

Conservation Advisory Council, Town of New Lebanon
Minutes for monthly meeting
January 12, 2026

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 December minutes were approved as presented.

Wastewater Feasibility Study: The CAC is going to take the lead on the wastewater study. Steve made a motion that the CAC take the lead in the study. The motion was unanimously approved. The BEDC is on hiatus. Josh will be working with us. We still don't have the study. We will look to the Town Board for guidance. Of the 40 wells tested in the commercial district, 11 tested positive for E.coli, and 22 tested positive for coliform. All are remediable. Peg said that the cost of the wastewater project needs to be calculated with and without Tilden Commons. Peg & Donald tested a well near the gravel mine off of County 9 for VOCs and the test came back completely clean. This well however was not directly downgrade of the mine and we are exploring other locations to test.

Fuel Oil Spill: Peg said that there was a fuel oil spill at Deb Gordon's house in the Springs. A local provider accidentally delivered more than 200 gallons of oil to Deb's house which went directly into her basement (she has no tank) and soaked into the dirt floor. The DEC and the fuel oil company have been amazingly helpful with the cleanup, but there is concern about oil leaching into neighboring wells.

Tilden Commons: The Planning Board has begun reviewing the SEQR for the Tilden Commons project.

Trees for Tribs: Peg said that we marked several trees that Joanne Amlaw and Joe Dwileski (arborist) would like to have dug up and moved. Peg said that she and Bill have put in a lot of hours tending to the trees and that she would prefer not to go through the process of watering new plantings again. It was suggested that we could just cut them down, but it was resolved that we should look at things in the spring and decide on what is to be done on a case by case basis. We will be coordinating with the new Recreation Committee to find out how to collaborate with upkeep, etc.

Comprehensive Plan Update: They are in the process of making last minute comments to the survey.

Partners for Progress: Peg said that she expects an update soon. She did put a note about the last meeting in the Committee Report and in the Town Newsletter.

Climate Smart Communities: Steve said that he is working with a Cornell student on a flood preparedness plan. The CAC will assist.

Planning Board: The Planning Board is reviewing a proposed expansion of the Coons Storage facility and of Woodlife Farms hosting larger events like weddings.

Shaker Swamp: Bruce said that the Swamp Conservancy is meeting with the Darrow School to formalizing access to the Swamp. It looks like the entry will be through the North Family.

The CAC has decided to change the meeting day from the second Monday of each month to the first Monday of each month. The next CAC meeting is scheduled for February 2 at 5:00 pm at the Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 6:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Robert Gilson