

## **Assessor (Patterson)**

The exemption renewal period has now closed. As required by RPTL, exemptions will be removed for any property owners who did not submit their paperwork by the deadline. It truly helps when taxpayers take a moment to read the materials we send—most questions are answered right in those letters and inserts—and that attention makes the whole process smoother for everyone.

We continue to put a lot of effort into making our letters and forms as easy to understand as possible. We know that gathering documents can feel overwhelming for some people, so we try to simplify the process and include all necessary information on our inserts. This year we encouraged submissions by February 1 to help avoid any lastminute issues before the March 1 deadline. This year's weather was a good example of what can happen as the deadline gets closer.

February and March are always our busiest months, so having renewals come in on time helps us stay on track. We appreciate the cooperation from property owners and will continue looking for ways to make the renewal process even smoother in the future. I also want to note, we've had a couple of cases where taxpayers were not honest in their exemption filings. Those individuals have lost or will be losing their exemption and ability to reapply for at least five years.

Right now, we're finishing up assessments, processing mapping changes, and working with the state on specialized valuation work, including utilities, special franchise, telecom, and state owned lands.

We are also submitting our updated assessments to the state for their final review. They will verify the data and confirm that we remain at a 100% level of assessment. More to come on that next month.

## **Building Department (Patterson)**

See building department report attached to the end of this document.

## **CAC, Climate Smart & Environmental Management (Powers)**

**CAC:**

DWSP2

At our recent March CAC meeting we welcomed invited guests Alyssa Bement and Cody Hitt from NY State Department of Health. Alyssa is the DWSP2 (Drinking Water Source Protection Plan) specialist at DOH and will be helping us move our DWSP2 work along.

New Lebanon has the only approved DSWP2 in the county and they both commended us for our town activity testing and pursuing the plan. We discussed possible funding

sources to be able to continue testing. We also talked about looking at our larger water bodies and streams in order to see about state funding for protection/testing. They will help us do a septic assessment on the business corridor to compliment the testing work we have done -- this will be very useful for the Feasibility study. They will help us work with County Soil and Water to discuss agricultural best practices under Agricultural Environmental Program management and there may be some funding there for us for water protection and or testing.

At some point there will be State PFAS (and associated compounds) homeowner testing but there is no timeframe. We discussed PFAS concerns and how we plan to test a well downgrade of capped landfill this spring, and that in general we have not learned of any PFAS potential issues. None of the manufacturing that uses PFAS and associated compounds is in New Lebanon or has been. We have asked residents multiple times to let us know about that and have not received any feedback. There may be buried cars that can potentially affect wells, but we need residents to help us with that information at some point.

#### Wastewater - Muni Water Feasibility Study

We don't have the draft yet for many reasons, including several changes that the engineer needed to make, as well as some unanswered questions about the opt-in aspect that the Town Bond attorney disagrees with. We have previously reported that last year's Household Characteristics Survey, our financial survey looking at the business district residential income, did not allow us to qualify in 2025 for some grants for the system. As also reported to the TB and residents, we know from test results we shared in the last Town Newsletter and Committee report that there are bacterial water quality issues on the Business corridor. We also know that many residents do not drink their water due to County DOH recommending that they not do so, new businesses are very limited due to a lack of muni water and wastewater infrastructure. And some existing businesses are paying exorbitant septic pumping fees. With the help of the NYSDOH as stated above, having a septic study will be very useful for this effort. This Feasibility study is a huge effort and a work in progress and we hope to have more to report soon.

#### Trees for Tribs

We will take another park walk soon to look at moving some plants, etc.

#### New Member - Native Plant Expert

Sarah Latifa also attended our meeting and wants to join the CAC. We are very excited and all voted to welcome her. She is the gardener at Abode of the Message, an expert on Native Plants, and has myriad ideas for the town and potentially working with the school educating folks on the importance of planting native. This will dovetail nicely with the ideas of Danielle Patterson and REC Committee for looking to place bird houses in the park and plant native plants. More to come!

## Fuel oil spill in Springs

Mitigation mostly done. We will test a well downgrade soon and look forward to the DEC report on the spill

## Other Committees

ZRC - Comp Plan Survey Returns extended 2 weeks until March 20 and we encourage everyone we know at every meeting to fill out the survey.

