

Assessor

No report

Building Department

No report

Business & Economic Development

No report

CAC, Climate Smart & Environmental Management

CAC:

No report

CSC:

The solar panels and the battery backups at the Community Center are being installed now and the installers feel they will complete the job by the end of the week. Meanwhile, NYSERDA has reimbursed the town for stage 1 of the project.

The CSC has scheduled our annual **Roadside Cleanup** for April 26th. We will start from Shatford Park at 10am as usual. *Gloves, reflective vests are available. Bring your own if you have them. Cleaning of sections of the Wyomanock Creek will require rubber boots if you want to join that group. Returning this year-* drop off an old computer, printer or other electronics that you no longer need. They will be recycled by an area company. Also, drop off clean plastic bags to be recycled into outdoor living products by Trex. Free soil amendments (nutrient-rich compost from Columbia County's digester) will be available for those who bring a container. Mavericks, again, has graciously offered to donate refreshments for our cleaners. Please let us know if you plan to join us.

Contact: Bob Gilson at: nlcac.gilson@gmail.com

A Repair Café will be held in 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 a repair tune-up on May 17 at Shatford Park from 10am-2pm. They will also be holding them on the following dates from 3:30pm – 5pm at the Community Center: June 19, July 17, Aug 21, Sept 18 and Oct 16th. We encourage residents to bring their bikes for a check-up.

EMC:

No report

Fire, Law Enforcement & Emergency

No report

Highway

No report

Historian & LVHS

Historian:

Since my last report:

- I met with Joe Ferrannini of Grave Stone Matters Cemetery Preservation; Monument Conservation of Hoosick Falls, NY, along with Brian Sedgwick and Sharon Moon, at the Cypress Hill cemetery. Mr. Ferrannini will be finishing the restoration work on the remaining stones. The original restorer, Christopher White, has health issues and is unable to complete the restorations. Mr. Ferrannini will begin work on the stones by October 1, 2025. I met with the Cypress Hill committee: In attendance were Gregg Carroll, Sharon Moon, Ed Godfroy, Larry Benson, Mark Baumli, Joanne Amlaw, and Brian Sedgwick
- We discussed the mid-point report that Gregg Carroll will be sending to the National Society of the DAR as per the grant. She will update the DAR on the changes to contractor and new completion date.
- Ed Godfroy brought the need to remove trees to the group. It was approved to have the trees identified be removed.
- Other topics discussed were replacement stones for graves with unreadable or missing stones; potential for a DAR sign commemorating the Revolutionary soldiers buried in Cypress Hill; and information signage identifying the soldiers buried in Cypress Hill and background information on their units and service. I met with Glenn Fisher to catch up on our research and to discuss collaborative projects for the 250th celebration of the Revolutionary War. I spoke with Richard Torrey, a descendant of the New Lebanon Torrey family about a manuscript his sister, Frances Bonner, has written about Jesse Torrey. Glenn Fisher, who has researched and written about Jesse Torrey, Jr. also took part in the call. I then spoke with Mrs. Bonner about the manuscript, and I will be meeting her on March 31 to review her research and help in editing the manuscript.

LVHS:

No report

Justice Court

No report

Library

No report

Buildings, Parks & Recreation

Buildings:

No report

Parks:

No report

Recreation Commission:

We had our first meeting of the year at 6:30 on 3/18.

In attendance:

Abbie Shoobs, Chair

Joanne Amlaw, Town Board liaison

Joanna Ezinga

Shantel Schonour

Susan Tipograph

Absent, Joe Ogilvie and Kim Favre

Here are the planned events that we've put together for 2025.

Date TBD - High School Band Music in the Park

With a food truck

8/10 12-4PM

Town Picnic and Music in the Park

3 bands:

Happy Together -8

9/14 12-4PM

Doug Banker Memorial Music in the Park

4 bands

Newcomers Meet and Greet, held from 1-4PM on the following Saturdays.

May 17

July 12

October 11

Locations TBD

Monthly Community Walks

Full schedule TBD

June 22, Hike on the Lebanon Springs trails, led by Karen Ross

July 13 - (tentative date) A walk on the Schonour's Wyomanack and Shaker Swamp trails, followed by a section of the Corkscrew rail trail. Led by Sara and Shantel Schonour

A walk on the Corkscrew Rail trail, starting from the North in Stephentown.

A walk at Hand Hollow

A walk at Sassafras Museum

Possibly another Shaker Swamp walk

Community Kayak/Canoe Paddles:

A repeat of last year's popular Bog Paddle, led by Tom Gerety

Date tbd

Paddles at Queechy, dates TBD -

Meet at 6PM at Adams Point Beach, we have the board's permission to park in their lot.

September 12 at 7PM - Outdoor movie night, showing The Princess Bride

At this year's first meeting on 3/18, we discussed the idea of a dance, maybe combining the seniors with the newcomers and anyone else who'd like to join in. To be held at the pavilion or the community center depending on the date and the weather. Line Dancing with a caller was the plan. And we'd have potluck food. There's a local woman who does it, she charges \$250 for 2 hours. Joanne Amlaw was in touch with her. We hadn't planned on this in our budget, so it may be a 2026 event. If there's any money left over from the summer events, we'll try for this year.

