

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF
THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
HELD ON MARCH 13, 2018**

Present: Colleen Teal, Supervisor
Kevin Smith Sr., Councilmember
Norman Rasmussen, Councilmember
Jesse Newton, Councilmember
Dan Tuczinski, Town Attorney

Absent: Mark Baumli, Councilmember

Recording Secretary: Tistrya Houghtling, Town Clerk

Others Present: J.J. Smith, NL Rep to CC Office for the Aging
Bob Smith, Planning Board & Ethics Board Member
David Farren, CAC & ZRC Member
Jeff Winestock, Highway Superintendent
Mary Young, LVPA
Doug Banker, Deputy Supervisor
Jeannine Tonetti, ZBA & Ethics Board Member
Ted Salem, ZBA Member & ZRC Chair
Cynthia Creech, Court Clerk & CAC Member
Bruce Shenker, NL Rep to CC Enviro. Mgt. Council
Matt Larabee, NL Rep to CC Traff. Safety Council &
Emergency Management
Wes Powell, Town Constable, ACO, Planning Board
Member & ZRC Member
Tammie Darcy, Tax Collector
Peg Munves, CAC & ZRC Member
Joe Ogilvie, Recreation Commission Member
Pete McCagg, Highway MEO
Wayne Martin, Ethics Board Member
Greg Hanna, Planning Board & ZRC Member
Judy Zimmer, Cleaner
Thaddeus Flint, *The Eastwick Press*
Many members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Teal. A moment of silence was followed by the flag salute. Supervisor Teal pointed out the emergency exits. Supervisor Teal stated that Councilmember Baumli had an accident on his way home today. He is fine, but his vehicle is not and he may not make the meeting tonight so when we get into the discussion, the Town Board is going to have to make a decision on the best way to proceed.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the **February 13, 2018 Special Meeting, February 13, 2018 Regular Monthly Meeting, February 20, 2018 Special Meeting, and the February 27, 2018 Quad Board Meeting** were reviewed. A motion was made by Supervisor Teal, seconded by Councilmember Rasmussen and approved unanimously (Councilmember Baumli absent) to accept the above noted minutes as typed.

FINANCIAL:

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Teal provided the public and TB members with a copy of the Supervisor's Report as of February 28, 2018. A motion was made by Councilmember Newton, seconded by Councilmember Rasmussen and approved unanimously (Councilmember Baumli absent) to accept the Supervisor's report as typed.

CORKSCREW RAIL TRAIL REQUEST/ 16 LOVERS LANE:

Supervisor Teal stated:

"Before we begin this discussion, I want to make it very clear that I expect courteous and professional behavior from everyone. I realize there are a lot of people here that want to express their feelings to the board and we want to hear what you have to say. Everyone that wishes to address the board will be given an opportunity to speak.

For the public, please address your comments to the board. For members of the public, please do not be disrespectful or rude when someone else is speaking.

The public is entitled to watch the board meetings as long as they are not disruptive to the meetings – if anyone becomes disruptive, they will be asked to leave.

I am confident we can have this discussion in a very courteous and professional manner.

The next thing I want to do is clarify what is exactly going on with the property at 16 Lover's Lane – there have been some pretty outlandish stories out there - and what is or is not going to happen here tonight and in follow up to this meeting.

The facts are fairly simple. In Columbia County, the County makes the Towns "whole" in taxes – what does that mean? They absorb any delinquent taxes – the Town does not. So, the first important thing is that the Town has no legal standing in what happens to this property. The County is owed delinquent taxes and the County has the legal rights on this property.

The Corkscrew Rail Trail submitted a letter to the County, asking them to consider taking this property off of the foreclosure sale block and selling it to them in a private sale. I was contacted by a member of the County Government Committee and asked why I supported this action.

I explained the current condition of this property (which they were well aware of), the limits of this property, the goals of the Town as noted in the Comprehensive Plan supporting recreational activities and specifically trails and a Rail Trail. I also noted that I was working tirelessly to develop opportunities for New Lebanon for economic growth through "low-impact" tourism using our historic, natural, and recreational resources. I felt this property would be a significant benefit to the community as part of a rail trail and also discussed my desire to work on the acquisition of the property just east of this one and to restore the historic train station located there. This is our last train station and I do not

want to lose it. When I look at the location of the property at 16 Lovers Lane in relation to our “downtown” area, combined with the ability this would give us to provide a safe place to walk, bike, etcetera as an alternative to the intersection of Routes 20 & 22 at the flashing light, and the accessibility this would provide to another significant recreation area being developed (the Shaker Swamp); it seemed to me to be an incredibly positive opportunity. I was asked to attend the County Government Meeting to express these views which I did. They had inspected this property and they had not received any bids yet nor seen any real interest. These are all supervisors – they were concerned about the condition of the property, the value of the property for any other use, and they understood the economic value to our community of a rail trail.

Please note, I hold 2 jobs – one is a Supervisor on the Columbia County Board of Supervisors responsible for running the County – in that capacity, I make decisions and vote on County issues to operate the County and I hope that I do that in the best interest of BOTH the County and New Lebanon residents.

The second is the Town Supervisor in New Lebanon where I am one of five Town Board members.

This was a County action and County decision, I never expressed my “opinion” as anything other than my opinion - I had no vote on the County Government Committee – I am not a member of that committee.

The County – out of COURTESY – asked for my input. I have since asked them to give me an opportunity to discuss this issue with the whole Town Board and to provide them with the preferred choice of the majority of the board (sell to the rail trail or put it on for the next tax foreclosure sale). But please understand very clearly, this board has no authority over the final outcome. The County has the legal interest in this property and the County has the decision-making authority. They have agreed to allow us this opportunity to give them our recommendation but it is not required of them.”

Supervisor Teal stated that she will now open the floor up to public comment.

Joe Ogilvie, President of the Corkscrew Rail Trail, stated that there are brochures available for anybody interested that tells a little bit about the organization as a not for profit. He stated that his group is here in support of the trail. They have already created 2.5 miles of trail. They have been a working 501C3, not for profit organization for 5 years now. They made their proposal directly to the County, at which time the County agreed that the best use for the property is a rail trail. They are here to express their excitement about the chance to develop it, so thank you for hearing our interest.

Anna Duhon stated that she is here to express enthusiastic support for the rail trail on behalf of her family and they are neighbors to rail trail proposed site. Their land abuts the entire Northern border of this land and it also includes the pond. She is not sure how much familiarity people have with this particular property and she wanted to speak with someone very familiar with it that it is already an active, well-loved trail. Because it is an abandoned property adjacent to another abandoned property that connects Lovers Lane and Tilden Road, it is very well used by snowmobilers, dog walkers, kids on bikes, and parents on strollers. They see all of that activity. They are really excited that the rail trail wants to maintain this access. They also are very hopeful that the other property that is part of this access between those two roads is abandoned and might have the possibility to be part of

this. They are really excited that the rail trail will clean up the junk. There are some really unsafe structure and there is a lot of junk that is right there along the wetlands and they are excited that the rail trail will clean it all up. This access that the community has informally had for a long time, could easily be lost if this goes to auction because it is really hard to imagine an interested party, considering the nature of the entrance point, having a use that would be compatible. That is something that they are concerned about. She stated that someone said that it is a shame that the County has not maintained these old railroad beds the way that a neighboring state has. She thinks that on a smaller version this is that decision point for New Lebanon. Right now we have an abandoned property that is already used for a trail and already valued, we have an abutting land owner that is enthusiastic for the rail trail, and we have the County willing and wanting to sell it to an organization that will maintain it. As the abutting land owners, they know the property and they do not think it is appropriate for a commercial activity or development. They feel that the best use for this land is as it's currently being used but in a cleaned up fashion.

Cynthia Creech thanked Supervisor Teal for supporting the option of the rail trail to the County. She is correct in having two jobs. It is totally appropriate for her to express her opinion to the County in addition to being one of five Town Board members here. She can't speak for the entire farmer's market, but she can speak for the majority of the farmer's market vendors in stating we are in favor of the rail trail. She hopes that the Town Board members will consider that real property tax is not the only way to finance running a town and she hopes that they will consider that running a nice town is not always about money. There are a lot of things that go into having an enjoyable town for people to live in. She hopes that any decision that is made is not based exclusively on how much real property tax could be gained from this particular piece of property. Not everything is about money when you are talking about enjoying living in a town.

JJ Smith stated that she has nothing against the rail trail. She thinks it's a great idea, it's pretty, it's a nice project, it's something really nice to do. She thinks that a lot of the projects that the newer people that are in town come up with are nice. But she also thinks there is a limit. When you think about this particular property, the Miller property, the newer people are the ones that are always saying we need growth, we need economic growth, we need younger families. How are we supposed to have growth if you keep taking properties away? That property could be sold, it could be built on, and it could be a taxable property again. There could be a right of way for the rail trail for people to walk through, there is any number of possibilities. Maybe that particular piece of property isn't going to hurt us as far as back taxes, but future taxes that could be made on that property are not going to be made for this project. We have the swamp project, nobody can build over there or live over there so that's a non-issue. But we have conservancies out the ying-yang in this town in the last 10 years and you want young families to come in and build, you want businesses to come in and build, you want people to be able to grow here. How are you going to do that if New Lebanon has a certain number of acres and so many of them are being allowed? There is no limit. There is no cap. It's, well this goes into conservancy, this goes into farmland, this is fragile, ecologically fragile. Come on. You can't have it all. We have to put a cap somewhere. There's other people that live here too that need to live here, do their jobs here, like Mike Darcy. Look what he's going through. This is the country. We're going to do things. We're blue collar people who want to do things. They may be a little smelly sometimes or noisy. That's

the country. We can't have a liberal utopia and nothing else. That's not who we are. That's not who we have ever been. We can't keep bowing to all these desires. I think it's time to put a cap on. No more conservancies. No more of this stuff. Enough is enough. Stop it already. We have enough.

Jeannine Tonetti stated as far as the economic benefits of the rail trail, she thinks it's just amazing. If you walk on a trail, you want to do something. You want to go out for coffee, you want to go out to lunch, that's what happens. The economic benefits of having a rail trail are enormous and this is a fact. It is shown time and time again that it is beneficial to the town, to the restaurants. It is a fact, it is not an opinion. She certainly agrees with the historical value and the importance of the rail trail for the history of the town. It goes right through the New Lebanon historical center, Tilden, the old railroad. This is a way of beginning, as Colleen wants to do, to get the old railroad station and do something with that. It's the beginning. It's not taking away any money from the town, it will give money to the town. The Town Board should think about this as enhancing the town. This is something that is valuable to the town and that should be the motivation and thoughts for this rail trail.

Supervisor Teal stated that there are some concerns on this property. This property is zoned commercial which means it needs 100 feet of road frontage. The footage on Lovers Lane is insufficient, it is 68 feet, so it would need a variance in order to do anything on this property. Because it is zoned commercial, if it was to be a residential property it would require a special use permit. Patty Pinder from DEC did respond on this property. It is in a DEC wetland and if there is any type of activity, whether commercial or residential, it would need a DEC permit and an Army Corp of Engineers permit. Also, the driveway at the end of Lover's Lane is insufficient for a fire truck and in order to get that up to par for a commercial or residential structure you would need to build that driveway out into the wetlands. That is going to be another challenge with DEC and the Army Corp. When she looked at this, this was not a prime piece of property that we were looking to do this with. This property had significant concerns and issues which is part of why the County reached out to her. It was not a great, this is going to get us a ton of money and get all our taxes recouped, let's put this out there and make a good deal. They had some reservations about the property also.

Matt Larabee stated that he is very familiar with that house. It was his grandparent's house built in 1956. He asked if the County is responsible for cleaning the property up. Supervisor Teal stated that the County is not responsible for cleaning it up. They have a legal obligation now to foreclose because they are owed taxes. The Town has no right to the property. The County has the foreclosure right on this property. Matt Larabee asked who is going to clean up the property if the rail trail gets it. Supervisor Teal stated that the rail trail has agreed to clean it up, that was part of their request. Matt Larabee stated that it has asbestos siding on it. He asked what the distance is between Lovers Lane and Tilden Road. Is it worth doing all that work for that short piece of rail? Because it will never connect to the one in Stephentown.

Supervisor Teal stated that any of the communities that have developed rail trails, there are always sections that are not accessible and alternative accommodations have to be made. There has never been the expectation that the old railroad track will be connected from one end of town to the other. If you look at most of the places that rail trails have been extremely

successful, there are still areas that are not connected. Matt Larabee stated that it's going to end at Tilden and the other end of the trail is at Old Post Road so they would have to go from Tilden Road up over Cemetery, up West Street. Supervisor Teal stated that she would also expect that we would never be able to gain access from the school for anything behind there as that would be a security concern of the school. Matt Larabee stated that they own a significant portion of it and that is all fenced in.

Councilmember Rasmussen stated that the most common pattern for development with rail trails is they start with, at the end we would like to do all this, but they start with this and then opportunistically they pick up a piece here, and then somebody says, I'm going to keep the land but I will grant you an easement over here, and then the people who own the land in the middle either, as they see the pieces come together, say oh I guess that's not such a bad idea, I can go along with that or the land changes hands and the new owner is willing to grant an easement. As people see the map coming together, they tend to be a little more amenable to helping out. Very rarely do you get a 15 mile long stretch of land that is up for sale so you have to get it as it comes. Matt Larabee said come see me in 30 years when I retire and I'll sell you my property.

Doug Banker stated that he has lived here for over 50 years and he is getting close to the 75 years that Mary Young mentioned the other day which is the point that you are considered not new anymore. He is really devoted to building community in this town. He has lived here a long time. He has seen ups and downs and many attempts to do that and they fail because people don't have the vision to say let's do little pieces of things, like Councilmember Rasmussen was saying, and build something that will be beneficial to our town and then piece those beneficial things together until maybe we have a town that draws people in and does help the economy. He doesn't want to categorize it as growth, but as health. We need a healthy community. And he supports this idea because after seeing other trails, like the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail in Lanesboro and Pittsfield, they do draw a lot of people and those people, after walking the trails, realize they are hungry and they go find a restaurant. They may want to stay over and walk the trail again the next day. He realizes that this board has no legal authority on the matter anyway, but he wants everybody to think about if we are truly committed to investing in our community and trying to make it a healthy town to live in for everybody or are we just going to continue to drift the way we have. He stated that none of his kids live here because they couldn't get work here in their chosen professions. He would like to see us begin to build communities again and it's not an easy job. The old timers who built the springs and the other enclaves in our town had some innate sense about community and how to do both private and public things. Maybe we have lost that but he hopes that is not the case.

Bruce Shenker stated that the rail trail exists but it's working with a revocable right of way. It's hard to take the rail trail seriously until they own something. This is such a great opportunity for the rail trail to own something. Once they own something, they can start applying for grants from the state. This gives them a basis to start building on and it's a really important step for the rail trail.

Bob Smith stated that everybody wants this rail trail thing so why don't they form a committee and buy it and they can pay the taxes on it every year. You're taking land away

from our tax base even though it's not very much. It's in an area that could be wet. There was a house originally there so house could be built in there again. He is sure that the right away for a driveway is sufficient, it doesn't have to be 100 feet. Supervisor Teal stated that the structure that was there pre-existed zoning. Bob Smith stated that there is no reason why it couldn't be rebuilt and someone couldn't put a house back in there. He stated that he is on the Planning Board and he disagrees with some of the things that Supervisor Teal said. Supervisor Teal stated that the non-conforming use loses its use after a year. Bob Smith stated that it has plenty of acreage to put a house on. Supervisor Teal stated as long as the other conditions are met, that's the difficulty. Bob Smith stated that is what you guys think that it is a difficulty. He thinks it is not a difficulty.

Terri Ann Koepf stated that most people know how she loves children and how she loves her bicycle. She rides trails. It draws people with skateboards, with dogs, with roller blades, with anything and everything. Just the quiet, peacefulness being able to stroll but most of all you see families. No matter when she goes, the rail trails are filled. They bring people into your area. We do not have much for children in this town. We don't have a lot to keep children in this town. Why not work at getting something going for the town that will help families stay together, walk together, spend time together. We are doing too little of this today. People don't even eat meals together. She loves her bike and she does ride on Route 20 from Ioka all the way to Nassau and she can come back and she is turning 79. A rail trail is a beautiful, wonderful, peaceful thing and the town should have something to draw people to it and through it. Give it something. New Lebanon has so much history. We don't do enough to draw people in. We have antique shops which are great, but that is not for children. What do we have for children? We don't have bowling alleys or roller skating rinks or ice skating. She is for the rail trail and she wants to see it go from one end of town to the other end of town. Just imagine how many people will come through here. It is absolutely amazing how many people use the rail trails. It will help our town and it will bring revenues and the little pittance that you are getting for a swamp area will not help the town.

Zack Leavitt stated he mentioned this on the sidewalk committee. He rides his bicycle everywhere in this town. The worst part of 20 is right there where 22 comes in, where the light is. There is a huge easement on the side of the road to ride your bicycle on, except right there, it's like 6 inches. He thinks this may help get the people off this section. He has also seen rail trails in other communities and they definitely help out the economy with people stopping to get coffee and lunch and stuff.

Mike Liebsch stated that he would like to second what Zack Leavitt said and what others have said and he is in support of the rail trail.

Judy Zimmer stated that when she visited her son's family in Seattle, they had restored and old railroad structure and she doesn't know what shape ours is in, but it was a museum inside and they had a train that went just a couple of miles and the kids just loved that little two mile ride. We can get really innovative with the history here and how we can design it for our kids. Supervisor Teal stated that we can have another meeting about what her vision is for that railroad station.

Joe Ogilvie stated that as you participate in activities related to rail trails, you will go to

meetings down in Hudson or in other states, and at each meeting there are two or three people who have been working on specific trails for sometimes 30, 40, 50 years so the process of building a rail trail starts right here in this room and it is a long haul. If anyone is concerned that it is going to happen overnight, it's not, we will work on this little piece and then see what's next. Cynthia Creech stated that the Panama Canal took 44 years to build.

