

Minutes for New Lebanon CAC Meeting March 2, 2026

Members attending Bruce Shenker, Peg Munves, Donald Lamonaca, Bill O'Neill, Steve Powers

Guests : Alyssa Bement, NEIWPC Environmental Analyst – DWSP2 and Drinking Water and GIS Specialist, NYS Department of Health, Bureau of Water Supply Protection and

Cody Hitt, NEIWPC Environmental Analyst; Regional Supervisor, Drinking Water Program Specialist, Source Water Assessment & Protection Program, NYS Department of Health, Bureau of Water Supply Protection

Sarah Latifa – gardener and native plant specialist at Abode of the Message

Amy Brueckmann, Bonnie Lichak, visitors from the public

Peg called the meeting to order at 5:01

February minutes were approved. Motion Donald, Second Bruce

Health Department Presentation supporting DWSP2

Alyssa Bement presented with Cody Hitt, Regional Supervisor. AB mentioned that New Lebanon has the only approved drinking water protection plan in the county. PM indicated NL has about \$5,000 left for testing and no new funding source. Alyssa discussed possible funding sources going forward as well as expanding our water study work in various ways.

She suggests looking at other resources for water bodies in town, and reports that Kinderhook Creek is an impaired water way and there may be a way to use state funds for some action on that

Alyssa will explore looking closely at septic on the Rte 20-22 corridor, for our Waste Water feasibility study, of high bacteria in private septic systems

County Soil and Water can discuss agricultural best practices under Agricultural Environmental Program management

State PFAS homeowner testing is in the works with no timeframe for Columbia County

We will continue to work together to further our DWSP2 work.

Sarah Latifa Introduction

Came to introduce herself. She moved to Abode as gardener from Chester Springs, PA where she was on their version of CAC. She is very knowledgeable about work of Doug Tallamy and the importance of native plants. She is interested in working with high school students to understand native plants and work to eliminate invasives

She expressed interest in joining CAC and she was unanimously approved and Peg will prepare for town board approval.

Residents questions

Amy and Bonnie attended the meeting because they had questions on water testing, Waste Water Feasibility Study, Tilden Commons and Trees for Tribs. Peg pointed most of their questions to CAC minutes and other documents on the website. Also committee shared with them that we are working with Rec Committee on the plants in the park and there was some general discussion about history of Trees for Tibs and replanting as opposed to removing trees. Waste Water Feasibility study still outstanding.

Fuel oil spill

Oil has not been located by insurance company, no news of bored hole findings. CAC will test New Leaf Farm well water for fuel oil.

CSC report

Vehicle charger near community center to be installed. Fire at town garage will require replacing solar panels and heat pumps. County CSC offering a tree to each town and YES we will take one!

MISCELLANEOUS

Comp Plan Survey only had 150 returns so extended 2 weeks until March 20

No action taken on Tilden Commons project by Planning Board

Bruce reports Corkscrew Trail receiving land as gift from Joyce Baum and working on permanent easement for railbed on property; also that Shaker Swamp Conservancy has a written proposal delivered to Darrow Board to allow work to begin on trails. Awaiting response. Also meeting scheduled with CLC to discuss ideas about possibly getting swamp into some form of a conservation agreement.

Bill motion to adjourn at 6:10, 2nd by Peg, approved unanimously

Respectfully submitted by Bruce Shenker