Seniors

The Advisory Board of the Office of the Aging has met and approved continuing with the suggested changes in the Board to improve communication and programming for the Columbia County Seniors. Greg Olsen, the Acting Director of the NYS Office of the Aging, was our guest speaker. He discussed how budgets were developed and then the process of how the budget becomes law and funding is sent to various programs. The new operating structure for the Advisory Council was introduced and questions answered. The New Lebanon representatives are tasked with deciding which committees they wish to sit on and plan to start committee meetings at the May meeting. The representatives send in a report prior to each meeting about events, concerns and successes for the town they represent. New Lebanon Reps will meet with Joanne and Tistrya in June after the first meeting under the new system has occurred. This report form may change moving forward. Nina Benvenuto, administrator of the Columbia County Office of the Aging will be sending a letter to all town supervisors about the changes and wants to meet with each Town Board and will be calling and setting up a time on the agenda.

Donal Collins, the Board of Supervisor representative to the Advisory Council reported that the Board of Supervisors has sent in requests to our Federal and State legislators asking that they address the pending cuts in Medicaid and Food programs which would affect Seniors. The Board is working with the Department of Health regarding new sanitation guidelines, especially regarding water purification and waste management. The County is building a new 911 center attached to the Fire Training center. It is scheduled for completion in 2025, the State Police are building a new station on route 295 by the Chatham Town Hall and is scheduled for completion in 2026. Pictures from the Columbia Paper's edition March 20th are attached (see last page of committee reports).

Donal also reported that homelessness in the County increased with 29-30 people in the shelter which closes in April. He reported that the County has a 60-80% poverty

level. A new Wellness building is scheduled to be built near the Sheriff's office which may help reduce homelessness.

New Lebanon Seniors are having a great year. The first two trips are filled. A great time was had at the recent St. Patrick's Day dinner. We are now having 2 meetings per month except for April. Guest speakers are planned for the first meetings of the month along with games. The Alzheimer's association is scheduled for April 4th and May 2nd will be a spring fling with May Day Hat contest. The Lebanon Valley Community Corporation (LVCC) continues to develop a data base of Seniors in the Town. Sarah Conly continues to work with the committee on this project.

Traffic Safety

The meeting had a guest speaker Assemblyman Bendett from the State Transportation Committee. I am writing this report before the meeting so will address any concerns that may affect New Lebanon at the Town Board meeting. At the present time there are no projects scheduled for 2025 in the town of New Lebanon by the State and County. New signage at Love's Truck Stop in Canaan has been completed, please pay attention when you go there. Further information about CHIPS funding will be disclosed at this meeting as well.

Volunteers

No report

Zoning Re-write Committee Update

No report

Community Center/Free Store Update

Please note that we are short 2 days count (3/29 and 3/30) so our numbers would be slightly higher.

The Community Center sign in's 260

Two Senior Meetings 135

Pancake Breakfast 63

Walk The Runway 20

Blood Drive 30

Flower Workshop 16

The Jam Session 13

Camp Shatford Meet and Greet 3

Private Party Rental (Mar 9) 50

In total we had 590 attendees enjoying the Community Center for March 2025

We had a special event for the Girl Scout Troop as a thank you for always helping us out during our events. The girls got to have a sleepover at the CC and it was so much fun.

What a wonderful group of young adults.

The Free Store had 598 shoppers and droppers.

In total, 1,188 people walked through our doors in March, not including the 3 amazing workers who have been working hard all month to get our new solar up and running.

Shaker Preservation Committee

No report

County Update

The County Board of Supervisors passed 2 resolutions through home committee with unanimous support of the committee members. They both ask the federal government to not slash funding that our residents rely on. One is regarding Medicaid, SNAP and other necessary funding for our communities to survive. The other is regarding Library funding. Both resolutions (with slight language changes to reflect the New Lebanon Town Board instead of the Columbia County Board of Supervisors) will be presented to the New Lebanon Town Board at our 4/1 meeting for consideration.

Depot Committee

No report



RE Lindmark

Construction in Chatham.



RE Lindmark

The county site in Ghent.

Construction of two new headquarters is underway

CHATHAM/GHENT — New York State Police is building a new 5,000 square foot station located at 500 State Route 295 in Chatham. The new station will replace SP New Lebanon, which no longer meets State Police needs. Expected completion of the new station is April 2026. Construction cost is \$5.38 million.

Later this year Columbia County 911 will move to its new center at 50 Grandinetti Drive in the Commerce Park in Ghent. The center is a 3,000 square foot addition to the existing PJ Keeler Columbia County

Emergency Services Response and Training Facility. A portion of County 911's current location at the Public Safety Building on Industrial Tract in Greenport will be kept as a backup facility, should the need ever arise, according to County Engineering Commissioner Ray Jurkowski. The new metal-framed, metal-sided addition will cost \$2.7 million. Construction is expected to be complete by the beginning of September with the transition to the facility complete by the end of September/beginning of October. —Diane Valden