Rick McClave stated that he is from Stephentown and they started working with Rensselaer County 12 years ago and got the rail trail listed on the County map at that time. They have been working with a group, a board of directors, working on originally a 1 mile section. They just added the last piece of a half a mile so they are just short of 3 miles and they are already into Columbia County. They are hoping to be able add on. As somebody so eloquently said, 40 years. We are hoping to be able to make connections long before that but anything the town can do to assist them in piecing things together, they would greatly appreciate it.

Deb Gordon stated that she was recently looking at the old train station and it is definitely restorable. Supervisor Teal stated that she does have somebody interested in doing that for us.

Anna Duhon stated that she wants to make sure the point is really understood that what is at stake is losing access that currently is enjoyed by many people. This is something that, for a very long time, have been valuable to a lot of people and that safety concern is part of it, so even if you are just maintaining this connector point you are allowing uses that are being utilized every day. There are valuable paths that people are taking because it's safer, it's shorter, and making that point. She wants to make sure that the idea of losing access is also there because it is a very real concern and an auction can go any number of ways and you have no control.

JJ Smith stated that she wants everybody to understand that she is not anti-rail trail. She thinks it is a great idea. She thinks it is really good for the town, she loves going on old historical trails herself, she looks forward to it. She thinks it's a great idea. She is not against anybody's rail trail wishes, she's really not. She encourages it. What she is against is putting more lands into conservancies. She thinks we have done so many acres and she thinks we need to cap it.

Kathy Duhon stated that she just wanted to point out the bigger picture that people come from this area to walk to town and because it is so dangerous at the 20/22 intersection, people walk up Cemetery Road, all the way up to West Street and back. It's a nice loop and if you only added this piece to it, it completes the loop. There are woods that get used to complete the loop as well. It is bigger than you think and it is extremely nice to have that connection to support the bigger, informal trail. It is really lovely to walk on Lover's Lane and Cemetery Road and West Street.

Jeff Winestock asked what would happen if you were on his land and somebody got really hurt, who would be responsible for that. He is also very concerned about Old Post Road and people parking there. He thinks they should look into a safer place for people to park, maybe in Shatford Park. Supervisor Teal stated that it's not a bad idea to use Shatford Park for

parking. Bruce Shenker stated that there is access from the park. The rail trail crosses Old Post Road and you could easily have an access point directly from Shatford Park to the rail trail.

Paul Rix stated that he recognizes that there is this concern about the yearly property taxes and although there are many moving parts as to what that number could be moving forward, but currently it is at \$600 a year total. Do we think the rail trail would generate \$2 per day? Councilmember Rasmussen stated that the Cape Cod rail trail uses reasonable sophisticated methods and they estimate that the average visitor spends between \$20 and \$30 each time they visit the rail trail between bike rentals, coffee, restaurants, souvenirs, etc. Bob Smith stated that we have no bike shop in town. Councilmember Rasmussen stated that the idea is to have a longer vision and not just say that today there is nothing there so there never will be. The idea is to say that if we have a reason to for people to come and get out with their families, get some exercise on their bikes and go for a walk, if people stop in town to do that then they will be willing to spend money, and then there will be entrepreneurs saying I could start by having a little weekend bike shop and see where it goes from there. Not every rail trail turns into a multi-million dollar extravaganza, however the statistics from the NYS support for rail trails, from the Harlemville Rail Trail and other ones in Massachusetts is remarkably consistent that the businesses themselves enthusiastically say that their business increases with the addition of the rail trail.

Supervisor Teal stated that she grew up in this town and the local residents cannot support the businesses here. That is why Felter's no longer have a grocery store, Mittnight's no longer have a grocery store, Chittenden's are not farming, Benson's are not farming. Bob Smith stated that is not true. He stated they are not farming because they wanted to give up. Supervisor Teal stated that what she is saying that what was thriving in this town when she was growing up, what businesses were here, have left. We lost them. They closed up shop because there wasn't enough to keep them going and as long as we keep saying that we want nothing new, we will never be able to support them.

Bob Smith stated that we can't even get a grocery store, so what is the difference. And traffic, he tries to get out of his road to go to work in the morning and sometimes he has to sit there for 5 minutes, for traffic to go both ways.

Jeff Winestock stated that Supervisor Teal is right, there was a lot of stores and now there aren't. Why? He thinks that the people got elderly and they just stopped doing it. Councilmember Rasmussen asked why a new one didn't come in. Supervisor Teal stated that if it was a lucrative operation, a new one would have come in. Jeff Winestock stated that not too long ago a company spent probably hundreds of thousands of dollars trying to bring a grocery store in with a pharmacy. It could be sitting down there today. Councilmember Rasmussen stated that the current population of New Lebanon is the same as it was in 1900. Jeff Winestock stated that he thinks that is why most people come here to live, because they love it. It's a beautiful place to live. People have tried to get a grocery store here and there is a lot of rules and regulations, bad rules and regulations, which is why we didn't get that grocery store. It didn't happen, it should have happened, we allowed it to not happen.

Fiona Lally, from Grow the Valley, stated that she would like to speak to the economics

of what happens to towns. When she looks around town, she sees a lot of places for sale and we would like people to buy those. One of the reasons that she thinks it is really worthy for the town board to enthusiastically endorse the rail trail, is that the number one thing that homebuyers want when they buy a home is to be near a beach. The second thing that they want is to be near a trail. The trail is the second most requested thing for homebuyers. That is what they are looking for because they have families, because they are looking for community, because they are looking for the health benefits and because of the sense that it gives them that there is vitality in the town. For the purposes of being able to bring families and people into our town, a rail trail would really help to fulfill that function. The other thing that rail trails do, because they make buildings more attractive to buy, is they make them sell faster. So if you are trying to sell property and you can't do that now, a rail trail could be a tremendous benefit to being able to accomplish that. From the standpoint of what people spend when they are walking on a rail trail, the national figures are between \$1 and \$40 per visit. So, if we had some people who wandered over that rail trail and went into local places and bought a couple of drinks, that would be right up there with the national average and so would be someone who goes into the local pizzeria off of Mill Road. There are 23,000 miles of rail trails operating in the Country. There are 2,000 rail trail organizations and clearly all of these organizations have dealt with these same questions about how do we do it, what does it mean, but clearly there is a tremendous community benefit to seeing this happen. So from the standpoint of the things that we have been working on at Grow the Valley, which are one of the kinds of things that provide the community benefit that really allows the town to be able to bring in the funds that it needs to thrive, with businesses coming in because commercial spaces fill, they really do. There are example after example of little towns that mention a small rail trail opening nearby and commercial spaces begin to fill. We have commercial spaces and she would love to see them fill. The rail trail is a wonderful thing for many reasons, but from the standpoint of economic benefit it is a driver that just can't be beat. So the fact that there is an opportunity now to be able to jumpstart one in town sounds to her like it's wonderful for New Lebanon.

Supervisor Teal stated that she did grow up here and she loves New Lebanon the way it is. She doesn't want massive development and it to change and what she sees when she looks at low impact tourism with rail trails and history and our recreational facilities and our natural resources, the beauty of the hills that we have here, this is how we can grow and thrive without changing who we are.

Steven Axelrod stated that the view from 30,000 feet is that Amazon is eating all the retail of America. The one thing that they can't do is take you a drink at the end of the rail trail when you are thirsty. If we can build part of our economy, not all of our economy, on things that can't be replaced by Amazon by technological disruption. He thinks it's a really smart thing for ourselves and going forward.

Greg Hanna stated that his off the cuff calculations is that it is going to cost him about \$0.05 to \$0.10 per year so he would like to pay up for the next 20 years by giving the town \$1.00.

Doug Banker stated that he doesn't believe that the rail trail, this little segment of it, is the whole thing. We are not going to magically overnight get way better. You build this stuff, you build a community brick by brick and that is what New Lebanon, over the years has

failed to see because we keep throwing out this brick and throwing out that brick and then we say we don't have a wall, what's going on. Each time we come to a decision point on something we need to make that desire to make this a prosperous, healthy town one of the main things that we consider when we take an action and not believe that somehow one thing is going to be the great panacea that just solves everything because that is never going to happen.

Rhonda Leavitt stated that if we build the trail far enough, people can visit her reptile rescue location.

Fiona Lally asked Supervisor Teal what kind of support she has seen from the community for the rail trail. Supervisor Teal stated that this entire packet is from people in support of the rail trail. She has heard from JJ and Bob Smith in opposition. JJ Smith stated that she doesn't think that too many people really know that this is happening. Bob Smith stated that they don't know that it's coming off of their taxes and they don't know that Supervisor Teal put a stop to the sale of it. Supervisor Teal stated that she didn't put a stop to it. It was a county decision and they asked if she supported this project and if so, why, and she told them. And she said to them when they sat down at that meeting that she appreciates them giving her the opportunity to speak because they had no obligation whatsoever to consider one word that she said. Bob Smith stated that was her say and nobody else had any say and that is the problem. He feels that it is her opinion and nobody else's. Supervisor Teal stated that it is also the town's comprehensive plan. Councilmember Smith stated that what Bob Smith is trying to say, and he agrees with Bob Smith, is he knows that she was at the meeting, he knows that the county had asked her, to him she should have told the county, let me ask my board. Supervisor Teal stated that it was a county decision and when she sits on committees and the full board at the county, there is no mechanism, no allowance and no requirement set up for the Town Supervisor to check with the Town Board on every issue that comes up that they vote on at county. This was a county decision. As a courtesy, they offered us this opportunity. They had no obligation to do this. They could have gone ahead and done whatever they wanted, without ever reaching out to us. We have no skin in this game from a legal standpoint.

Erminia Rasmussen asked if what Supervisor Teal is saying is that the county has the final decision and this discussion and if there is going to be a vote on it by the Town Board is more of a courtesy. Supervisor Teal stated that it is a recommendation that we will make and whether the county chooses to take that recommendation or not is up to them, it was even when she went to speak the first time. It is their decision. Joe Ogilvie asked what the vote was at county the first time for this parcel. Supervisor Teal stated that it was unanimous, that is public record. Erminia Rasmussen stated that the taxes on this year is \$600 total. She asked what portion of that actually comes to the town. Supervisor Teal stated that the amount that comes to the town is \$73.09, however, keep in mind that everybody pays county taxes, school taxes, etc. on their tax bills so that shift from this property will affect all the taxes in the amount of \$600 split across all taxable parcels. Erminia Rasmussen stated that we have roughly 1,500 tax parcels, so it's less than \$0.50 per parcel. She would be happy to pay that for the rail trail. She stated that if there was a building on it, the argument is that it would generate more taxes, assuming that somebody would buy it, assuming that they could get all the necessary variances and permits, but she thought it was zoned commercially.

Supervisor Teal stated that it is but you can put a residence on a commercial property but it requires a special use permit.

Councilmember Rasmussen stated that Supervisor Teal brought up the Comprehensive Plan. This is, he's sure, mostly an educational thing for anyone. He stated that the first thing he was handed when he got elected was the Comprehensive Plan and he was asked to read it, which he did. From what he understands, it was adopted by the town in 2005 so it is officially part of what the town says it supports and it says that we are committed to promoting tourism, to enhancing bicycle touring, to increasing and enhancing trails for walking, biking, cross-country, running, skiing and snowmobiling, so if we have a 10 year old commitment to do these things, if we were to decide that we're not willing to spend \$0.50 per parcel to do it, then why do we have a comprehensive plan.

Councilmember Smith stated that you have families in this town, you have kids in this town, it's another lot that someone local won't be able to put a house. He knows a few people interested. Some of it's for the family. If there was no interest in this property, and he totally supports the rail trail. He stated that he tried coming up with a compromise with Joe Ogilvie, so it's not like he hasn't worked and he doesn't appreciate it and think it's a great idea. Personally, he thinks the next buyer if it goes back out to bid, approach that buyer about an easement, unfortunately Joe, like he had shown him when he brought the map over, obviously that won't work according to Supervisor Teal, why, he has no clue. Supervisor Teal stated that she can address that, what the problem is.

Councilmember Smith stated, on the lot line there if a piece was taken off of that, before it was even, obviously we don't own the property, the county doesn't own the property, that would be a question for Attorney Tuczinski, whether a piece on that line could be cut out and then put the parcel back up. Supervisor Teal stated that the county as a municipality has a foreclosure right without gaining title to the property. If they would like to attach an easement, they first have to acquire title, which is a process in which they would have to expend more money. Then they would have to either deed out this separately to give to the rail trail or they would have to draft up an easement. That is going to be additional funding that they would have to put out. They have a parcel that they have questioned the value. They already are owed money on this. She does not believe that the county has any interest in expending additional funds to turn this property into something that then with an easement is going to lose value from what it currently is now and they were concerned about the ability to even recoup the value of what they have in outstanding taxes. Councilmember Smith stated to Attorney Tuczinski that what he was suggesting is on the lot line, separate deed to deed out a path that goes through there that would be in the rail trail's name and then the existing property would go back up. Obviously there would have to be a survey and stuff. Attorney Tuczinski stated that won't work the way the tax sales are structured. County only has a right to foreclose on a property based on taxes. They can't exercise any proprietary rights before they acquire title. He used to be County Attorney and they had a policy that they did not like for the county to be in the chain of title because when you take title, you take on all the warts of the property, whether they be environmental or otherwise, so their practice was to convey the property at sale and not fully take title. If you wanted to create an easement and favor the rail trail, the county would have to acquire title and then turn around and work out a deal with the rail trail and do a reserved, retained right of way

that they could convey to you. It's more complex that way. You are kind of stuck, either foreclose it as is at a sale or let a buyer come in and acquire it, do a private sale, which the county has done periodically, or the county would then have to make a decision, and he's not sure they would, to take title, turn around, draft an easement in favor of the rail trail and then convey out the rest of the parcel. Councilmember Smith stated so it is an option. Attorney Tuczinski stated that they would have to decide that they are willing to take title, and then decide they are going to sub-divide it further. Councilmember Smith stated that if the county is supporting all of these rail trails and they can buy up all this land. Supervisor Teal stated that the county is not buying up any land, what are you talking about. Councilmember Smith stated it is an option. Attorney Tuczinski stated that the county could elect to acquire it and then turn around and sell it afterwards. They would have to go into the chain of title. He doesn't know what they would say. He has spoken with Rob Fitzsimmons, the County Attorney, about procedurally what they would do. They are interested in what New Lebanon has to say about it because this is arguably a community betterment project and the county does support those. They do want input from the community and the local boards as to what they want to do. They haven't done anything yet. They have control. We don't have a real say but they will listen to what we have to say. Councilmember Smith stated that he would urge to look into that and possibly come up with a compromise. Supervisor Teal stated so you want me to ask the county to expend more money on this project. Councilmember Smith stated sure why not, absolutely. Councilmember Rasmussen asked Councilmember Smith what are the two options that you are compromising between. Councilmember Smith stated that he is saying, like he was talking to Joe, something on the lot line so it doesn't affect everything in general, was taken out, the rail trail would have that, someone would still be able to build on it, going through the special permit and use and all that stuff and Army Corp. and DEC too. It would give to both. He would hope that is our goal. Councilmember Rasmussen asked Councilmember Smith why that should be our goal. Councilmember Smith stated that the rail trail would have their trail and someone would be able to build a house for their child or whatever purpose of the land, would that not satisfy the rail trail having a rail trail. Councilmember Rasmussen asked how long the property has been unused. He stated that when it was sitting there abandoned the buyers weren't knocking down anybody's door to get at it, why should we think, all of a sudden... Councilmember Smith stated that it just went up for auction. Councilmember Rasmussen stated that it was there unused, if somebody wanted it they would have found the owner and offered them a buck. Councilmember Smith stated not with a burnt house, that is a ridiculous argument. Councilmember Rasmussen asked why is it a ridiculous argument to think that... Councilmember Smith stated because it went to auctions, people go to auctions to buy property at a reduced price. Councilmember Rasmussen stated before it ever went to auction, while county was not getting their taxes, but nobody was doing anything with the property, if there were parties interested because they wanted to put a \$100,000 house on it. When you are looking for properties, when you see something that you want, you find the owner and make an offer. Jeff Winestock stated that there was a sign out there and he did look into it and they wanted \$75,000 for it.

Paul Rix asked Councilmember Smith if the issue he has raised is to preserve this for someone to build a house on. Councilmember Smith answered yes. Paul Rix asked if there is a 100% guarantee that if someone goes to auction and buys this they can build a house on it. Supervisor Teal stated no. Paul Rix stated so that person buys property that they can't

put a house on and now they are stuck with a property that is useless. Supervisor Teal stated that we have had properties like that, that have gone to foreclosure for specific reasons, they get purchased and they end up back in foreclosure because people realize they can't do anything with them. Paul Rix asked if people are aware of that risk, because he would think why would you bid on a property if you can't do what you want to do with it. Supervisor Teal stated that hopefully they have done their due diligence.

Supervisor Teal stated that the next thing that she thinks that this board needs to decide is how to proceed without Councilmember Baumli here. Councilmember Smith stated that he thinks we really need him here. Councilmember Rasmussen stated that there is a quorum. Councilmember Newton stated that if we choose to table this then we can find out from the DEC and Army Corp. of Engineers if it's actually possible to build a structure back there. Supervisor Teal stated that they are not going to give you an answer until they have the actual proposal. Councilmember Smith stated that it would give the opportunity to see if that lot line or whatever could be worked out.

