

*Conservation Advisory Council, Town of New Lebanon*  
**Minutes for monthly meeting**  
**August 11, 2025**

**Present:** CAC members: Bob Gilson, Donald Lamonaca, Peg Munves, Bill O'Neill, Steve Powers, Bruce Shenker.

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 P.M. Two sets of July minutes were approved as presented.

**Water Source Protection Plan:** Water testing continues. Bruce, the New Lebanon representative to the Columbia County Environmental Management Council (EMC), invited Peg to speak at their July meeting about water testing. The presentation was well received. Environmental Advocates of NY (EANY) sent a report about waste companies that are spreading wastewater sludge on farmland. The problem is that the sludge can contain PFAS and all the related compounds that can get into the water supply and food system. EANY is asking for a resolution from the Town banning the practice. Peg will prepare the resolution.

**Wastewater Feasibility Study:** We are still waiting for the report. The engineers are backed up with State deadlines. Peg solicited 32 income surveys and got 18 back. A percentage of responses are needed to determine the level of State funding available and we have not met that level of response to be helpful to date.

**County-wide Conservation Plan:** No report.

**Trees for Tribes:** The trees are looking good. Tubes will stay on until the trees are about 4 inches in diameter.

**Streambed Erosion:** The project is too small for the DEC. Bob will look for funding opportunities through Parks & Recreation.

**Open Space Inventory:** It was decided not to seek funding to put the OSI online at this time. Bob suggested that the OSI should be directly linked to the Comprehensive Plan so more people will have access to it and our CAC members on the ZRC will bring this up. The narrative is mostly complete. The next step is defining achievable goals linked to the Comp Plan.

**Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress:** There will be a committee meeting on the results of the town-wide input on potential housing and conservation sites on August 26.

**Summer Camp:** Peg said that the Birds of Prey presentation was a big success.

**Landfill Project:** They are working on it. The site has been cleared, and some material has been taken away.

**Tilden Project:** The engineer submitted a report with concerns about wastewater mitigation. The report said the treated wastewater will mostly stay on the property and overflow will go under Route 20 as it has been for the past decade or more.

**New Member Search:** We need new members!

**Climate Smart Communities:** Steve is working on a proposal for a new charger for the Community Center. A level 3 charger is too expensive and cannot charge hybrids. Steve is working on a grant application to replace the Town Hall boiler with a heat pump.

**Shaker Swamp:** The Shaker Swamp Board is getting ready to meet with the Darrow School to formalize an access agreement, so work can begin on the trails.

**Town Clean-up Day:** Is September 6

The next CAC Meeting is scheduled for September 8 at 5:00 pm at the Town Hall. The meeting adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted by Robert Gilson*