CSC - New car charger will be put in soon; Town Garage damaged battery storage and solar panels will be replaced soon, when insurance is worked out

Corkscrew Trail - Receiving land as gift from Joyce Baum and working on permanent easement for railbed on property

Shaker Swamp Conservancy - has a written proposal delivered to Darrow Board to allow work to begin on trails.

### **CSC:**

**Earth Day Events-** the CSC will host a free screening of the film Microplastic Madness at the library on April 18 at 10am (Earth Day falls in the middle of the week.) After the film we will review how individuals can reduce the plastic in their lives to enhance their health. All are encouraged to attend. Snacks will be provided.

**Tree planting-** in honor of Earth Day, the Columbia County Climate Smart Task Force, which we are a member of, has arranged for a native ball and burlap tree to be donated to each town in Columbia County. The CSC will be working with the CAC to plant and take care of it.

**Roadside Cleanup-** we have scheduled it for April 25, 10am-2pm. Please meet at the Pavilion in Shatford Park.

**EV charger -** we are still waiting for the weather to improve so that the installers can install it at the Community Center.

**Heat Pumps/Solar panels at the Town Garage-** the recent fire at the garage destroyed the heat pumps that were installed in 2024. The whole roof will have to be replaced which will require the solar panels to be taken down and stored until the roof is restored. We don't know if any panels were damaged but they will be tested on the ground. The CSC is working with Pete and the heat pump and solar installers to assist in the restoration. All of this will be covered by the insurance. Pete and his team are to be commended for having to deal with all this while providing their usual stellar snow removal duties.

### **EMC:**

No report

# Fire, Law Enforcement, Emergency (Powers)

Fire Calls and Activities – February 2026

- 2/6/2026 Outdoor Smoke Investigation 4 people .44hr
- 2/9/2026 Drill 16 people 40hr
- 2/14/2026 Alarm Activation 4 people .40hr
- 2/15/2026 Alarm Activation 2 people .20hr
- 2/16/2026 Alarm Activation 2 people .04hr
- 2/22/2026 Alarm Activation 2 people .10hr
- 2/25/2026 AAPD 4 people .32hr

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Totals 34 people 41.5 hours

- AAPD- 1
  - Alarm activation – 4
  - Outdoor Smoke Investigation-1
- 6 alarms
- Drills – 1

## Highway (Amlaw)

No report

## Historian & LVHS (Amlaw)

### Historian:

Welcome Ted Timreck as our new Town Historian! A huge thank you to Elizabeth “Bitsy” Sheffer-Winig for her service to the Town as our Town Historian for the past 6+ years!

### LVHS:

The LVHS will resume monthly Board of Directors meetings in March after the winter break and will finish planning our April event, which will consist of clearing fallen branches and leaves, cutting some brush and documenting information on gravestones at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Lebanon Springs. This is part of our Michael Ryan Project which aims at discovering more about the Irish immigrants who came to New Lebanon in the mid-19th century, answering some questions about specific people buried here and getting folks more involved with the history that cemeteries hold. We'll probably get together on a weekend in the afternoon but the date will depend on our best guess about avoiding bad weather and input at our meeting about which days would be best. We should know more by the next Town Board meeting.

## Shaker Preservation (Tipograph)

No report

## Justice Court (Tipograph)

No report

## Library (Amlaw)

New Lebanon Library is pleased to announce that residents can now use their library cards to access the Kanopy streaming service. Kanopy offers instant access to over 30,000 films including The Criterion Collection, PBS, critically acclaimed movies, documentaries, and kids favorites. Kanopy is available to stream using mobile and tablet apps, SmartTV apps or on a computer by visiting <https://www.kanopy.com/en/newlebanonlibrary/>. This service is made possible thanks to funding from the Columbia County Libraries Association. To apply for a library card, residents can visit the library with their photo ID. If the photo ID does not have the local address on it, please bring a piece of mail that shows it.

## Buildings, Parks & Recreation (Patterson)

### Buildings:

Repair work continues on the highway garage as a result of the fire.

### Parks:

The town board has chosen the summer camp director. A contract has been signed for the playground renovations and is on track to be completed before the start of summer camp.

### Recreation Commission:

The recreation commission now has all of its vacant seats filled and has selected their chair. They have 7 park maintenance/ clean up days scheduled this spring. Please contact the recreation commission chair if you would like to participate. Maintenance work lists are being compiled for the Shatford Park and the community center. With warmer weather on the horizon, hopefully some of the outdoor projects can resume soon!