Councilmember Rasmussen made a motion for the Town Board to enthusiastically support the sale of 16 Lover's Lane to the Corkscrew Rail Trail. Supervisor Teal seconded that motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Rasmussen – Aye
Councilmember Smith - Nay
Supervisor Teal - Aye
Councilmember Newton - Nay
Councilmember Baumli – Absent

Supervisor Teal stated that her request would be that we, for the decision on this because we are tied, she would like to hold a special meeting when the full board is here. Town Clerk stated that we are here on Thursday at 6:30pm anyway for the Bob Freeman training. Supervisor Teal asked the board members if this Thursday at 6pm will work. Bruce Shenker asked what the nature of the meeting will be, just a vote or more discussion. Supervisor Teal stated that she thinks it should be a discussion amongst the board and the information that has been presented should be provided to Councilmember Baumli, he could listen to the recording, listen to the input. Any other input that comes in between now and then can be shared with all of the board. She feels very strongly that the county has offered us a courtesy and she does not want to continue to ask them to extend this. She is inclined to want to have this resolved one way or the other. Jeannine Tonetti stated that the county wants to know how the town feels about this, not just the town board, so you have in your possession many letters and they should also be presented to the county no matter what the outcome of the Town Board vote is. Councilmember Smith asked if we want to make a big advertisement and have a big public hearing.

Supervisor Teal made a motion to hold a special meeting to vote again on the 16 Lover's Lane property with the whole board present on March 15th at 6:00pm. Councilmember Smith seconded that motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Rasmussen – Nay
Councilmember Smith - Aye
Supervisor Teal - Aye
Councilmember Newton - Aye
Councilmember Baumli – Absent

Supervisor Teal stated that tomorrow she will let the county know that we had the vote, it was a tie and we will meet again on Thursday. Erminia Rasmussen stated that she did not hear the board's answer to Jeannine's request. She asked when the decision of the board is presented to the county, will they also present to the county the letters of support that have come to the board. Will the county get a clear picture of how the board feels and how the community feels, at least the ones that are present. Councilmember Smith stated that he would think you would want to advertise it and get more people interested, other than the group that knows now. Councilmember Rasmussen stated that everyone had the same notice. He stated aren't all the meetings announced the same way. Town Clerk stated that it was at the top of the agenda and it went up at the Post Office and Library, it was posted to the website and it went out in an email blast.

Attorney Tuczinski stated that if you are going to cast a wider net, you ought to do it a week or two later. It is a board decision. A lot of people came out in favor of it and maybe you are interested in what the population would say as a whole but we are not authorized to have a referendum vote on it, it's a public hearing and people can express themselves, and you can record that for the county's consideration. The question is, is Thursday enough time to do this again. Councilmember Rasmussen stated that if we are doing this because Councilmember Baumli unfortunately had an accident and couldn't be here, he hasn't heard all of this which presumably would inform his opinion. He stated that the reason he voted no is because the entire predication for the special meeting is to allow Councilmember Baumli to vote, which is a reasonable good idea, but he is not voting having heard everybody like we did. There is a presumption that when you come to a meeting like this, if the public speaks, we are listening to them. Supervisor Teal asked if he would be more in favor of having a special meeting further out that allows us more opportunity to cast a wider net. Councilmember Rasmussen stated frankly no. He thinks we announced it like we announce all the other meetings that we have on any other topic, including the \$150,000 lawnmower, and he thinks that everybody who was interested and wanted to come came, everybody who wanted to speak spoke, so he thinks we should be notifying the county that the board is split and that's the end of the conversation.

Councilmember Rasmussen made a motion that all correspondence received regarding 16 Lover's Lane be included in the minutes and that the minutes be forwarded to the county. Supervisor Teal seconded that motion. (See Attachment A)

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Rasmussen – Aye
Councilmember Smith - Nay
Supervisor Teal - Aye
Councilmember Newton - Aye

Councilmember Baumli – Absent

Supervisor Teal stated that she would like to entertain the idea that she might like to make a motion to undo that special meeting. She thinks that we need to make a decision here in a different manner. If we are going to hold it on Thursday, that is for Councilmember Baumli's benefit but not necessarily for the public. She doesn't think that's a great idea. She stated that we should either put it out 2 weeks so that we can publish it and get in as many people as we can or we go with this vote and just tell the county that we were tied. One of those two options but she thinks that just having it on Thursday is insufficient. Supervisor Teal asked if the board is available on the 29th of March.

Paul Rix stated that he is confused. He thought that Councilmember Rasmussen made a motion to submit it now. He asked if that has been voted on. Councilmember Rasmussen stated yes and it passed. Town Clerk Houghtling stated that all the letters of support or opposition that Supervisor Teal received will be included in her minutes and her minutes will be forwarded to the county. Councilmember Smith stated after the public hearing, right. Town Clerk Houghtling stated no, when she prepares her minutes. Paul Rix asked did you not have a motion that this already is a public forum. It was advertised in all of the normal avenues, just like the \$150,000 lawn mower that Councilmember Rasmussen brought up, we have done due process like we do with any issue and it's incumbent on us as citizens to be reading emails that we get to be informed or not and so those that were informed, you know the Post Office, the Library, the whatever, decided that they wanted to come and speak. Was this any different than the protocol that takes place for any other issue. Councilmember Rasmussen stated that the position that Paul Rix stated is in fact what he advocated. He voted no on the special meeting but was outvoted, so as of now, there is a special meeting planned for Thursday. He stated what he then moved, and was passed, was that all of the public comment should be added to the minutes and the minutes should be forwarded to the county. So no matter what happens, if there is another meeting or not, and no matter what happens at the other meeting, the county will get a record of this meeting, the public who showed up, the support that was received and the fact that the board could not reach a decision either way.

Councilmember Smith stated that he objects to it. He objects to all of it. This agenda went out Friday. You're telling me the public should have known all about this hot topic issue from Friday to today, he doesn't believe that is enough. A member of the public stated look who's here, I've never seen most of these people. Councilmember Smith stated of course because you are fully involved in it and it is a hot thing. A member of the public stated they read the agenda. Councilmember Smith stated that the public has not had enough notice on this as far as he is concerned. Paul Rix stated that his question is, is it the same notice as for any other issue. Councilmember Rasmussen and Town Clerk Houghtling stated yes. Supervisor Teal stated that although we have 40 people here tonight, we do have responses from, she is going to suspect, well over 100 which is a significant input on any issue.

Jeannine Tonetti stated that she is concerned. To her it is a little odd that all of this is because there is one board member missing and she doesn't remember one board member, unless it was specifically about that board member being missing, if that was enough to change a decision. This is not a binding decision. It is just an advisory. She is very

concerned and would like to know why they are doing this. Why are they making a big effort so that Councilmember Baumli can be here and she would like to know the real reason behind that. Councilmember Smith stated that he would just like to see, no matter what the vote is, all board members vote on record. Supervisor Teal stated that is not the process that we do. Councilmember Smith stated that this is a totally issue, but whatever. Councilmember Rasmussen stated that this is actually smaller. It is \$600 versus \$150,000 and last month you said okay there are only 4 here, let's keep going. Councilmember Newton stated that there was no tie last time either.

Supervisor Teal asked Town Clerk Houghtling what's the last motion. Town Clerk Houghtling stated that the last motion was that the minutes include all the letters and be forwarded to county and that motion passed. Supervisor Teal asked Town Clerk Houghtling where are we on meetings. Town Clerk Houghtling stated there was a motion that passed to hold a special meeting on March 15th at 6pm. Supervisor Teal stated that she would like to make a motion definitely to cancel that because she thinks if we are going to do another meeting, that's insufficient.

Attorney Tuczinski asked if he can make a suggestion. He stated that before we finish this motion, let's make a determination whether you are going to in fact schedule it for another day or not. He thinks that's a relevant issue. He advised that Supervisor Teal hold her motion, find out what they are going to do, and then tailor the next motion to be in accordance with what they are going to do. He stated that the answer is true, it's a tie vote, it's an advisory vote. It's a board discretion whether they want to seek additional public input or not and can simply say everybody came, we're deadlocked, it's 2 to 2 and tell the county how this turned out, provide materials to them. Again, the county is going to make the decision. We could even say that we want this conveyed to the rail trail and county could say they are not going to do that. It's purely advisory. It's a board judgement call if you want to open it up for another meeting later on, re-discuss it when Councilmember Baumli is here or if you simply want to say we put it out there, we had a vote, it's deadlocked 2 to 2, we are going to pass it on to the county and see what they do. You have a couple of options and either one is appropriate.

Wayne Martin stated that he has lived in this town for most of his life. Jeannine asked why are we doing the special meeting and a second vote. It's because it was voted on and it was tied so it should go down as what the public wants and what the elected members want. So being tied is not really giving a true definitive answer one way or the other. What it's doing is saying that there is chaos within the town that two of the board members, who were elected by the people, said no and two of them said yes. So, that's the reason why they want to put in another meeting about it. Paul Rix asked if that is the standard protocol that when there is a tie vote it goes to another special meeting. Attorney Tuczinski stated that you would have to reconcile the tie. A tie vote is inaction. Paul Rix stated that there is no action that we can take anyway. Councilmember Rasmussen stated there is no action required.

Supervisor Teal stated that what we could do is say that this is done and we make no recommendation whatsoever to the county. Councilmember Smith stated what do you mean, not give a recommendation, you're going to pass on letters with no recommendation from the town. He stated that you haven't heard from the entire public. He stated that he

is against it.

Judy Zimmer stated that she would imagine that people who haven't made it to the meeting are welcome to write to the county about how they feel. Then those of us that have already taken the time to come here don't have to feel like we have to come out again to do the same thing for hours.

Councilmember Smith stated that he thinks it's bad business. He asked what Attorney Tuczinski thinks. Attorney Tuczinski stated that it is a judgement call. If you go back to the point that whatever you do is not going to bind the county. Let's say we have another public hearing, and Councilmember Baumli comes in, he understands that he probably would vote no at least from what he has seen in email exchanges, so now you have a vote saying no as opposed to a deadlock vote. Are those factors going to change the determination of the county and how they are going to want to proceed. It's hard to say. And if you bring another 50 people in and some of them say yes, some of them say no, is that going to ultimately change where it is going to go. That is a judgement call. The problem is we don't have the power. If we had the power to make this call, let's have another meeting, let's bring another board member in, let's bring everyone in here, get all the information and then the board could make a determination. This is purely a recommendation to the county that is not binding on them. Having been there, it's hard to say if they are even going to read all of these letters. It goes to a county government committee, they are going to look at this, they are going to listen to what happened, they're not going to invest as much time in this typically as we might want them to because this is one of what 100 resolutions. It's probably not going to make a huge difference in terms of how they view this. He thinks if they knew there was unanimous support, everybody's on board, they'd find that interesting. Or everybody's against, they'd find that interesting. But we're split in some ways so he doesn't know how they are going to credit that.

Joe Ogilvie stated that the irony here is that the person who was going to vote no, Councilmember Baumli, publicly stated that he was upset because he wanted to bid on this parcel. Supervisor Teal stated that she also feels that it is completely unfair to all of the residents who took time out of their schedule to come and attend tonight and voice their opinion. Fiona Lally stated that it is a very confusing thing to say to people come out again for a recommendation because people would come out again if they thought that it would result in something definitive. It is not a viable thing to ask of people.

Supervisor Teal made a motion to cancel the special meeting March 15th at 6:00pm. Councilmember Rasmussen seconded that motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Rasmussen – Aye
Councilmember Smith - Nay
Supervisor Teal - Aye
Councilmember Newton - Aye
Councilmember Baumli – Absent

Mike Darcy asked if the property is given to the rail trail will they be bound to have to clean up the property irregardless of what happens going forward they have to take the house down. Will they be made to do it regardless. Supervisor Teal stated yes. Attorney Tuczinski stated that they will not be automatically required to clean it up unless the town enforcement mechanism requires them to clean it up. The county won't self-police this. Mike Darcy asked if the town is going to police it. Attorney Tuczinski stated that depends on if the state of the property right now violates any of the town code requirements. Mike Darcy stated that if it got sold to somebody, then that person might then go ahead and clean it up. Attorney Tuczinski stated that they have the option, but they are not typically required as a condition of the bid. Supervisor Teal asked Mike Darcy if he was asking if the rail trail was going to clean it up. Mike Darcy stated no, if they would be required to clean it up. Supervisor Teal stated that the rail trail made that part of their proposal and she has to believe that if they made that part of their proposal they are going to fulfill that. Mike Darcy stated that nobody is in charge of that though. Supervisor Teal stated that if there's a violation, absolutely, because they will then be the property owner but if it's not a violation they will be treated the same as any other purchaser. They can't be treated any differently than anyone else. Councilmember Smith stated what Mike Darcy is asking is when this property is conveyed to whoever, we will immediately enforce the town code, property maintenance code is what he's referring to and the foundation. Supervisor Teal stated yes.

Attorney Tuczinski stated that the town has the authority to enforce it's laws and if somebody takes over the property and we find violations we have the right to use our full enforcement powers depending upon to what extent the property is not in compliance. Mike Darcy stated that Supervisor Teal knows the town and a rough outline of the code enforcement. Supervisor Teal stated she doesn't. Mike Darcy asked if a burned out building is a violation. Supervisor Teal stated that is probably a safety issue but she hasn't seen it, she is not code enforcement and she doesn't know our zoning in and out by any stretch. She stated that we have been pushing enforcement. If there are violations, our attempt will be to get them resolved. Attorney Tuczinski stated that if you have a significant issue on a property, the town can cite the person, they can make them come to court and pay fines. There are a lot of people who scofflaw all the time and don't show up and do what they need to do. What is the next mechanism? The town brings an injunction proceeding which is very expensive. We don't like to have to bring full enforcement powers because it can be very pricey. It depends on who comes in, it depends on who buys it, are they responsible, are they going to come in and beautify the property, or are they just going to hold onto the property. We don't have a crystal ball yet. The one thing about the rail trail's proposal, as he understands it, is they've made a proposal that, as a condition of their acquiring the property, they will clean it up. That's beneficial to the town. Would another purchaser do it? It's hard to say. He has heard a lot of issues here about potential detriments to the purchaser, wetland issues, Army Corp. of Engineers issues, he deals with Army Corp. and DEC all the time, it's not necessarily easy. If the rail trail proposal doesn't go through, the county will put it up for auction, someone will buy it, and it will be depending upon how they want to develop it. The town will be vigilant, based on the history, to determine that they do what they are supposed to do on the property. Hopefully we don't have a big enforcement issue because it gets more pricey for the town to do that. Supervisor Teal asked Mike Darcy if that answered his question. He answered yes.

Irene Hanna stated that if Councilmember Baumli really has a financial interest in this property, he would have to recuse himself from voting anyway. Attorney Tuczinski stated that he doesn't think he would vote on this if that were the case, but he is still a board member, the conflict hasn't been crystallized because he hasn't bid on the property but he is still a board member until that time.

Attorney Tuczinski asked how the board feels about whether the county would consider, if they decide to go to a private sale, taking title to the property and giving the rail trail an easement or right of way and then moving forward on a regular sale. Would that as a possible solution be something that the board would consider on the merits. Councilmember Smith stated that is what he just proposed earlier. Attorney Tuczinski stated that he is talking now an alternative remedy, you would say that the board is deadlocked as to whether it should be taken off the rolls completely and provided to the rail trail. The question is does the board have a position as to whether they still want to see the rail trail acquire a right of way if the county is so disposed in connection with the sale. He stated that Councilmember Smith did articulate that but we didn't close the loop on that.

Councilmember Rasmussen asked if that would meet all of the needs to optimally support the rail trail. Joe Ogilvie, President of the Corkscrew Rail Trail, stated he doesn't think in this case, given the shape of the property, an easement will work. He knows folks that are abutting the property, so if you want a happy medium where somebody can build a house and we can have a rail trail, on this particular piece of property he thinks that solution isn't possible. Fiona Lally stated that what she heard was that the ownership of the property by the rail trail is a significant part of its ability to be able to get grants and to carry out the responsibilities that it undertakes. If it's just an easement, the rail trail does not have that ability. Councilmember Rasmussen stated so at some point you need to own a piece of property somewhere. Paul Rix asked if it would even be possible to do that with setback requirements, to have a residence on there and to have the appropriate setbacks both from abutters and from an easement to the rail trail. Supervisor Teal stated that she can't answer that.

Supervisor Teal stated that from the rail trail people that is not a viable option. She stated that she wears two hats and one of the things that she has to keep in mind is that any added cost to the county comes back to you also. She doesn't see this as a viable option either for the county. She sees it as an expenditure of more money when we are already out money and she thinks that adding an easement is taking a property that already has so many issues and if she wanted to build a house in there, having an easement on it that is going to have the public going through all the time is going to take any value further away and if she is going to put a business in there she is not going to want the public up and down that road with her commercial entity down there, full access to it. Her concern would be what is she asking of the county and what is the impact back then all the way around in a full circle back to us.

Joe Ogilvie stated that he totally hears what Councilmember Smith is saying, wanting to make both sides of this work and 9 times out of 10 in any conversation he would like to have a win-win but in the configuration of this property in its current location, he can't support an easement. It's a nice way to appease both groups but he feels that an easement is not

possible for this particular property. Fiona Lally stated that you can't even be sure that there would be a win. Let's say the property went back up for auction and somebody purchased it, we don't know if they would permit a rail trail through it, that's a loss to the town. We don't know if they would be able to overcome permits, variance, wetlands issues and if so they would have spent a good deal of money on something that they can't use which would leave it open for industrial abuse and would still mean that the historic use of the property as a rail trail would be gone. So there is very little room for a win under the circumstances that are being discussed now.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Doug Banker stated that he knows on the agenda the town board is going to consider the proposal that for Music in the Park this year we have vendors allowed to come on during the concerts, set up and sell things and that there is a discussion to be had about whether or not to charge fees for that to the vendors. This was discussed at the last Recreation Commission meeting and he believes that the Supervisor is going to make a recommendation that for the first year we do not charge them fees because you get better results when you build stuff incrementally. This is a fragile and new project that we have underway and he doesn't want to wreck it by trying to suck money out of people before it's really got some strength to it. He recommends that we do allow the vendors but that we do not charge them any fees for the first year. Then after that we will see if it's a very successful thing, we will see what the traffic will bear like they do for the farmer's market.

