They are a wonderful group and we are very grateful for their help.

In total 1,089 people walked through our doors and enjoyed all that we have to offer.

Submitted by Alissa Ross

Shaker Preservation Committee

No report

County Update

No report

Depot Committee

No report