## Community Center & Events Committee (Tipograph)

### Community Center:

Free Store	729
Game Room	241
Tai-Chi (3)	60
Yoga Sculpt (4)	39
Yoga (4)	57
Jam (2)	30
Mediation(2)	5
Potluck	51
Super Bowl	25
Travel Club	40

PP1 (\$100)	30
PP2 (\$100)	50
PP3 (\$100)	55

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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1412</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$300</b>

**Columbia Kitchen Meals Delivered 260**

There was no Senior Meeting this month due to bad weather.

We had a pipe burst in the wall of the Free Store/Kitchen 2/9. A plumber was called in and all was fixed within 4 hours. No damage was done.

With the help of Jim Dawson we were able to have our first Super Bowl Watch Party. 25 people showed up to watch on the big screen and the Columbia Paper did a little article on it and us as a whole. It was a lot of fun and we will definitely be doing this again next year.

We've added a second yoga class led by Hannah Goodnow RYT200 on Tuesday nights that will be running until the end of March.

**Events Committee:**

No activity this month from the Community Events committee.

We're planning to have our first meeting of the year on 3/17.

## **Seniors (Tipograph)**

March is Nutrition month. OFA has put out several ideas for people to see how the OFA provides nutritious meals for residents of Columbia County. If you are interested in seeing how a nutrition center works or how meals are delivered, you can call the Office for the Aging to set up an appointment. 518 828-4258

Lebanon Valley Seniors restart their bimonthly programs on 3/6 weather permitting. They have speakers and games and of course food planned for meetings, see the town web site under the senior tab or Facebook.

## **Volunteers (Tipograph)**

No report

## **Traffic Safety (Patterson)**

No report

## **Zoning Re-write Committee (Powers & Amlaw)**

Due to a less than hoped for response to the survey - approximately 150 received - the committee agreed to extend the deadline for submission by two weeks, to March 20. All

responses, both electronic and hardcopy, are being entered onto a spreadsheet that will be available for view somewhat after the submission deadline. The open ended - narrative - responses will be analyzed and summarized by an AI tool, which will be quality checked by members of the committee. I anticipate that survey results can be made public sometime in early spring.

## **Walkable Downtown Committee (Powers & Houghtling)**

Meeting Notes – 2/24/26

### Attendance:

Tistrya Houghtling

Corey Stall (until 6:45)

Tony Murad

Steve Powers

Chris Jansson

Josh Young

Ingrid Benson (joined 6:50)

Jared Anderson

- As discussed in the previous committee meeting of January 27, 2026, the Committee recommended to the Town Board not to proceed with a TAP Application.
- Since the Town Board meeting, the TAP Team at NYSDOT provided additional information which makes the application a more attractive option.
- The Town can apply for a new project in the full amount, for the full desired length of the project (original 2023 TAP project plus extension to the park). The current project would continue design activities up until a decision is made on the 2025 TAP application. If successful, the current project would be closed out, and efforts would continue under a new project number with appropriate funding.
- NYSDOT may also contribute to the project as it is on a State Highway, which could in turn decrease the local share below the Town's cap of \$500,000. This is not guaranteed but is a possibility.
- If the grant application is successful, but DOT does not contribute to the project, the current project could continue, and the award can be turned down. As such, there is no risk for applying for the new TAP grant.
- Projects currently in design are further along than brand new projects that haven't started yet, so they often have a better chance at receiving funding.
- CM will resume efforts on the TAP application at no cost to the Town. Applications are due March 12.
- Consideration can be given to advancing two sets of design linework (not two fully developed sets of plans) so if the TAP application is successful, lead time on changing to the new TAP project is reduced. The appropriate path forward can be discussed with NYSDOT as they will understand our situation.
- DOT has recommended in the past to include additional preliminary design funding to accommodate the transition between TAP projects.