Councilmember Smith made a motion to not charge a fee for vendors for Music in the Park for the 2018 season. Councilmember Rasmussen seconded that motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Rasmussen – Aye
Councilmember Smith - Aye
Supervisor Teal - Aye
Councilmember Newton - Aye
Councilmember Baumli – Absent

OLD BUSINESS:

Procurement – Proposed Local Law – set public hearing:

Supervisor Teal stated that we have the final form from the Attorney and this has just finalized what we had the edited form of last month and at this point, because we have final form, we can set a public hearing. Supervisor Teal stated that she wants to clarify one thing because there was discussion today and she wants to understand. She asked Attorney Tuczinski, because this says that anything under \$1,000 is at the discretion of the purchaser, what that means is an item that has already been approved by the board, not that they can spend up to \$1,000 without board authorization, correct? Attorney Tuczinski stated that it depends. He stated remember that they are public officials, they can't go out and buy tires for their car, but if they are going to go out and requisition some things, the town has its own audit policy. You are authorizing up to \$1,000 without having to go out and get bids and solicitations however they have to follow the town policy so if the town is not going to authorize expenditures under \$1,000 without town board approval then they can't do it. This just relieves you of the burden of having to go out and get bids and quotes before you make

determinations. Supervisor Teal stated that on the record, if a department head wants spend \$500 on an item that has not been approved through the budget process and has not been approved by the board, they don't need quotes and bids but they do need board approval. Town Clerk Houghtling stated that the Attorney stated that it would be in the town policy, do we have that town policy. Attorney Tuczinski stated that as a typical matter, as he understands it, we don't let people go out and spend money without the board knowing as part of the budget process so that is part of our overall process. Town Clerk Houghtling stated that her question is where the line is drawn, she bought a \$15 calculator and didn't come to the board, so if you are saying \$1,000 is the cut off for needing bids, there should be some definition of what it is then that needs to come to the board. As a department head she would not think that if she needed to replace something in her office she would need to come to the board. Attorney Tuczinski stated that the procurement policy only deals with what needs to go out to bid. Whether you are going to requisition and let people buy a \$15 calculator is a separate matter. Town Clerk Houghtling requested that there be a policy in place. Attorney Tuczinski stated that there should be a discussion about whether you are going to authorize officials within the parameters of their budget to acquire certain things. He doesn't think anybody wants to have proposals every month on whether you bought a \$15 calculator or a bunch of folders. He thinks that is something we have to talk about independently. Supervisor Teal stated that in general if it is an itemized item on the budget that the board has approved and the money is in the budget, then it's within those parameters. Replacing a stapler or a tape dispenser is fairly innocuous she certainly wouldn't expect a request to the board first, but if somebody drops their laptop and we need a \$900 replacement that should be coming to the town board. Town Clerk Houghtling requested that those parameters be defined somewhere.

Councilmember Smith made a motion to introduce Local Law #1 of 2018 and set the Public Hearing for April 10th at 6:55pm. Councilmember Rasmussen seconded that motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Rasmussen – Aye
Councilmember Smith - Aye
Supervisor Teal - Aye
Councilmember Newton - Aye
Councilmember Baumli – Absent

Cell Phone Policy:

Supervisor Teal tabled the cell phone policy to the April meeting.

Town Seal:

Supervisor Teal asked if we want the town seal painted in black and white or color on the meeting room wall. Councilmember Rasmussen stated whatever the board wants to do is great. Councilmember Smith stated that he thinks color would look good but he is okay either way. Councilmember Newton stated that he thinks black and white is more classic looking and it will not clash with any other colors if we change the interior colors or the room. Supervisor Teal stated that from one perspective everything in the room is black and white and there is a classiness to that. Councilmember Smith stated that the artist who will be painting the seal said black and white but if we choose to do color he will tone down

the colors so they aren't so bright. Supervisor Teal stated that she is willing to go black and white again. Everyone agreed.

Music in the Park – Fees: vendors:

Supervisor Teal stated that we covered this earlier in the meeting.

Trees & Plaques in Park – clarification:

Councilmember Smith asked the Town Board if we are going to pay for the plaque for the tree or not. Supervisor Teal asked Councilmember Smith what his recommendation is, that we pay for the plaque. Councilmember Smith stated that is his recommendation. He knows that Councilmember Baumli thinks that the donor should pay for the tree and the plaque. Councilmember Rasmussen stated that it doesn't make a difference one way or the other to him. Councilmember Newton asked how much the tree is. Town Clerk Houghtling stated that it is around \$80 for a fruit tree, \$80 for installation and around \$40 for the plaque so it would be \$200 total if the donor paid for everything or it would be \$160 from the donor and \$40 from the town if the town paid for the plaque. An audience member asked what the plaques are for. Supervisor Teal stated that if somebody wants to donate a tree for the park, they can put a plaque up in memory of whomever they choose. Now we are just trying to decide, there wasn't clarification on whether the cost of the plaque was going to the donor as part of the cost of the tree or if the town was going to pay for the plaque.

Councilmember Smith made a motion to have the donor pay for the tree, the installation and the plaque for the tree donation program for Shatford Park. Supervisor Teal seconded that motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Rasmussen – Aye
Councilmember Smith - Aye
Supervisor Teal - Aye
Councilmember Newton - Aye
Councilmember Baumli – Absent

County Waste meeting update:

Supervisor Teal stated that Highway Superintendent Winestock, Attorney Tuczinski, Councilmember Smith and herself met with County Waste. She stated that they are working on finding a solution for some of the problems we are having on the roads with some of those big, heavy trucks on some of our back gravel roads and some of the difficult conditions but it is an ongoing process and we are finding a solution together.

Code Publishers Editorial and Legal Analysis – continued:

Supervisor Teal tabled this until the April meeting. She asked all Town Board members to also review pages 15-21 for the April meeting. She stated that we do need to look at the investment policy as well because the banks that are listed are not the banks that we currently use. We will need to amend that.

NL 200 Update – Kick-Off Event plus:

Supervisor Teal stated that we had somewhere between 60 and 70 attendees, very

successful. She stated that we have a lighting request from NL 200. Town Clerk Houghtling stated that for the NL 200 event on April 21st, the Sup and Swing, there are two proposals in Town Board packets from lighting services. One is from MusiChris which is what the NL 200 committee is requesting the town chooses. It includes a custom monogram which they would create for \$199 of the town seal and event logo, which would be ours to keep if we wanted to project the town seal at other events or in other places. The total is \$961. If you just do the lighting without the custom monogram it is \$762. The second quote is for \$900 without the monogram. Supervisor Teal asked the NL 200 committee if their recommendation and request is for with the monogram. Ted Salem stated that is up to the Town Board, he is not sure that they have any position on the monogram but they are recommending going with MusiChris for the lighting.

Councilmember Smith made a motion to go accept the quote from MusiChris in the amount of \$961 to include the custom monogram and lighting services for the NL 200 Sup and Swing event. Supervisor Teal seconded that motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Rasmussen – Aye
Councilmember Smith - Aye
Supervisor Teal - Aye
Councilmember Newton - Aye
Councilmember Baumli - Absent

Office Switch – Supervisor and Assessor:

Supervisor Teal stated that our Assessor does not have access to the public. A great deal of her contact is with seniors. They are constantly coming down and trying to set up in the meeting hall with their equipment and everything. It is something that has been requested for quite some time. She is willing to come downstairs and meet with anyone. She is willing to go to someone's home and meet with them and she thinks it is important that our Assessor have the access to our seniors for those exemptions and they have agreed to switch offices. They are not going to switch furniture. They are simply going to switch the contents and they will try to make this as seamless as possible. She wanted to make it very clear that this is to give our Assessor access to those people who apply to her for exemptions and they cannot use the second floor. It has been an issue for many, many years and they will find a way to make it incredibly simple for people to let the Supervisor know they are here and want to meet with her so that there is no concern about her accessibility.

Bob Smith asked why people can't make accessibility for her to come downstairs. Supervisor Teal stated that her need for the seniors and veterans and disabled, those are all of her exemptions, that is what her job is all about. Supervisor Teal stated that in her whole time in there, she has met with maybe one or two people that would have difficulty going upstairs. She does notaries in the parking lot. People will call her and say they need a notary, she doesn't make them come in through the handicap entrance, she meets them in the parking lot. She can be as accessible as she needs to and she will go have coffee with them in their kitchen. JJ Smith stated that she thinks that people expect when they walk in the door, you're there. That is the Supervisor's office, always has been, Colleen's there I can get to her, you know upstairs it's different. Supervisor Teal stated that she thinks that

the Assessor's need to have access to those seniors is greater than the Supervisor's. She meets with all of our seniors. JJ Smith stated that they only come in once a year. Supervisor Teal stated that they have questions year round. Councilmember Smith stated just for the record he thinks it is a bad idea because people come in and the first thing they want to see is the Supervisor, you are more accessible. Supervisor Teal stated that she thinks it is our obligation to make sure that our offices are functioning and that one has not been functioning well for many years.

NEW BUSINESS:

Computer to Town Board Members:

Supervisor Teal stated there has been a request. We are looking to take the Tax Collector's old laptop and make that available for the Town Board members who want to come in and print stuff, do research, etc. Councilmember Smith stated that the Zoning Re-Write Committee sometimes has items that they want to project on the screen and now they will have a computer to be able to do that.

Emergency Lighting at Town Hall:

Supervisor Teal stated that during our power outage we found some issues that we are looking to rectify. Councilmember Smith stated that we can either go with \$605 for 3 new emergency lights from the company that the other lights in the building came from or we can go with new emergency lights from Home Depot which are \$50-\$80 per light. Supervisor Teal stated that she would strongly recommend Home Depot but she would also like to strongly recommend that Jeff Hattat, Deputy CEO/ZEO and Cissy Hernandez, CEO/ZEO weigh in on what's required because she doesn't understand why some of the lights have to have downward pointing lights, some of them do and some of them don't, which ones do. She would like to know what the whole cost is going to be before we approve it. If we can get the input from Jeff and Cissy as to what's required. Councilmember Smith stated that he would recommend that we get them from Home Depot because it's much cheaper. He stated that we will need to purchase the replacement batteries from this other company for the existing lights. Town Clerk Houghtling stated that she needs board authorization to purchase two replacement batteries for the emergency exit sign.

A motion was made by Supervisor Teal, seconded by Councilmember Smith and passed unanimously (Councilmember Baumli absent) authorizing Town Clerk Houghtling to purchase two replacement batteries for the emergency exit light.

Councilmember Smith stated that we are going to have to hire an electrician for the new emergency exit lights to be wired. He will reach out to Adam Peterson and then he will get 2 bids. Supervisor Teal asked if he would talk to Jeff Hattat, Deputy CEO/ZEO first to figure out the full scope of what we need before getting bids. Councilmember Smith stated he will work with Jeff Hattat to figure out what is needed then get the bids to present at next month's meeting.

Lights in Land Use Department:

Councilmember Smith stated that we are replacing two lights in the building department. Supervisor Teal asked if we are going to go with the standard that they were.

Councilmember Smith stated that we are going to go with one standard light and one stubbed ceiling fan because they are the same price as the light and Cissy requested that, she would rather use that than the A/C so it's going to save us money on the A/C as well. Supervisor Teal stated that the A/C is not for the employees but for the equipment.

Town Engineer – PB & ZBA:

Supervisor Teal stated that this goes back to the meeting that we had with the Quad Board. We discussed that the Town Engineer should be available to the Planning Board and the ZBA at their meetings, not just for the larger projects that are covered by escrow, but some of the smaller projects where they may need his input but we don't want to nickel and dime the applicants and that it would be an appropriate charge under Town Engineering to cover that expense. Councilmember Newton stated that he thinks that we should defer to the Planning Board or the ZBA to see if they actually think they need an Engineer as they are going to be the ones who have a grasp on that. Councilmember Smith stated that we should approve it as needed by the boards, at their discretion, not that he's going to be there but if they feel like there is a project that they want him there for. Supervisor Teal stated that she would recommend that until they get a better understanding and we get through the workshops that there be that attendance. She thinks it's important because she thinks that there are some areas there that need some clarification. Councilmember Smith stated that he thinks it would depend upon what the issue is. He doesn't know what is going on in there, we don't know until the applications come in, but he would just say as requested by them, we have to have faith in our boards. Councilmember Newton stated that the Town Attorney and the Town Engineer both cost money, so he is thinking instead of making it mandatory they are at the ZBA... Supervisor Teal stated she wasn't making it mandatory. Any time there is a major application, it automatically is the applicant's responsibility to pay for that. On the minor applications, the small ones, do we agree as a board we don't want to then push that cost on the small applicants, we recognize that as a need of the town and that we will fund that expense, that is more the question. Not saying that they have to go to every one but if there is a need on a small application, we feel that is a valid charge under town engineering and not to be pushed back on the small applicants. Councilmember Smith stated that would be a project by project decision, you can't really give it a blanket. Supervisor Teal stated that we need to authorize it. Councilmember Smith stated as per the Planning Board or ZBA's request.

Supervisor Teal made a motion authorizing the Planning Board and/or Zoning Board of Appeals to use the services of the Town Engineer and/or the Town Attorney as they feel necessary on smaller cases as a town charge, not to be deferred back to the applicant as we do on the large cases with an escrow. Councilmember Smith seconded that motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Rasmussen – Aye
Councilmember Smith - Aye
Supervisor Teal - Aye
Councilmember Newton - Aye
Councilmember Baumli - Absent

Train Workshops – Town Attorney & Engineer – approve for CEUs:

Supervisor Teal made a motion that the Town Board approves the training workshops that are going to be provided by the Town Engineer and the Town Attorney for the Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Board as qualifying for required continuing education for those boards. Councilmember Rasmussen seconded that motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Rasmussen – Aye
Councilmember Smith - Aye
Supervisor Teal - Aye
Councilmember Newton - Aye
Councilmember Baumli - Absent

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Supervisor Teal stated that she would like to primarily skip the committee reports with two exceptions.

CAC & Environmental Management (Rasmussen & Shenker):

Supervisor Teal stated that there were some questions on the CAC tablet and she forwarded the response from the CAC as to what they use it for on a monthly basis to the whole town board. She asked if that answered everybody's questions.

Parks & Recreation (Smith & Newton):

Supervisor Teal stated that the Shatford Youth Baseball has two locks that they would like similarly keyed. There is one other structure that is locked that is the equipment shed and it has a coded padlock that they are happy to share with the Town Clerk's office for emergency purposes. Councilmember Smith stated that we don't need access into their equipment shed. Supervisor Teal stated that we are supposed to have access in case there is an emergency.

Supervisor Teal made a motion to approve up to 3 locks with restricted locks with the same, non-duplicatable keys not to exceed 6 keys with the total cost not to exceed \$750. Councilmember Newton seconded that motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Rasmussen – Aye
Councilmember Smith - Aye
Supervisor Teal - Aye
Councilmember Newton - Aye
Councilmember Baumli - Absent

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Town Clerk Houghtling stated that for the Sup and Swing event for NL 200 at the Jr/Sr High School from 5pm – 8pm on April 21st, you must RSVP by either getting a free ticket from the Town Clerk's office or sending an email gtvnl200@gmail.com.

BUDGET AMENDMENT:

Budget Amendment #3 of 2018:

Highway Fund:

\$50,000 from DA-5130.2 (Machinery – Equipment)
\$22,729 from DA-914 (Appropriated Fund Balance)
\$77,729 to DA-9950.91 (Transfer to Capital Project - MOWER)

Capital Project (MOWER):

\$50,000 from H-5720 (Bond Proceeds)
\$77,729 from H-5031 (Transfer from Highway Fund)
\$125,078.58 to H-5130.21 (Highway Equipment – Tractor/Mower - Cost)
\$2,650.42 to H-5130.22 (Highway Equipment – Bond Counsel & Publication)

A motion was made by Supervisor Teal and seconded by Councilmember Newton to approve the above noted budget amendment.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Rasmussen – Aye
Councilmember Smith - Aye
Supervisor Teal - Aye
Councilmember Newton - Aye
Councilmember Baumli - Absent

AUDIT OF BILLS:

General No. 66, in the amount of \$2,400.00;

As listed on Abstract No. 2A of 2018 dated March 13, 2018; and

General Nos. 67 through 100, in the amount of \$59,902.13;

Highway Nos. 14 through 26, in the amount of \$20,350.43;

Escrow No. E:18-3, in the amount of \$175.00; and

As listed on Abstract No. 3 of 2018 dated March 13, 2018.

A motion was made by Councilmember Smith and seconded by Supervisor Teal to pay the above noted claims from their respective accounts.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Rasmussen – Aye
Councilmember Smith - Aye
Supervisor Teal - Aye
Councilmember Newton - Aye
Councilmember Baumli - Aye

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

David Farren asked Town Clerk Houghtling how many copies her office has sold of the Natural Resource Conservation Plan. Town Clerk Houghtling stated that she doesn't know exactly but would guess between 3 and 6 and they have all been qualifying landowners for

the \$10 per copy price. Supervisor Teal stated that her letters have not gone out yet, she has started her merge, and she has been de-railed every week and she apologizes.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilmember Smith and seconded by Councilmember Rasmussen to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tistrya Houghtling
New Lebanon Town Clerk

Attachment A

March 13, 2018

New Lebanon Town Board
New Lebanon, NY 12125

Re: Corkscrew Rail Trail in New Lebanon

To the New Lebanon Town Board:

We support having a rail trail in New Lebanon. We ask you to *support the resolution for the private sale of the rail bed property to the Corkscrew Rail Trail by Columbia County.*

Do not require the property to go back on the auction block because the rail trail is non-profit. The economic benefits that a rail trail brings are much greater than tax income on the property.

This is our chance to create an economic driver that our town really needs. Trail users reliably spend money locally year-round. Property values around trails increase, as does the speed of sale. Towns with trails find that empty commercial properties fill up.

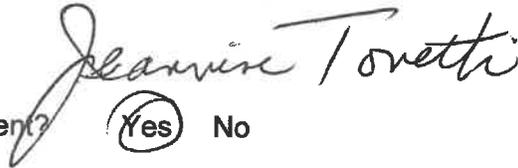
A trail protects the property from vandalism and industrial abuse. It also provides a way for kids, people and bikers to walk safely without being on the highway. It provides easy access to stores and destinations in town too.

