

**Conservation Advisory Council, Town of New Lebanon**  
**Minutes for monthly meeting**  
**April 7, 2025**

**Present:** CAC members: Bob Gilson, Donald Lamonaca, Peg Munves, Steve Powers, Bruce Shenker

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 P.M. The March minutes were approved as presented.

**Wastewater Feasibility Study:** The Wastewater Feasibility Study is progressing. A questionnaire was sent out to residents and business owners in the commercial district and some side streets. Some copies of the survey have been returned. Perc tests were done on 17 properties this past week. Thanks to Melanie at Blueberry Hill for lending a hose. Peg is hoping for a draft report by June.

**Water Source Protection Plan:** Donald and Peg did 9 tests yesterday including a PCB test near the brownfield. While there are still some funds remaining, the CAC needs to look for new funding sources to continue offering free water testing.

**Countywide Conservation:** Donald said that he would be attending a meeting next week.

**Open Space inventory:** While Bruce and Bob did an initial edit of the OSI before the first of the year, nothing has been done in the intervening months. Peg is interested in getting the OSI ready to post on the Town's website and suggested that we might look at the Town of Austerlitz for an effective model of how to restructure the material. The OSI update will potentially be folded into the Countywide Conservation Plan.

**Hudson Valley Affordable Housing Coalition:** Peg attended the second information gathering session which was a 3 hour meeting – lots of good information on stats and figures on income and housing were shared. There is a desire to balance conservation with affordable housing; however, contrary to posts on Facebook, property currently designated as conservation lands will *not* be used for low cost housing. There will be a forthcoming Town wide meeting in May or June to share findings and gather input.

**Trees for Tribs:** Peg said that she would be meeting with Joanne Amlaw and Joe Dwileski to discuss moving some of the trees to make improvements to the landscaping. Donald and Bruce agreed to be part of the meeting. It was suggested that it would be great if the CAC and the Rec Committee could collaborate on the maintenance of the project.

**Climate Smart Communities:** April 26 has been scheduled for the town clean-up day. In addition, there will be electronics recycling. Volunteers are needed. The solar panels, batteries and heat pumps have been installed at the Community Center. Work is also currently being done on the septic.

**Shaker Swamp:** Bruce said that Shaker Swamp Conservancy has been doing research and has identified 8 – 10 grants for potential funding. They have been working with Nelson Pope to delineate the wetlands.

**Hazard Mitigation Plan:** Steve said that changes have been made to the Plan, but that the County has yet to institute the changes. He thinks that the changes will be made in the final draft; if not we can do them ourselves. Once the final draft is complete, it will be sent to residents for comments.

The next CAC Meeting is scheduled May 12, 2025 at 5:00 pm at the Town Hall. The meeting adjourned at 5:45 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted by Robert Gilson*