- Tistrya will work to get Town Board approval to apply for the TAP grant in advance of the March 10 TB meeting so as not to hold up finalizing the application.
- There was discussion on a broader corridor project and engaging DOT for capital funding. Tistrya noted that this would warrant a separate offline discussion, and CM noted these services could be provided if the Town so desired. It was also noted that these discussions can happen post TAP application during design development.
- Discussion then shifted to the 8 potential options that the Town could potentially advance with current funding levels. Four of the 8 contained an asphalt surface and were disregarded, as DOT has effectively made concrete a requirement of the project.
- The option that stood out as the preferred alternative to advance under current funding levels is to utilize concrete under the current length project and maintain existing curblines unless they need to be moved to avoid the taking of private property.
- Moving curblines toward the road should still allow for bicycle accommodations in the shoulder.
- This option coincided with the third line of the eight options shared for an estimated construction total of \$1.778 million. The current construction budget is \$1.967 million. Therefore, CM will consider making the most of the available construction funding as part of the preferred option.
- Preference is still to narrow the travel lanes to 11 feet to calm traffic.
- If the Town decides to move forward with sewer and/or water in the project area, the Town would like to time the construction of the sidewalk project to allow for the installation of sewer and water connections first.
- The project is along State Bicycle Route #5, so we will need to meet minimum requirements for bicycle facilities.
- Consider signage at Tilden Lane to direct pedestrians to use the rail trail to get to Lovers Lane.

The meeting ended at 7:40. The next meeting will be held on 3/24/26 at 6:30pm.

February - Building Dept. Intake activity

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N		
1	Application ID	Permit number	Municipal address	Property ID	Category	Work type	Work target	Applicant	Owner	Status	Submitted date	Issued date	Issued by	Completion date	Indemnit
2	US-NY021-B-2026-4 BP-2026-005			104800	Heating/Cooling New	Generator				Permit issued	2/3/26	2/10/26	Jeffrey Hattat	2/10/27	
3	US-NY021-B-2026-3 BP-2026-006			104800	Other structures New	Other				Permit issued	2/11/26	3/3/26	Jeffrey Hattat	3/3/27	
4															
5															
6															
7															
8															
9															

Zoning complaint addition and updates – Feb. 2026

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K			
1	Date	SBL#	Property	Owner	Subject	Party	if at	Physical Address	Nature of Complaint	Complainant	Investigation notes/pi	Status	Updated
2	2019								Excess unreg vehicles & PMC		see hard copy files	Open	2-Jan
4	06.16.25								Excess unreg vehicles/RV temp housing		<a href="#">Click here</a>	Open	3-Jan
5	07.16.25								Excess unreg vehicles		<a href="#">Click Here</a>	Open	
6	07.30.25								Off Site Signs		<a href="#">Click here</a>	Open	
7	07.25.25								Advertising as Wedding Venue		<a href="#">Click Here</a>	Open	2-Jan
8	07.30.25								Off Site Signs x3		<a href="#">Click Here</a>	Open	27-Jan
9	08.01.25								Landscaping Issue		<a href="#">Click here</a>	Open	3-Jan
10	08.19.25								PMC, Sanitation, RV Perm housing?		<a href="#">Click here</a>	Open	13-Feb
16	10.21.25								Suspected tiny homes (ADUs) without Fill and no permit for storage container		<a href="#">Click here</a>	Open	13-Feb
17	10.20.25								unregistered cars, living in rv, Rats		<a href="#">Click here</a>	Open	26-Feb
18	12.12.25								Work w/o permit		<a href="#">Click here</a>	Closed	02/06 & 3/03
19	01.25.26												
21													

The lower volume of building permit applications during February afforded us the opportunity to advance administrative, contract management, and professional development activities related to the Building Department's operations as follows:

Meeting/communications with Gretchen Cox to discuss renewal terms for the Cloudpermit platform. Successfully negotiated the renewal term from the initially proposed two-year commitment to a one-year agreement, maintaining flexibility for the department while evaluating long-term needs. Also secured the Property Data Management add-on at no cost for one year, providing expanded functionality without additional budget impact.

Initiated contact with BAS/IPS to request updated pricing and product information as part of a potential transition back to their services. Received demonstration materials, including video links, and began reviewing features to assess compatibility with departmental needs in order to evaluate replacing Cloudpermit as our platform to improve functionality and cost efficiency.

Three HR trainings via neogov and two in house HR and Procurement Policy trainings.

Departmental discussions on whether or not pursue a paperless environment until the rest of the town is ready.

Case file evaluations, audits and updates

Field work to monitor and update active case files

Evaluated current permit application procedures for clarity and efficiency.

Discussion with Planning Dept. regarding their upcoming records management audit

2.16.26 – 02.20.26 – Personal Time Off