It is very important to us that you vote to support the development of the rail trail in New Lebanon. Stand behind the sale of this property for use as our rail trail.

Very truly yours,

Name

New Lebanon resident? Yes No



Name

New Lebanon resident? Yes No



Name

New Lebanon resident? Yes No



Name

New Lebanon resident? Yes No

Name

New Lebanon resident? Yes No

March 13, 2018

New Lebanon Town Board
New Lebanon, NY 12125

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Very truly yours,

Name 
New Lebanon resident? Yes No

Name  Tipaz Ross Kelso
New Lebanon resident? Yes No

Name
New Lebanon resident? Yes No

Name
New Lebanon resident? Yes No

Name
New Lebanon resident? Yes No

March 13, 2018

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New Lebanon, NY 12125

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Very truly yours,

Name
New Lebanon resident? Yes No

Margie Foster

Name
New Lebanon resident? Yes No

March 13, 2018

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Very truly yours,

Name JONATHAN COSTELLO
New Lebanon resident? Yes No

Name
New Lebanon resident? Yes No

Name
New Lebanon resident? Yes No

Name
New Lebanon resident? Yes No

Name
New Lebanon resident? Yes No

March 13, 2018

New Lebanon Town Board
New Lebanon, NY 12125

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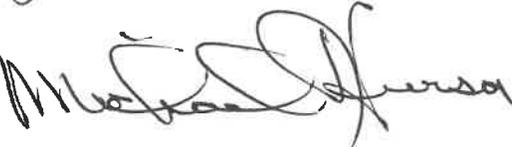
Name Brian Morris
New Lebanon resident? Yes No



Name Jessica Morris
New Lebanon resident? Yes No



Name Michael Hurst
New Lebanon resident? Yes No



Name
New Lebanon resident? Yes No



Name
New Lebanon resident? Yes No

March 13, 2018

New Lebanon Town Board
New Lebanon, NY 12125

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Very truly yours,

Name
New Lebanon resident? Yes No *Patricia Cochran*

Name
New Lebanon resident? Yes No *Pous Giffroy*

Name
New Lebanon resident? Yes No *Nigel F Kelly*

Name
New Lebanon resident? Yes No *Sharon Moon*

Name
New Lebanon resident? Yes No *Debra Messier*

March 13, 2018

New Lebanon Town Board
New Lebanon, NY 12125

3/2/18

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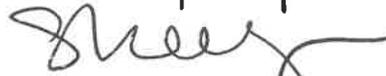
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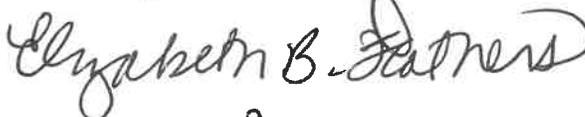
Name Erica Mumford
New Lebanon resident? Yes No



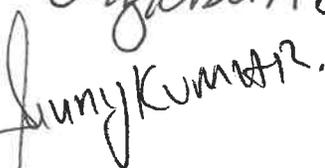
Name Sharon Dolby-Capeless
New Lebanon resident? Yes No



Name Elizabeth B. Feathers
New Lebanon resident? Yes No



Name Juny Kumar
New Lebanon resident? Yes No



Name Molly Goodrich
New Lebanon resident? Yes No



March 13, 2018

New Lebanon Town Board
New Lebanon, NY 12125

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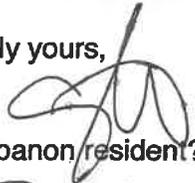
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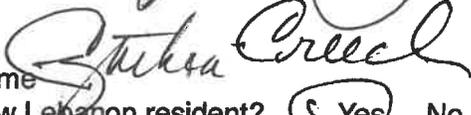
A trail protects the property from vandalism and industrial abuse. It also provides a way for kids, people and bikers to walk safely without being on the highway. It provides easy access to stores and destinations in town too.

It is very important to us that you vote to support the development of the rail trail in New Lebanon. Stand behind the sale of this property for use as our rail trail.

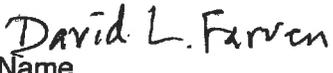
Very truly yours,

Name 
New Lebanon resident? Yes No

Craig A. Westcott

Name 
New Lebanon resident? Yes No

Cynthia Creech

Name 
New Lebanon resident? Yes No

David L. Farven

Name
New Lebanon resident? Yes No

Name
New Lebanon resident? Yes No

March 13, 2018

New Lebanon Town Board
New Lebanon, NY 12125

Re: Corkscrew Rail Trail in New Lebanon

To the New Lebanon Town Board:

We support having a rail trail in New Lebanon. We ask you to *support the resolution for the private sale of the rail bed property to the Corkscrew Rail Trail by Columbia County.*

Do not require the property to go back on the auction block because the rail trail is non-profit. The economic benefits that a rail trail brings are much greater than tax income on the property.

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It is very important to us that you vote to support the development of the rail trail in New Lebanon. Stand behind the sale of this property for use as our rail trail.

Very truly yours,

Name *Pen Murres Margaret A. Murres*
New Lebanon resident? Yes No

Name *Ellen McCarty*
New Lebanon resident? Yes No *Bavelys Bagels*

Name *Michelle Hoffman*
New Lebanon resident? Yes No *Michelle Hoffman*

Name *Ellen POGGI*
New Lebanon resident? Yes No *Ellen Poggi*

Name *Michael Libsch*
New Lebanon resident? Yes No *Michael Libsch*

March 13, 2018

New Lebanon Town Board
New Lebanon, NY 12125

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Very truly yours,

Name *David J. Wain*
New Lebanon resident? Yes No

Name *Schylersburg*
New Lebanon resident? Yes No

Name *Collyer*
New Lebanon resident? Yes No

Name *[Signature]*
New Lebanon resident? Yes No

Name *Sam Saylor*
New Lebanon resident? Yes No

March 13, 2018

New Lebanon Town Board
New Lebanon, NY 12125

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Very truly yours,

Name
New Lebanon resident?

Yes No

Handwritten signature: Randolph (Blueberry #11)

Name
New Lebanon resident?

Yes No

Handwritten signature: Mike from MEM

Name
New Lebanon resident?

Yes No

Handwritten signature: Christine Sotek

Name
New Lebanon resident?

Yes No

Handwritten signature: Jo S. Raney

Name
New Lebanon resident?

Yes No

*Handwritten signature: Michael Fergola
Known at Shaker Hill Falls*

March 13, 2018

New Lebanon Town Board
New Lebanon, NY 12125

Re: Corkscrew Rail Trail in New Lebanon

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Very truly yours,

Name *Jay Aaronson*
New Lebanon resident? Yes No

Name *Kris Cotton*
New Lebanon resident? Yes No

Name *Marcia Mayer*
New Lebanon resident? Yes No

Name *Paul S. Young*
New Lebanon resident? Yes No

Name *Deborah S. Gordon*
New Lebanon resident? Yes No

March 13, 2018

New Lebanon Town Board
New Lebanon, NY 12125

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It is very important to us that you vote to support the development of the rail trail in New Lebanon. Stand behind the sale of this property for use as our rail trail.

Very truly yours,

Name

New Lebanon resident?

Yes

No

Erminie Rasmussen

Name

New Lebanon resident?

Yes

No

Adelia Moore

Name

New Lebanon resident?

Yes

No

Name

New Lebanon resident?

Yes

No

Name

New Lebanon resident?

Yes

No

March 13, 2018

New Lebanon Town Board
New Lebanon, NY 12125

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Very truly yours,

Name

New Lebanon resident?

Yes

No

John M. [Signature]

Name

New Lebanon resident?

Yes

No

Charles Houghtlin

Name

New Lebanon resident?

Yes

No

Alan Z. Burt

Name

New Lebanon resident?

Yes

No

Monte Wash
Monte Wash

Name

New Lebanon resident?

Yes

No

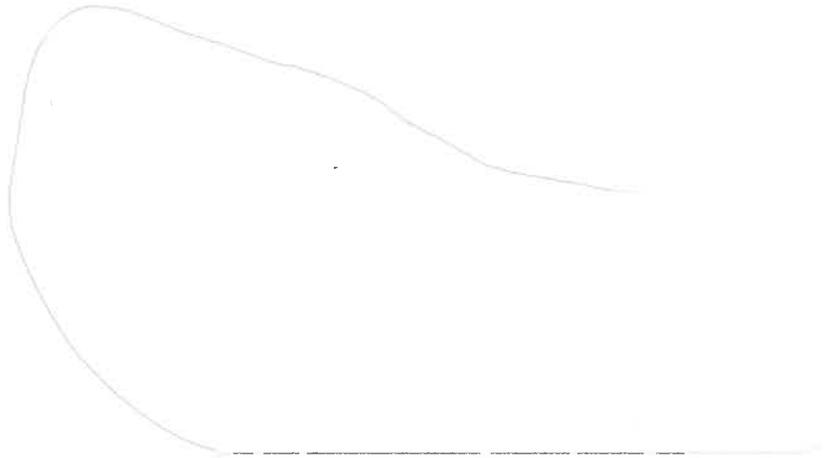
Cathy Wilson
Cathy Wilson

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Lacy Schutz lschutz@shakerml.org
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 4:24 PM
To: Colleen Supervisor
Subject: Letter of support for the Corkscrew Rail Trail purchase
Attachments: 20180312161052672.pdf

Categories: County Meeting

Lacy Schutz
Executive Director
Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon
PO Box 630
New Lebanon, NY 12125
[518 794 9100 x218](tel:5187949100x218)
www.shakerml.org



March 13, 2018

New Lebanon Town Board
New Lebanon, NY 12125

Re: Corkscrew Rail Trail in New Lebanon

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It is very important to us that you vote to support the development of the rail trail in New Lebanon. Stand behind the sale of this property for use as our rail trail.

Very truly yours,

Name *Melissa Peters* *melissa Peters*
New Lebanon resident? Yes No

Name *Lacy Schatz* - *Lacy Schatz*
New Lebanon resident? Yes No *Executive Director of Shaker Museum / Mount Lebanon*

Name *Shauna Fites Immons*
New Lebanon resident? Yes No *Ops Mgr Shaker*

Name *Jerry V. Grant*
New Lebanon resident? Yes No *Jerry V. Grant, Shaker Museum / Mount Lebanon*

Name
New Lebanon resident? Yes No

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Michael [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 2:37 PM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: In Regard to the Rails to Trails Question

To Whom it May Concern

As manager of the Inn at Shaker Mill Falls, 40 Cherry Ln. in New Lebanon, I want to express my opinion as a business owner and as a citizen regarding the use of the former RR right of way for a hiking trail.

Many of the guests who visit us at the Inn come in order to take in the natural beauty of the surrounding area. Hiking is a significant draw for many visitors. The potential of an entry point to a significant trail along the former railroad right-of-way would add significantly to the attractiveness of our town for nature lovers, ecology minded citizens and hikers. It is not unusual for us to draw European visitors as well, and the sort of trail being contemplated would be quite attractive for them as well.

Personally, I have hiked a number of trails on re-purposed railroad right-of-way's. They are always a serious attraction that often leads to a stay at a local B&B and a variety of purchases and meals in the area. So I believe such a use of this land would benefit local business. At the same time such a use contributes to the ecological health and natural beauty of our town.

In sum, as both a business owner and a citizen I'm strongly supportive of this rails to trails initiative and hope that the town and the county will see fit to go forward in a positive way.

If you would like any more information please feel free to contact me by phone at [REDACTED], my cell phone from a previous life!

Thanks so much for your attention
sincerely
Michael Pergola
The Inn at Shaker Mill Falls

--
Blessings
Michael

--
The Age of Nations is past, the task before us now, if we would not perish is to Build the Earth
Teilhard de Chardin

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: PAUL ST GERMAIN [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 2:18 PM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: rail trail land acquisition

Hi Colleen,
Please add my support to those who favor adding the several acre piece of land off of Lovers Lane to the CRT. It makes good sense to me.
Thanks, Paul St.Germain

Paul St.Germain
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Lebanon, Springs, NY 12123

From: Joanna Ezinga [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 1:50 PM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: Corkscrew Rail Trail

Hello Colleen,

I am unable to make tonight's meeting, but am writing in full support of the Corkscrew Rail Trail. It is unquestionably an asset and economic driver for the community and the \$600. in taxes will be easily offset by the benefits. I hope the Board will remove any obstacles to its sale to the Corkscrew Rail Trail committee and grant it full approval.

Thank you,
Joanna Ezinga

[REDACTED]

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Michael Leavitt [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 5:53 PM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com

To the New Lebanon Town Board:

We support having a rail trail in New Lebanon. We ask you to *support the resolution for the private sale of the rail bed property to the Corkscrew Rail Trail by Columbia County.*

Do not require the property to go back on the auction block. The economic benefits that a rail trail brings are much greater than tax income on the property.

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It is very important to us that you vote to support the development of the rail trail in New Lebanon. Stand behind the sale of this property for use as our rail trail.

Thank you very much for you time.

Michael Leavitt

[redacted]
23 Bird Road, Lebanon Springs NY

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Chelsea Vigue [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 5:38 PM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: Corkscrew Rail Trail in New Lebanon - VOTE to SUPPORT

To the New Lebanon Town Board:

I support having a rail trail in New Lebanon. I ask you to support the resolution for the private sale of the rail bed property to the Corkscrew Rail Trail by Columbia County.

Do not require the property to go back on the auction block because the rail trail is non-profit. The economic benefits that a rail trail brings are much greater than tax income on the property. This is our chance to create an economic driver that our town really needs. Trail users reliably spend money locally year-round. Property values around trails increase, as does the speed of sale. Towns with trails find that empty commercial properties fill up.

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It is very important that you vote to support the development of the rail trail in New Lebanon. Stand behind the sale of this property for use as our rail trail.

Very truly yours,
Chelsea Vigue

[REDACTED]
PO Box 666, New Lebanon NY 12125

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Jonah Millett <jonahmillett@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 5:38 PM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: Corkscrew Rail Trail in New Lebanon - VOTE to SUPPORT

To the New Lebanon Town Board:

I support having a rail trail in New Lebanon. I ask you to support the resolution for the private sale of the rail bed property to the Corkscrew Rail Trail by Columbia County.

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Very truly yours,

Jonah Millett

po box 666, New Lebanon NY 12123

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Jennifer Peabody [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 4:15 PM
To: Colleen Teal
Subject: Support for Corkscrew Rail Trail

Hello,

I wanted to voice my support for the Corkscrew Rail Trail and their purchase of a piece of the old Rutland Railroad trail bed in New Lebanon.

I live in Stephentown and live next to the Corkscrew Rail Trail. I think it's a wonderful resource for Stephentown and the surrounding communities. I personally value it and use it frequently. As people in Stephentown and the surrounding communities discover the trail, I hear great feedback about it and I see it as something that is a true community asset - something that can draw not only visitors but add value to those thinking of living in Stephentown.

I feel confident that a more robust Rail Trail is a boon to our communities and can yield economic benefits as well as quality of life advantages.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jennifer Peabody

[redacted]
[redacted]
Stephentown, NY 12167

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: millicent@soi.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 5:05 PM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: Rail Trail

I am in favor of the land at question in New Lebanon should be used for a rail trail to benefit the community. Millicent Smith

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Anna Duhon [redacted]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 9:33 AM
To: Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor
Cc: Paul Rix
Subject: Rail Trail through Lover's Lane Rail Bed Property
Attachments: Letter to Town Board Regarding Rail Trail.pdf

Categories: County Meeting

Dear Colleen,

I wanted to make sure you knew that Paul and I are very much in support of the Corkscrew Rail Trail acquiring the Lover's Lane rail bed property. Our land abuts the entire northern border of that property, and we are thrilled at the prospect of the Rail Trail acquiring it, cleaning it up, and maintaining its access for all. Also, due to the nature of that property, we would be opposed to commercial activities/development on that property aside from very small-scale agriculture.

Attached is our letter to the town board, which I believe my mother is also delivering in person (and signed) to the town hall today. Please feel free to share with the town board members in advance of the meeting if you think it would be helpful for them to know our position, as the largest land abutters to the property. We plan to be at tomorrow night's meeting as well.

Many thanks,
Anna

March 12 , 2018
New Lebanon Town Board
Re: Rail Trail on Lover's Lane Rail Bed Property

RECEIVED
MAR 12 2018
TOWN OF NEW LEBANON

Dear Members of the New Lebanon Town Board,

As the largest abutting landowner to the Lover's Lane rail bed parcel, we want to express our strong support for the Corkscrew Rail Trail's acquisition of this property.

As neighbors we know this property is already being used by numerous snowmobilers, kids, walkers, and cyclists. It has long been part of an important passageway between Lover's Lane and Tilden Road that allows people to complete walking, biking and snowmobiling loops while avoiding most of Route 20 and the dangers of the Route 20/22 intersection. The acquisition of this property by the Rail Trail is a key step to maintaining this current, important use for the community. (The other parcel involved is also abandoned, and we feel confident the Rail Trail could obtain an easement there in the future.)

If the property were to go to auction, it is likely public access would be barred, and its existing value to the community would be lost.

As neighbors we also know that this property is full of trash and debris, including a burned-out house, and are concerned it might only become more of a dumping ground in the future if it is not maintained by a responsible owner. We are excited that the Corkscrew Rail Trail would take on the responsibility for cleaning up and maintaining this land for the benefit of all.

Finally, we feel that the nonconforming nature of this property and the fact that it is predominantly wetlands would make it inappropriate for commercial use. As landowners abutting the entire northern border of this property, we would be opposed to any commercial use other than small-scale agriculture.

We ask for your support of the sale of this property to the Corkscrew Rail Trail.

Thank you for your consideration.



Paul Rix and Anna Duhon

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 10:18 AM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: New Lebanon Rail Trail
Attachments: Letter to Town Board re rail trail.docx
Categories: County Meeting

Hi Colleen,

I am visiting our kids right now in Seattle, and I'm very sorry I can't be at the Town Board meeting this Tuesday to show support for the Corkscrew Rail Trail's efforts to secure that parcel in New Lebanon that is coming up for auction by the County.

