

**Conservation Advisory Council, Town of New Lebanon**  
**Minutes for monthly meeting**  
**September 8, 2025**

**Present:** CAC members: Bob Gilson, Donald Lamonaca, Peg Munves, Bill O'Neill, Steve Powers, Bruce Shenker. The meeting was called to order at 5:02P.M. The August minutes were approved as presented.

**Water Source Protection Plan:** New Lebanon is the only town in Columbia County that is testing residents' water for them AND the only town with an approved plan. There is about \$5,300 remaining in the budget for well testing. Peg said that we should look for more funding.

**Toxic Sludge:** Peg wrote a resolution to present to the Town Board to create a ban on the use of wastewater sludge as a fertilizer on local farms. The problem is that wastewater sludge often has PFAS compounds in it which then enters the water supply and food system. There is currently legislation being developed in the State House and Assembly to ban the practice. The CAC's resolution would help to support their efforts.

**Wastewater Feasibility Study:** Peg said that the Joint Committee – CAC and BEDC – requested that work on the wastewater feasibility study be put on hold until a legal matter can be resolved between the Town Bond attorney and the Engineer.

**County-wide Conservation Plan:** Donald said that here is no update.

**Trees for Tribs:** Peg said that she and Bruce have taken a lot of the tubes off the trees and that things are looking good. The Recreation Committee wants to replant some of the trees in new configurations. Peg suggested that a design could be worked on over the winter, but the REC Committee wants to do the work now.

**Open Space Inventory:** The OSI will be discussed being folded in to the Comp Plan at the next Zoning Re-Write Committee meeting.

**Affordable Housing and Conservation:** There was a recent zoom meeting to work through sites and strategies that could/should accommodate housing and conservation together. A follow-up public meeting will happen in October.

**Climate Smart Communities:** Steve said that he expects the landfill project to be completed sometime in October. He said that they would be putting up cameras to try to dissuade people from riding over it.

**Hazard Mitigation Plan:** Steve said that a final draft of the plan has been sent out, but that it is not official until the Town approves it.

**Round-up:** Bruce asked if the CAC should create a resolution banning the use of Round-up along our roadways. Peg asked Bruce to create one.

**Shaker Swamp:** Bruce said that the Swamp Conservancy has met with the Darrow School to talk about formalizing access to the Swamp; and that Darrow will get back to us.

The next CAC Meeting is scheduled for October 6 at 4:00 pm at the Town Hall. The meeting adjourned at 6:06 pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Robert Gilson*