We are regular users of rail trails for walking, biking and xc skiing in season and find them so enjoyable. We have seen firsthand how towns with rail trails attract visitors who desire the safety, vistas, and connections to towns. I hope you've experienced how nice the Ashuwillticook Trail and the Harlem Valley Rail Trails are. So many large and small towns are now trying to create new rail trails to bring economic benefits to their locales.

I've attached a letter to the Town Board that I hope can be given to them in time for the meeting.

New Lebanon, with vision, planning and support by its town government, could have a really wonderful rail trail in the years to come.

All the best, Karen Ross

[redacted]

7 Bird Rd

Lebanon Springs, NY 1222

March 13, 2018

To: New Lebanon Town Board
New Lebanon, NY 12125

Re: Corkscrew Rail Trail in New Lebanon

We support having a rail trail in New Lebanon. We ask you to *support the resolution for the private sale of the rail bed property to the Corkscrew Rail Trail by Columbia County.*

Do not require the property to go back on the auction block just because the CRT is a non-profit. The economic benefits that a rail trail brings are much greater than tax income on the property.

This is our chance to create an economic driver that our town really needs. We, our family and our friends are regular users of rail trails, look for them wherever we travel, and design excursions based on where we can find them. When we ride or walk them, we stay for a meal or an overnight. They are safe for users of all ages and provide recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike.

A trail protects the property from vandalism and industrial abuse. It also provides a way for kids, people and bikers to walk safely without being on the highway. It provides easy access to stores and destinations in town too.

It is very important to us that you vote to support the development of the rail trail in New Lebanon. Stand behind the sale of this property for use as our rail trail.

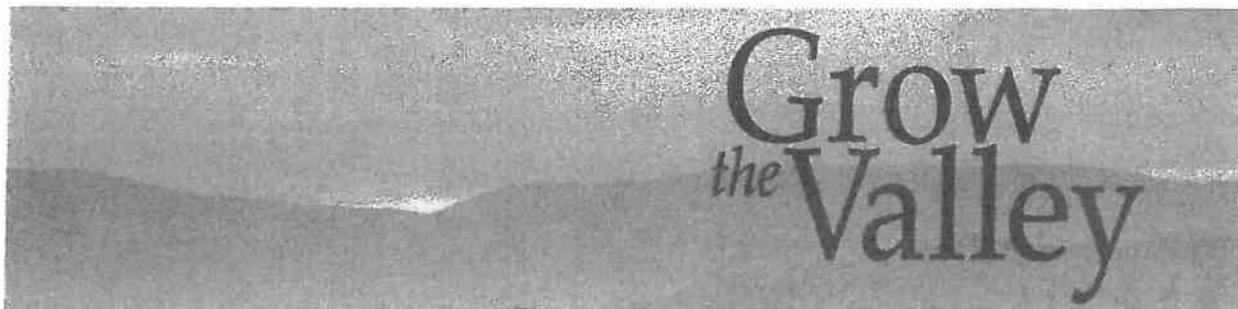
Very truly yours,
Karen Ross

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Fiona Lally flally@tasenna.us
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 1:38 AM
To: Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor
Subject: Rail Trail Letter from Grow the Valley
Attachments: Rail Trail Letter.pdf
Categories: County Meeting

Hi Colleen—
Here's a letter I've written you with information about the reception we've noted at Grow the Valley to the Rail Trail in town.

All the best,
Fiona



GROW THE VALLEY, INC. P.O. BOX 25 NEW LEBANON, NY 12125

March 12, 2018

Ms. Colleen Teal
Supervisor
Town of New Lebanon
P.O. Box 328
New Lebanon, NY 12125

Re: Corkscrew Rail Trail in New Lebanon

Dear Colleen:

I'm writing to tell you that the Board of Grow the Valley supports the start of the rail trail in New Lebanon. It fits right in with our mission of community development. But in an even more compelling way, we have been hearing loud and clear from our constituents that they support the rail trail, too.

One of our activities is the monthly Grow the Valley newsletter, which has a readership of 690. People who sign up for the newsletter also have the option of adding their names to specialty databases at Grow the Valley, so that they can hear more from us in the event that subjects they care about should come up.

These databases show various degrees of interest in community topics. But over time a hundred and seven people, about fifteen percent of our readership, signed themselves up for the "I'd like to see Rails to Trails come to New Lebanon" database, and this was with no rail trail in sight until now.

This signals a strong backbone to the interest in town, and I wanted to tell you how much we've been seeing this play out.

Letter to Colleen Teal
March 12, 2018
Page 2

Since the matter arose last week, we've been getting lots of requests for information about the situation and queries from people on what they can do to show their support for the rail trail. I hear of groups that have gotten together across town to collect signatures and reports of people sending letters or emails of support, or with plans to do that.

People who are not typically part of these efforts have surfaced for this one. The most recent report from Bucky's Bagels was of a group of old-timers, the ones who you think would never get involved in this kind of thing, all signing the rail trail petition at the same table.

I've now been copied on a variety of email conversations, with people trying to understand why the purchase from the County by the Corkscrew Rail Trail has been challenged by some Town Board members. There's first discouragement at this, and then determination to let you and the town and the County know that they feel that they don't want to let this lucky start to the rail trail go.

I've heard remarkably little concern around the issues you think would come up in the initial discussion around rail trails; there seems to be quite a lot of comfort with the prospect. I think it's because people have been pretty fully exposed to trails in other places and are excited to discover that it can happen here.

It's the kind of outpouring we at Grow the Valley haven't seen since the community letter-writing effort to save the supermarket four years ago. That one showed the passion of a wide swath of people in town; this one seems to be similar. There's a feeling that of course the purchase of the trail property by the Corkscrew Rail Trail has to be allowed to go forward!

The Grow the Valley Board joins me in saying thank you for everything you have been doing to keep this important advance going.

All the best,



Fiona Lally
President
Grow the Valley, Inc.
PO Box 25
New Lebanon, NY 12125

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Susan Ford [redacted]
Sent: Friday, March 9, 2018 9:27 PM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: New Lebanon Rail Trail

Categories: County Meeting

I would like to voice my opinion that the Rail Trail should be kept as a hiking trail for the community. I have been walking my dogs & hiking on this trail for over a decade & meet many other local people on it - please don't throw away this valuable natural resource for the sake of a few tax dollars - New Lebanon can make more money for the town by attracting outside dollars like with Behold NL.

Susan Ford

Sent from my iPad

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: pmunves [redacted]
Sent: Friday, March 9, 2018 9:42 PM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Yes for Rail trail addition

Categories: County Meeting

Hi colleen

Moy and I support the rail trail addition and encourage the board to consider the huge benefits of preserving this wetland and surrounding area. Not only is this a social and environmental win for New Lebanon, but rail trails attract hikers and nature lovers who will discover New Lebanon and spend some time here. It's a win win win for our town.

All best

Peg munves and moy wong

Sent via the Samsung GALAXY S®4, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Chris Herzeca [mailto:cherzeca@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, March 9, 2018 11:14 PM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: Extension of Corkscrew Trail

Categories: County Meeting

Dear Colleen

Let's expedite the county's sale of the tax foreclosed NL property to the Corkscrew Trail organization.

Chris Herzeca

343 West St.

New Lebanon NY 12125

Sent from my iPhone

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Gregg Carroll [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2018 12:07 AM
To: Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor
Subject: Support for the Rail Trail Land Purchase

Categories: County Meeting

I support the purchase by the Rail Trail of the 3.44 acre land parcel being offered by Columbia County. This purchase requires a minimal amount of support from the town to provide a possibly important community revitalization project, which would also serve the many current community members who need a safe place to walk.

The property is currently worthless to the town since the current owner is not paying the taxes. The chances of ever finding another buyer for the property are remote since it is not conveniently located, requires a burdensome amount of town and state approval for development and there are many better land parcels for sale in the town which have been on the market for many years, located in much more desirable locations outside of the flood plain. The probability that anyone would ever want to buy and develop this land is remote at best.

Obstruction of this land sale to the Rail trail would tell current and future community members that, given the opportunity to provide their support, the Town has not only provide none, but will be a hinderance to those who are trying to improve the quality of life in this community.

The potential cost to the town seems ridiculously small and I think all town board members should vote to approve this land sale.

--
Gregg Carroll

[redacted]

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Karen Stauch [kstauch@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2018 7:10 AM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: Rail trail

Categories: County Meeting

I am in full support of having this land available for biking and walking. Please consider this as it will be a great improvement to our town's appeal.

Thank you
Karen Stauch
Sent from my iPad

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: George Wailand [mailto:gwaila@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2018 8:25 AM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: Corkscrew Rail Trail

Categories: County Meeting

As a part-time resident of New Lebanon and a avid cyclist, hiker and cross-country skier, I urge the Town Board to permit the sale of the small parcel of land in tax foreclosure to the Corkscrew Rail Trail. My wife and I are frequent users of the Ashuwillticook and Harlem Valley Rail Trails and can attest to how often these facilities generate business for nearby restaurants, which are frequently filled with cyclists and other trail users. While the Corkscrew Trail is in its nascent stages and requires further development to become a significant attraction, any action that would fetter its development is particularly short-sighted. The prospect of enabling this trail to be linked even indirectly to the Great Shaker Swamp and possible trail easements contemplated through old Shaker lands linking the Mt. Lebanon and Hancock Shaker Villages presents a possible recreational boon to our community that far outweighs minuscule tax receipts associated with this parcel.

George Wailand

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Donald Macdonald [mailto:dmacdonald47@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2018 8:47 AM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: Corkscrew Rail Trail

Categories: County Meeting

Town Board
New Lebanon

As long time (45 years) residents of New Lebanon, my wife, Louise, and I feel that it would be a long term benefit to the town to allow and promote the sale of the foreclosed land to the Corkscrew Rail Trail. The tax income loss to the town coffers seems small relative to the long term benefit to the Valley in having attractive and healthy activities for our citizens.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter and we encourage the town board to actively support such efforts as the Corkscrew Rail Trail.

Sincerely,

Donald and Louise Macdonald

[Redacted Signature]

--

Donald Macdonald

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2018 9:19 AM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: rail trail land purchase

Categories: County Meeting

Dear Supervisor Teal:

As New Lebanon voters and landowners we strongly support the purchase of land for the rail trail, and urge the town board to endorse this effort. The rail trail is already an important addition to our town, and promises to play an even bigger role in the future.

Thanks in advance for considering our views.

David Himmelstein
Steffie Woolhandler

[REDACTED]

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Susan Goldin sogo2@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2018 11:32 AM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: I support the Corkscrew Rail Trail in New Lebanon, NY

Categories: County Meeting

Hello New Lebanon Town Supervisor and Town Board,

I can not attend your town board meeting but would like to **lend my support** to the Corkscrew Rail Trail acquisition of the land being sold for taxes by Columbia County. I think the NL Town Board's concern the regarding the loss of \$600 annual tax revenues, is short sighted. All indications and research show that local rail trails are a proven economic boon to communities all over the country. Plus the land will be cleaned up and maintained by volunteers in the local rail trail group, local citizens who show great pride in New Lebanon. This is a **win win scenario**, exactly one of the purposes the NL town board exists to create. As a result, I hope you and the town board, **will support the purchase of this section of the Corkscrew Rail Trail** by the volunteers, directly from Columbia County. It is a **great idea!**

I think the section of trail in New Lebanon, will bring **new guests to Town** as well as provide a very **lovely resource for our greater community residents**. This section of the Corkscrew Rail Trail will be a great asset to our community and hopefully, can be promoted within our greater area to bring in more tourists and hiking enthusiasts. As a result, even ancillary services to help the promotion of the Corkscrew Rail Trail --- will be involved, and create an impact on the continued project. I will be happy to help in that process, as a **volunteer**...(as a professional graphic designer in the greater community). I greatly support all activities which promote and respect the natural beauty of our area. If our local businesses also reap rewards in that process --- all the better!

Count me in. We should **not** derail the New Lebanon section of the **Corkscrew Rail Trail**.

Respectfully,
Susan Goldin

Susan Goldin
SOGO 2 DESIGN
and home of
Bidderbutter Baubles +
an eBay store
<http://stores.ebay.com/bidderbutter-baubles-plus>

sent from
sogo2's iPad mini

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Mary Tobin [mailto:mtobin@townofnewlebanon.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2018 1:14 PM
To: Supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: Rail Trail

Categories: County Meeting

Hi Coleen,

Heard about the proposed Rail Trail from Ted Salem and wanted you to know that my husband David and I are supportive of having a rail trail in town.

Also, could you please email me the form I would need to support a child in the Back Pack program. Thanks.

Best,

Mary Tobin

[Redacted Address]

Sent from my iPad

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Monroe Wasch [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2018 1:23 PM
To: Colleen Teal
Subject: Corkscrew Rail Trail

Categories: County Meeting

I support the sale of the relevant land parcel to be used by the Rail Trail.
The economic benefits to New Lebanon from this sale far outweigh the negligible tax income the town would earn from this parcel.

--
Monte Wasch
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted] Cell: [redacted]

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Shelley and Ted Salem mmd923@laconic.net
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2018 1:50 PM
To: Colleen Teal; Mark Baumli; Jesse Newton; Kevin Smith;
NRASMUSSEN@TOWNOFNEWLEBANON.com
Subject: Corkscrew Rail Trail in New Lebanon
Categories: County Meeting

Honorable Board,

I support having a rail trail in New Lebanon and ask you to *support the resolution for the private sale of the rail bed property to the Corkscrew Rail Trail by Columbia County.*

I respectfully urge you not to require the property to go back on the auction block. The economic benefits that a rail trail could bring to the town has the potential to be much greater than tax income on the property.

This is our chance to create an economic driver that our town really needs. Experience in other rail trail communities provides substantial evidence of the long term benefits.. Trail users reliably spend money locally year-round. Property values around trails increase, as does the speed of sale. Towns with trails find that empty commercial properties fill up.

Several knowledgeable folks in town see the future economic vitality of the community resting on recreational outlets, including proximity to very excellent hiking trails, ski facilities, Queechy Lake to name a few. Our long term community development strategy should be to stimulate development of recreational outlets and commercial enterprises that support them. A rail trail through town is wholly consistent with this vision.

It is very important to me that you vote to support the development of the rail trail in New Lebanon. Please stand behind the sale of this property for use as our rail trail.

Many thanks for your consideration of this request.

Ted Salem



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: John Seakwood [seakwood@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2018 2:20 PM
To: Colleen Teal
Subject: Rail Trail

Categories: County Meeting

Dear Colleen Teal,

I am writing to express my hope that the New Lebanon town board will not prevent the acquisition of the half acre parcel that the Corkscrew Rail Trail has offered to buy from Columbia County. Yes, the tax collection for this property might be reduced somewhat, but in the long run the value to New Lebanon is much greater if the Trail is allowed to acquire the property. Rail trails bring in visitors who will contribute to the local economy and community in many ways. The trail will also contribute to the quality of life for the town's residents, and provide important benefits for health and well being. Preventing the Corkscrew Rail Trail from acquiring the property over a modest amount of tax valuation is a short sighted perspective. Let the Trail move forward. It will bring benefits to New Lebanon well in excess of that small reduction in tax collection.

John Seakwood

[Redacted Address]

[Redacted City]

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Amy Brueckmann <Amy.Brueckmann@glk.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2018 2:55 PM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: Rail Trail Support

Categories: County Meeting

Hi All,

I support rail trails and would like the Town Board to get behind the start of the trail in New Lebanon by permitting this purchase to go forward.

Thank you for supporting the Rail Trail,
Amy Brueckmann

~~West Street~~
~~New Lebanon, NY 12123~~

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Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2018 3:33 PM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: Rail Trail Extention

Categories: County Meeting

Dear Sirs:

Our existing rail trail is so wonderful. Please consider the opportunity to extend it behind the Tilden Shops. That space is unattractive. The loss in property tax revenue would be more than made up by the economic activities of rail trail users and visitors eating downtown and buying various supplies.

Jeff Ross

[redacted]
7 Bird Road
Lebanon Springs

Jeffrey S. Ross, M.D.

[redacted]
Jonas-Rohrer Professor of Pathology and Urology
Upstate Medical University
166 Irving Avenue
Syracuse, NY 13210
(315) 464-4570
(518) 322-1261 (mobile)
jross@upstate.edu

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2018 3:35 PM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: Please Support Rail Trail in New Lebanon

Categories: County Meeting

March 13, 2018

Re: Corkscrew Rail Trail in New Lebanon

To the New Lebanon Town Board:

We **support** having a rail trail in New Lebanon. We ask you to **support** the resolution for the private sale of the rail bed property to the Corkscrew Rail Trail by Columbia County.

Do not require the property to go back on the auction block. The economic benefits that a rail trail brings are much greater than tax income on the property.

This is our chance to create an economic driver that our town really needs. Trail users reliably spend money locally year-round. Property values around trails increase, as does the speed of sale. Towns with trails find that empty commercial properties fill up.

A trail protects the property from vandalism and industrial abuse. It also provides a way for kids, people and bikers to walk safely without being on the highway. It provides easy access to stores and destinations in town too.

It is very important to us that you vote to support the development of the rail trail in New Lebanon. Stand behind the sale of this property for use as our rail trail.

Very truly yours,

Debra Argentina

[REDACTED]

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

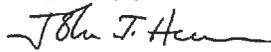
From: ronnie herman [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2018 5:17 PM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: The Corkscrew Rail Trail

Categories: County Meeting

We will be unable to attend this meeting on March 13 but put forth the below request to the New Lebanon Town Board that you vote to support the development of the rail trail in New Lebanon.

We are residents of New Lebanon and we ask you to support the resolution for the private sale of the rail bed property to the Corkscrew Rail Trail by Columbia County. PLEASE do not require the property to go back on the auction block because the rail trail is non-profit and the economic benefits that a rail trail brings are much greater than the tax income on the property. This is our chance to create a trail that will benefit all--it will bring revenue into our town, create a wonderful green space that will attract people to the town, keep people healthy and vitalize our town and its businesses. Trail users reliably spend money locally year-round. Property values around trails increase, as does the speed of sales. Towns with trails find that empty commercial properties fill up. A trail protects the property from vandalism and industrial abuse. It also provides a way for kids, people and bikers to walk safely without being on the highway. It provides easy access to stores and destinations in town as well. It is very important to us that you vote to support the development of the rail trail in New Lebanon. If you approve the sale, we are sure the town will earn more than the \$600 yearly taxes that the land now brings in. If it does not, we, John and Ronnie Ann Herman, agree to raise the money and pay the board \$600 yearly for the use of the land for the Corkscrew Rail Trail to benefit the town and others in the area.

Very truly yours,




John and Ronnie Ann
Herman

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Kendall Cornell [kendallcornell@earthlink.net]
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2018 6:04 PM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: Corkscrew Rail Trail in New Lebanon

Categories: County Meeting

March 10, 2018

New Lebanon Town Board

New Lebanon, NY 12125

Re: Corkscrew Rail Trail in New Lebanon

To the New Lebanon Town Board:

I support having a rail trail in New Lebanon. I ask you to support the resolution for the private sale of the rail bed property to the Corkscrew Rail Trail by Columbia County.

Do not require the property to go back on the auction block. The economic benefits that a rail trail brings are much greater than tax income on the property. This is our chance to create an economic driver that our town really needs. Trail users reliably spend money locally year-round. Property values around trails increase, as does the speed of sale. Towns with trails find that empty commercial properties fill up. A trail protects the property from vandalism and industrial abuse. It also provides a way for kids, people and bikers to walk safely without being on the highway. It provides easy access to stores and destinations in town too.

It is very important to us that you vote to support the development of the rail trail in New Lebanon. Stand behind the sale of this property for use as our rail trail.

Very truly yours,

Kendall Cornell

[Redacted Address]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2018 6:17 PM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: Rail Trail Land Acquisition

Categories: County Meeting

Madame Supervisor,

I support the acquisition of the Miller parcel for use as part of the Rail Trail. I believe the loss of tax revenue from the property will be more than offset by the improvement to the New Lebanon economy. I intend to speak at the March 13th Town Board meeting on this subject.

Regards,

Charles D. Banker

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Erminia Rasmussen [redacted]
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2018 8:16 PM
To: Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor
Subject: Corkscrew Rail Trail

Categories: County Meeting

Good Morning Colleen,

I am writing to you to let you know of my full support on the decision to have the Corkscrew Rail Trail purchase the plot of land in question from the County.

This would be a wise decision on the part of the Town and the County and while we would be giving up the small tax revenue from this land the positive return to the community and the Town of New Lebanon outweighs the small amount it generates in taxes.

There are dozen and dozen of articles being written across the country about the economic benefits any and all of these trail bring to the community. We need to act in a positive and proactive manner and take advantage of this opportunity. It is a good return on the investment, not one that happens too often.

I ask that the Town Board stand behind such an initiative and support the private sale of the rail bed property to the Corkscrew Rail Trail by Columbia County.

I trust the Board will do the right thing and give the people of New Lebanon their rail trail.

Regards,
Erminia Rasmussen

--
Erminia Rasmussen
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Joanie Seakwood, [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2018 12:02 PM
To: Colleen
Subject: Rail Trail

Categories: County Meeting

March 13, 2018

New Lebanon Town Board

New Lebanon, NY 12125

Re: Corkscrew Rail Trail in New Lebanon

To the New Lebanon Town Board:

We support having a rail trail in New Lebanon. We ask you to *support the resolution for the private sale of the rail bed property to the Corkscrew Rail Trail by Columbia County.*

Do not require the property to go back on the auction block. The economic benefits that a rail trail brings are much greater than tax income on the property.

This is our chance to create an economic driver that our town really needs. Trail users reliably spend money locally year-round. Property values around trails increase, as does the speed of sale. Towns with trails find that empty commercial properties fill up.

A trail protects the property from vandalism and industrial abuse. It also provides a way for kids, people and bikers to walk safely without being on the highway. It provides easy access to stores and destinations in town too.

It is very important to us that you vote to support the development of the rail trail in New Lebanon. Stand behind the sale of this property for use as our rail trail.

Very truly yours, (Add your signature and state whether or not you are a New Lebanon resident--or pay taxes here.)

Joanie Seakwood, Taxpayer

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Elizabeth Poreba [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2018 1:35 PM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: Purchase of land for Corkscrew Rail Trail

Categories: County Meeting

Dear Supervisor Teal,

We recently heard of the plan to purchase more land for the Corkscrew Rail Trail. Though we cannot attend Tuesday's meeting, we want you and the Board to know that we are strongly in support of this purchase.

Elizabeth and John Poreba

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

--

From: Sarah Westwind [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2018 2:38 PM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: Corkscrew Rail Trail

Categories: County Meeting

To the New Lebanon Town Board:

I strongly urge you to accept the county's offer to donate the parcel of land in question to the Corkscrew Rail Trail.

I have walked on this trail, enjoyed birdwatching from it, and seen bicyclists on it (and it's not even a rail trail yet!). At this time the fallen down structures and dumped junk make it an unsightly, unhealthy and dangerous area. The CRT will clean it up and create a beautiful natural trail for all to enjoy. What more can you ask for?

Please don't pass up this opportunity for a \$600 tax revenue. And it is unlikely that this small piece of land could be 'developed', since it probably is a regulated wetland.

Give us residents and visitors (who will be spending money at local businesses) this chance for a transformed piece of land for all to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Sarah Westwind - New Lebanon resident, taxpayer and voter

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Carol Joyce [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2018 2:47 PM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: Rail Trail

Categories: County Meeting

Dear Colleen:

I am a taxpayer resident from New Lebanon who enjoys walking the rail Trail. Please support the upcoming g Bill on Tuesday. I find my home and the town of New Lebanon a source of great health and pleasure. Surely securing the Land for the trail will add to this. It is why I continue to live here.

Thank you

Sincerely

Carol Joyce Blood

[redacted]
New Lebanon

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Jay Aronson [redacted]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 10:26 AM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: proposed Rail Trail property purchase

Categories: County Meeting

Dear Colleen,

First, as a neighbor of Deer Ridge we thank you for your diligence and untiring efforts to get NYSEG to reconnect power in between storms. Your tenacity and your sense of community is very uplifting.

Second, we write as residents who enjoy walking the nearby trails at both Hand Hollow properties, the Taconic Crest trails and the Corkscrew Rail Trail. We actually were interested in a property which was on the Wyomanock end of the Corkscrew Trail before we decided upon buying closer to the town of New Lebanon. We believe that allowing the Corkscrew Rail Trail to purchase that 3.4 acre piece along the former Rutland Railroad is a wonderful use of that property. Many folks like to walk or in the future bike, who might stop at the Farmer's Market or for some delicious food at Bucky's or Blueberry Hill or Jimmy D's or grocery shop, if we had a grocery store. We understand that the shape of that piece is non-conforming and includes wetlands which would require variances and DEC surveys, etc. not always easy to secure proper permits for anyone wishing to build. The tax revenue lost may be offset by the purchases folks make when they are stopping in our town. We hope that the town's budget situation is not so dire that we cannot invest in expanding the recreational attractions of our community.

Many thanks for your advocacy for our community in so many different directions.

Sincerely,
Jay Aronson and William O'Neill

[redacted]
143 Country Route

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Herzeca, Lois F. [Herzeca, Lois F. (retired) partner@gibsondunn.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 10:39 AM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Categories: County Meeting

As a resident of New Lebanon, I strongly support the bid of the Corkscrew to buy the land to create a rail trail in New Lebanon. I believe it would be a great addition that would improve the lives and well being of the people in the community. Thank you for considering my views,
Lois Herzeca

Lois F. Herzeca

GIBSON DUNN

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

100 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10166-0199

Tel: +1 212 351 2688

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Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Rae Gilson <RGilson@classicnyapts.com>
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 11:37 AM
To: 'Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor'
Subject: FW: this time its a vote For the Rail Trail

Categories: County Meeting

Dear Colleen,

Bob and I both believe this would be such an outstanding amenity for the citizens of New Lebanon, this opportunity can't be missed. These offerings only happen once to be able to enhance the quality of life in our town, just like the new playground does. If the main concern is the taxes, they will get paid, there's no question, if I have to stand out in front of the Library with a can, they will get paid. A Rail Trail is one of those things people take pride in and add to Real Estate listing information as a reason to live in this community. Everyone wants to stay fit and this is an ideal setting to walk, jog, ride with your family through New Lebanon's history.

Please put 2 more checks in the profoundly FOR column for Tuesday's meeting, sorry we can't be there in person.

Thanks for your help with this.
All the Best,

RAE GILSON

DIRECTOR OF SALES

ASSOCIATE REAL ESTATE BROKER

CLASSIC MARKETING LLC

530 Park Avenue

New York, NY 10065

P: 212.371.0530

F: 212.371.5303

www.530parkcondo.com



REBNY CERTIFIED NYRS SPECIALIST

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 11:54 AM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: Rail Trail

Categories: County Meeting

Colleen,

Please let me add my support for the release of the parcel of land near Lovers Lane for the rail trail. Especially if it means an alternative to walking on Route 20 for school children.

I understand that this is a crucial piece to connect a trail all the way from Stephentown.

With thanks for your consideration,

Lauree Hickok
Trustee,
Shaker Museum/Mount Lebanon

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Aimee Brodeur Johnson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 12:09 PM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: Rail trail

Categories: County Meeting

I am away right now and so cannot come to the meeting tomorrow evening. But I would like to register my support for the rail trail proposal.

Aimée Brodeur Johnson

Sent from my iPhone

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: William Schwartz [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 12:53 PM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: Sale of the Rail Road Parcel

Categories: County Meeting

To Members of the Town Board of New Lebanon:

We would like to register our strong support for the Town Board to approve the sale of The Rail Road Parcel to The Corkscrew Rail Trail. This community non-profit wishes to convert three and a half marshy, non-conforming acres into a half mile walking and biking trail that will eventually connect with a trail going to Stephentown.

We all know the necessity for exercise for all ages with all health conditions. The proposed trail will enable our residents to satisfy their physical as well as emotional needs in a setting that is flat, safe, free of autos and in a beautiful natural environment. And trails are a magnet not just for locals, but for destination visitors as well, who will in turn patronize our restaurants and stores.

This Trail, right in the center of New Lebanon, will add to our sense of pride in our community, as well as adding to our unique attractiveness as a place to live.

Sincerely,
Anne & Bill Schwartz

[REDACTED]

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: John Dax [redacted]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 3:07 PM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: Rail trail property acquisition

Categories: County Meeting

Colleen,
I think it's of vital importance to the town's future that the town board endorse and support the purchase of the parcel at the end of Tilden Rd. by the Corkscrew Trail organization. The highest and best use for that parcel from a townwide perspective is clearly to give the Trail an anchor and presence in New Lebanon, rather than simply as a possible commercial use. I encourage the Board to look to the town's future in making its decision.

John Dax

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Jeff Bailey [redacted]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 5:09 PM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: Please support the Corkscrew Rail Trail

Dear Supervisor,

I am resident of Old Chatham and often enjoy the nature trails throughout the area. I support the Corkscrew Rail Trail's efforts to create a trail in New Lebanon. Trails help to beautify the area, bring tourists and give them a reason to stay and eat in local restaurants and visit local shops. This in turn generates tax dollars.

If the Rail Trail buys the property, \$600 would be lost in real estate taxes annually. However, the sales taxes generated by people using the trail and spending money locally would more than make up for that amount.

I am frequent visitor to the Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon and attend Tannery Pond Concerts. When I am in New Lebanon I will often eat, shop and buy gas there. The rail trail is another reason to visit.

Please help improve the quality of life in New Lebanon and sell the land to the rail trail.

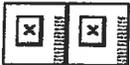
Sincerely,

Jeff Bailey

[redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

COLIN BRANT / RUBY PALMER
February 10 - March 18, 2018



Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: David Weiser [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 8:08 PM
To: Supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: Sale of property to Corkscrew Rail Trail

Categories: County Meeting

Dear Ms. Teal:

We strongly support the sale of the Lovers Lane property by Columbia County to Corkscrew Rail Trail. I would love to have a Rail Trail running from Millerton to Chatham to New Lebanon onto Berlin, NY and beyond if possible. The trail would be enjoyed by residents of and visitors to New Lebanon. It would be a draw for tourists and highlight the history of New Lebanon, where the rail line once ran regularly from Chatham to Rutland. It seems unlikely that the property has any other feasible use.

New Lebanon's heritage would be featured. We would have a beautiful trail to walk and ride on. New Lebanon would be added to the list of communities who have converted Rails to Trails.

Let's go for it.

Estare and David Weiser

Sent from my iPad

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Michelle Apland [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 8:15 PM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: Rail Trail

Categories: County Meeting

March 12, 2018

New Lebanon Town Board

New Lebanon, NY 12125

Re: Corkscrew Rail Trail in New Lebanon

To the New Lebanon Town Board:

I support having a rail trail in New Lebanon. I ask you to *support the resolution for the private sale of the rail bed property to the Corkscrew Rail Trail by Columbia County.*

The land surrounding the trail is ecologically rich and beautiful. We need to protect the stream that and the land around it. This is what makes New Lebanon so special and a valuable place for residents and tourists. Do not require the property to go back on the auction block. The economic benefits that a rail trail brings are much greater than tax income on the property.

As the director of a thriving New Lebanon business and a 17 year resident of the area, it means alot to me to be able to direct my clients and family visitors to the beautiful parts of New Lebanon. Places where children, adults, and families can ride bikes or take walks are incredibly important. Please preserve this important part of the ecosystem in New Lebanon.

It is an important an economic driver - my family & friends have often driven half an hour to the rail train in Pittsfield while visiting me in New Lebanon. Trail users reliably spend money locally year-round. Property values around trails increase, as does the speed of sale. Towns with trails find that empty commercial properties fill up.

The character of the town will be much improved with a recreational area like this. It will be more of a destination for many and will improve and protect the beauty that already exists here.

It is very important to us that you vote to support the development of the rail trail in New Lebanon. Stand behind the sale of this property for use as our rail trail.

Sincerely,

Michelle Apland, New Lebanon Resident.

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Jeff Zimmerman [redacted]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 8:29 PM
To: Supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: Sale of Lovers Lane Property

Categories: County Meeting

Dear Ms. Teal:

We strongly support the sale of the Lovers Lane property by Columbia County to Corkscrew Rail Trail. It would be great to have a Rail Trail running from Millerton to Chatham to New Lebanon onto Berlin, NY and beyond if possible. The trail would be enjoyed by residents of and visitors to New Lebanon. It would be a draw for tourists and highlight the history of New Lebanon, where the rail line once ran regularly from Chatham to Rutland. It seems unlikely that the property has any other feasible use.

New Lebanon's heritage would be featured. We would have a beautiful trail to walk and ride on. New Lebanon would be added to the list of communities who have converted Rails to Trails.

Thank you for your support of this sale.

Jeff Zimmerman and Sharon Weinberg
[redacted]
[redacted]

Jeff Zimmerman
[redacted]
[redacted]

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Erminia Rasmussen [redacted]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 9:09 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor
Subject: [redacted] Sale of property to Corkscrew Rail Trail

Categories: County Meeting

Nice letter David, I did send Colleen a letter of support.
Erminia

On Mon, Mar 12, 2018 at 8:07 PM, David Weiser [redacted] [redacted] wrote:

Dear Ms. Teal:

We strongly support the sale of the Lovers Lane property by Columbia County to Corkscrew Rail Trail. I would love to have a Rail Trail running from Millerton to Chatham to New Lebanon onto Berlin, NY and beyond if possible. The trail would be enjoyed by residents of and visitors to New Lebanon. It would be a draw for tourists and highlight the history of New Lebanon, where the rail line once ran regularly from Chatham to Rutland. It seems unlikely that the property has any other feasible use.

New Lebanon's heritage would be featured. We would have a beautiful trail to walk and ride on. New Lebanon would be added to the list of communities who have converted Rails to Trails.

Let's go for it.

Estare and David Weiser

Sent from my iPad

[redacted]

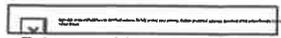
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--
Erminia Rasmussen

1992 State Route 2

Canaan, NY 12029

518-794-0285

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Judith Greenwald [mailto:judithgreenwald@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 9:28 PM
To: [mailto:ExploreNewLebanon@yahoo.com]
Cc: Supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: Re: [ExploreNewLebanon] Sale of property to Corkscrew Rail Trail

Categories: County Meeting

Great letter!

Sent from my iPad

On Mar 12, 2018, at 8:07 PM, David Weiser [mailto:djweisermd@gmail.com] [ExploreNewLebanon] [mailto:ExploreNewLebanon@yahoo.com] wrote:

Dear Ms. Teal:

We strongly support the sale of the Lovers Lane property by Columbia County to Corkscrew Rail Trail. I would love to have a Rail Trail running from Millerton to Chatham to New Lebanon onto Berlin, NY and beyond if possible. The trail would be enjoyed by residents of and visitors to New Lebanon. It would be a draw for tourists and highlight the history of New Lebanon, where the rail line once ran regularly from Chatham to Rutland. It seems unlikely that the property has any other feasible use.

New Lebanon's heritage would be featured. We would have a beautiful trail to walk and ride on. New Lebanon would be added to the list of communities who have converted Rails to Trails.

Let's go for it.

Estare and David Weiser

Sent from my iPad

Posted by David Weiser <djweisermd@gmail.com>

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Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Carin Quirke de Jong carin.photography@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 10:52 PM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: Rail trail

Categories: County Meeting

Hello Colleen and town board members,

My husband Paul and I moved out of New Lebanon late in 2016. We still own a house next to this rail trail and feel strongly about the issue.

In 2007 when we moved from Vermont to New Lebanon we were immediately struck with how hard it is to walk or bike in town. When we learned that the old train line was used by locals to travel to and from work we were hopeful. Unfortunately it seemed unlikely to become a trail for the town. Now this has become a possibility.

It seems that the town is acting "penny wise and pound foolish" as the saying goes as a rail trail is actually a better, cheaper and safer option than sidewalks.

Please support this happening as it is just the kind of progress our sweet town needs.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Carin Quirke de Jong

Sent from my iPhone

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Alison Basdekis [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 11:07 PM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: In support of the Corkscrew Rail Trail

Categories: County Meeting

Dear Town of New Lebanon Supervisor and Town Board,

I write to express my support of the Corkscrew Rail Trail. I'm a resident of Stephentown [REDACTED] 255 Winslow Rd. I'm a frequent cyclist and shopper in town, and a volunteer at the New Lebanon Farmers Market. I work in Pittsfield, so I pass through New Lebanon daily, sometimes by car, sometimes by bicycle. This trail will bring more opportunity for healthy recreation and adventure to the town, as well as more business to area retailers. I frequently ride my bicycle on route 20 with great trepidation and fear for my safety, given the increased level of distracted drivers. Rail trails provide safe travel for recreation and commuting. They are also inspiring for people who don't yet ride, run, or walk often. Let this be a catalyst for health. I *support the resolution for the private sale of the rail bed property to the Corkscrew Rail Trail by Columbia County and I hope you will too.*

*Sincerely,
Alison Basdekis*

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Ted Lightburn - [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 9:03 AM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: Please Vote in Favor of the Rail Trail

Categories: County Meeting

Dear Supervisor,

I have enjoyed many rails to trails projects across the northeast and I am in full support of the town voting to allow the purchase of the land in question. It would be great to extend the corkscrew. I cannot make it to the meeting tonight, so please consider this my voice in favor of voting for the sale of the land for the trail.

Thank You,
Thomas "Ted" Lightburn

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

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Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Peter Watson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 9:56 AM
To: Colleen Teal
Subject: Corkscrew Rail Trail Acquisition

Categories: County Meeting

Dear Colleen:

Stephanie and I are writing to you and the Town Board to voice our support for the Corkscrew Rail Trail's acquisition of 16 Lovers Lane. Creating an in-town walking trail along the former Rutland Railroad trackbed and eventually integrating it with other segments of the former Corkscrew rail route would provide a major benefit to all town residents with a substantial economic value in the future.

While the proposed acquisition does not in itself create a new rail trail or connect directly to the existing 2.5 mile Stephentown trail segment, it does provide an important first step towards an integrated Corkscrew Rail Trail network by securing an important segment of the former railroad bed right in town that could potentially cut off a section of the high traffic 20-22 intersection area for walkers, runners, and cyclists. Accomplishing and extending this through additional easements, purchases, and more informal agreements seems like a nice longer term goal to all work together toward in our bicentennial year.

We have personally seen that existing rail networks like the the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail (Adams-Lanesborough) and Harlem Valley Rail Trail (Copake-Wassaic) get a lot of use by a wide range of town residents and visitors for exercise, transportation, and just some quiet time. In the seventeen years Stephanie and I have been residents of New Lebanon, we also have seen dramatic changes in the number of people we see walking, running, or cycling along Route 20 in our town, especially in the last few years. So we think the demand is definitely there.

The question, from the Town Board's perspective, however, is do the benefits of this small acquisition outweigh the costs? My understanding is that since the property was foreclosed on for non-payment of taxes, the Town has not been relying on this property in the last few year to close the budget. As a parcel with a lower current assessment (\$25,700 in 2017) and somewhat limited development potential (without a lot of variances) it is unlikely to generate much beyond the \$624 a year it is (theoretically) generating for the Town currently. Allowing the purchase of 16 Lovers Lane from the County by the Corkscrew Rail Trail group to proceed, on the other hand, creates both an immediate benefit in the form of increasing the amount of publicly accessible land in town and the option to create a larger trail network with a potential future economic value worth many times whatever taxes could be collected on the parcel for any private use. So, from the perspective of the Town's interests as a whole, it seems reasonable for the Town of New Lebanon Board to allow the purchase to proceed.

Sincerely,

Peter Watson & Stephanie Aeder

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 10:03 AM
To: Supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: Purchase of Lovers Lane Property by Corkscrew Rail Trail

Categories: County Meeting

Dear Ms. Teal:

My wife and I have had a home in New Lebanon for over 12 years.

We understand that the Town Board will be considering this evening the sale of the Lovers Lane property by Columbia County to the Corkscrew Rail Trail. We are supportive of the sale and hope that the Town Board will approve it. We believe that a rail trail would be a significant positive for our town. It would be an amenity for the residents and would ultimately provide a basis for economic growth.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Friedman

[REDACTED]

From: Phyllis Abramson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 10:50 AM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: Corkscrew Trail

Categories: County Meeting

Stephen and Phyllis Abramson

[REDACTED] - support selling Lover's Lane to extend the Corkscrew Trail to and through New Lebanon.

Great concept. We are for it!

Phyllis and Stephen Abramson [REDACTED]

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor <supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 12:09 PM
To: Jesse Newton ; Kevin Smith; Mark Baumli; Norman Rasmussen
Cc: Dan Tuczinski; Tistrya Houghting
Subject: Rail Trail/16 Lover's Lane - Email # 6

See below.

Colleen Teal | Supervisor
Town of New Lebanon
P.O. Box 328
14755 State Route 22
New Lebanon, NY 12125
O: 518-794-8889
C: 518-956-2184
supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
www.townofnewlebanon.com

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From: Brightly, Lisa <mailto:lisa.brightly@columbiacountyny.com>
Sent: Friday, March 9, 2018 9:29 AM
To: Chris Watz <chris.watz@columbiacountyny.com>; Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor <supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com>
Subject: Fwd: New Lebanon

Well, I guess not everyone is opposed....
:)

Lisa Brightly

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: William Shannon <wvshannon17@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Mar 9, 2018 at 9:26 AM
Subject: Re: New Lebanon
To: "Brightly, Lisa" <lisa.brightly@columbiacountyny.com>

Oh okay. That sounds like a good and worthy use of that land. My offer wouldn't have been very high and I think if that property went up for auction again it would go for a bit higher than I'd want to pay. So I'd defer to and support the rail trail offer. That'd make for a nice section of trail.

Best,
Billy

On Fri, Mar 9, 2018 at 9:07 AM, Brightly, Lisa <[redacted]@columbiacountyny.com> wrote:

This property is up in the air right now.
We had a private offer from the rail trail in new lebanon but i am not sure what the status is.
I sent your email to chris watz.

Lisa Brightly

[redacted]
Columbia County Attorney's Office
401 State Street, Suite 15B
Hudson, New York 12534
Phone: (518) 828-3303 x335
Fax: (518) 828-9533

[Please Visit Our Tax Foreclosure Website](#)

On Fri, Mar 9, 2018 at 8:53 AM, William Shannon <[redacted]@gmail.com> wrote:

Good morning, Lisa,

That New Lebanon property that got pulled from the auction, is that in the process of selling or will the county consider private offers?

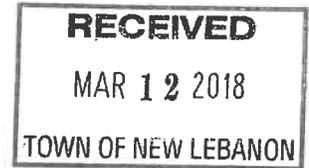
Thanks,

Billy

12.2

March 12, 2018

New Lebanon Town Board
New Lebanon, NY 12125
Re: Corkscrew Rail Trail in New Lebanon



Dear Members of the New Lebanon Town Board:

I wholeheartedly support rail trails, and the possibility of a new section being opened in New Lebanon is quite exciting. As a near neighbor, I ask you to support the resolution for the sale of the rail bed property off Lover's Lane to the Corkscrew Rail Trail by Columbia County.

This parcel is quite perfect as a trail, except for the much needed clean up, which will thankfully be done by this non-profit. It's so close to town and quite beautiful, and already serves as a safe connector between areas where people enjoy walking and riding - what could be better?

Years ago I went on a church trip from Great Barrington to a rail trail in southern Columbia County and enjoyed biking with congregants. Then we ate at a local cafe. There are so many wholesome benefits to being in nature and active, for individuals and for groups, and even for the surrounding businesses.

This parcel has long been unofficially used as a trail, and I would hate to see that use lost. As a wetlands property, a trail seems like the very best use for it. Why not benefit the people of New Lebanon and beyond with a public space that is convenient, practical, and feeds the spirit?

Many thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rev. Kathy Duhon

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Ruth Abram [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 11:52 AM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: Fwd: Rail Trail

Categories: County Meeting

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ruth Abram [redacted]
Date: March 12, 2018 at 6:33:00 PM MDT
To: townsupervisor@townofnewlebanon.org
Subject: Rail Trail
Reply-To: [redacted]

I whole heartedly support its development as a wonderful recreational offering in our town. It's good for people to exercise and its a great attraction to our town. Ruth

--
Ruth J. Abram

[redacted]

Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Erminia Rasmussen [mailto:erminiaras@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2018 9:04 PM
To: Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor
Subject: Cape Cod Rail Trail
Attachments: Cape Cod Final_Smarter_Transportation_Poster.pdf

Categories: County Meeting

Hi while we are not Cape Cod, here is an interesting analysis of the Cape Cod Rail Trail. We have used it many times while on Cape and it's just a beautiful addition to the towns. The paragraphs within this map give you a pretty good idea of the economic impact these rail trails have on towns.

Erminia

--

Erminia Rasmussen

[REDACTED]
13992 State Route 22

[REDACTED]
Canaan, NY 12029

[REDACTED]
518-794-0285

Smarter Transportation for a Smarter Economy: Improving the Cape's Economy through Walkability and Bikeability

Steven Tupper, E.I.T.
Technical Services Planner
Cape Cod Commission

Mahesh Ramchandran, Ph.D.
Environmental Economist
Cape Cod Commission



Increasing Bikeability and Walkability benefits the community's Triple Bottom Line

- More livable communities
- Lower greenhouse gas emissions, less consumption, healthier communities, and providing public services, and preserves open space.
- Reduced traffic congestion
- Air and noise pollution
- Energy conservation
- Road and parking cost savings
- Improved local property values
- Improved public health and

Walkability Increases Property Value

House in walking friendly neighborhoods on fish anywhere between \$4,000 to \$4,500 more than homes that are further away from public transit. In a study of 100 homes in a typical market, the median sale price of homes with walking friendly features meant a premium increase of between \$300 and \$1,000.

Walking the Walk, How Walkability Raises Home Values in U.S. Cities, 2009

Complete Streets/Living Streets Transform Villages on Cape Cod

Complete Streets and Living Streets are streets that address the mobility needs of all users: pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers and transit riders - making streets, drives and transit routes - more accessible, and more

accessible to a wide variety of people, especially those with disabilities. Complete Streets and Living Streets into Village Centers are critical to the vitality of the region. In bicycling also helps alleviate parking problems as one can park on streets that are not used for parking.

Sharing of bike lanes in communities have been shown to increase the number of people who use them. In the Cape Cod area, the US has experienced a one percent increase in the share of commuters by bicycle.

Successful in downtown Falmouth (left), downtown Orleans (right), and such as Davenport (below) improvements across Cape Cod. Areas designs to help revive struggling village centers.



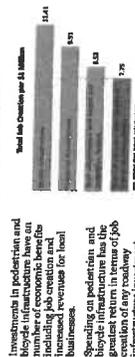
Shining Sea Bikeway

The 10.7 mile multi-use path connects North Falmouth, West Falmouth, and Orleans. It is an important recreational route with many natural, cultural, and historical points of interest.

It is also used occasionally for transportation, especially for the elderly and those with limited mobility. With direct access parking in the Woods Hole Ferry Terminal and the Falmouth Blue Depot it also provides a car-pooling option for those exploring the Town of Falmouth.

As the Shining Sea Bikeway has expanded (in four major phases) the use of the facility, count performed on the bikeway over 3,000 miles. The most were observed using the path.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Infrastructure Drive Employment and Business Revenue



Investments in pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure have a higher number of economic benefits including job creation and business revenue for local businesses.

Spending on pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure has the greatest return in terms of job creation and business revenue for infrastructure investment.

Advertisement and Bicycle Infrastructure: A National Study of Employment / Income Generation, 2014

Rail Trail: A National Study of Employment / Income Generation, 2014

Beyond job creation, recreational paths have significant economic benefits demonstrated in a recent case study of the Virginia Creeper Rail Trail (VCR). This study found that the following:

- Individual net economic value for recreation access to the rail trail is \$284-\$324 per person per trip, totaling US\$82.3 million to US\$95.9 million.
- Transit spending in the local economy generates about US\$1.6 million in local economic activity.
- The rail trail is a highly valuable asset both to users of the trail and to people in the local economy who benefit economically from transit expenditures.

Estimating the Economic Benefits of Recreational Trails - a case study of the Virginia Creeper Rail Trail, Sawyer, Bergman, & Co., 2007.

Cape Cod Bicycle-Related Small Businesses

In 2012 sales by small businesses serving the Cape Cod bicycle market totaled \$4 million. These types of small business tend to remain in the local community and provide employment.

Outer Cape Bike Shuttle

The Outer Cape Bike Shuttle is a three-year pilot program (2013-2014) operated by the Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority for the Outer Cape. The shuttle service starts at headquarters at Marconi Beach in Wellfleet and Massillon Pier in Provincetown, with stops along the way at beaches, bike trails, bus stops and town centers.

The service provides a safe alternative to riding on Route 6 and is more intuitive and accessible activity for visitors. It also provides an important link to businesses in both Wellfleet Center and Provincetown.

Cooling less than \$100,000 a season to operate, this service has the potential to provide a great return on investment.

The Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority also promotes bicycling in many other ways such as providing bike racks on every bus and with a bicycle sharing initiative currently underway.

Outer Cape Bike Shuttle



Outer Cape Bike Shuttle

Yarmouth Route 28 Living Streets Project

The purpose of this 2013 study is to explore transportation improvement options for Route 28, including multi-modal transportation options along the route 28 corridor while focusing on transit, pedestrian and bicycle-oriented mixed-use centers along the roadway.

Conducted by the Cape Cod Commission in cooperation with the Town of Yarmouth and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, the study presented options for transforming this section of Route 28 with an emphasis on pedestrian and bicycle.

The project design alternatives, which are now being advanced by the Town of Yarmouth, include: wider sidewalks, wider shoulders, and landscaping buffers. It has been identified that the vision is for improved bicycle and pedestrian improvements as a driver for revitalization of the area.



Yarmouth Route 28 Living Streets Project

Yarmouth - Barnstable

The Yarmouth-Barnstable Rail Trail extension will continue the trail into Barnstable and provide connections to Hyannis, the largest economic center on Cape Cod. Coupled with the rail, bus, and ferry transportation will be the construction of a multi-modal transportation system in the area of bicycling in the State Legislature and a recognition of its importance to the region.

An extensive trail network exists within the Cape Cod National Seashore; however, a notable north-south gap exists from Wellfleet to Provincetown. An extension of the Rail Trail would provide a safer and more attractive place to visit, strengthening the tourism sector of the economy. Neighboring communities will begin this year a study of potential route options and potential connections to the experience at the Cape Cod National Seashore and the Outer Cape on the whole making an even greater value.

Outer Cape



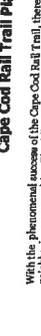
Outer Cape

Yarmouth - Barnstable

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Outer Cape



Outer Cape

Outer Cape Bike Shuttle

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Outer Cape Bike Shuttle

Cape Cod Rail Trail

The Cape Cod Rail Trail follows a former Old Colony Railroad Company right-of-way for 42 miles through the towns of Dennis, Harwich, Brewster, Orleans, Eastham, and Wellfleet. The trail is a popular attraction for visitors and a valuable connection for commuters. The path is primarily for recreation, but also serves as a commuter route for those who work in the area.

Design of the trail was developed along the route with a dedicated board of trustees. The trail has been an economic engine for this region of Cape Cod.

Cape Cod Rail Trail



Cape Cod Rail Trail

Dennis - Yarmouth

The Dennis-Yarmouth Rail Trail extension project is a \$6.5 million MassDOT construction project that will extend the rail trail from Yarmouth to Dennis. The trail will be 10.7 miles long, from Route 134 and Station Avenue. Construction is scheduled to begin Winter 2014/2015.

This extension will connect the trail to many residential communities in Dennis and Yarmouth as well as commercial areas on Route 134 and Station Avenue.

Dennis - Yarmouth



Dennis - Yarmouth

Yarmouth - Barnstable

The Yarmouth-Barnstable Rail Trail extension will continue the trail into Barnstable and provide connections to Hyannis, the largest economic center on Cape Cod. Coupled with the rail, bus, and ferry transportation will be the construction of a multi-modal transportation system in the area of bicycling in the State Legislature and a recognition of its importance to the region.

An extensive trail network exists within the Cape Cod National Seashore; however, a notable north-south gap exists from Wellfleet to Provincetown. An extension of the Rail Trail would provide a safer and more attractive place to visit, strengthening the tourism sector of the economy. Neighboring communities will begin this year a study of potential route options and potential connections to the experience at the Cape Cod National Seashore and the Outer Cape on the whole making an even greater value.

Outer Cape



Outer Cape

Conclusions

The environmental, economic, and cultural values of Cape Cod uniquely conditions the region to make advantage of the increased bicycle and walkability will:

- Benefit businesses by reducing congestion and increasing access by additional modes
- Make Cape Cod a more attractive place to visit, strengthening the tourism sector of the economy
- Increase the well-being of the Cape residents, making Cape Cod a more attractive place to live

Many Cape Cod residents have made great strides in increasing bicycle and walkability and have seen a revitalization of their villages. The Cape Cod Commission is committed to continuing a Sustainable Cape Cod.

Acknowledgements

The following organizations contributed to the materials used in the poster on the projects referenced on this poster: Barnstable County, Cape Cod Commission, Cape Cod National Seashore, Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority, National Park Service, Town of Barnstable, Town of Falmouth, Town of Yarmouth, and Vemasse Hagen Bullfinch, Inc.



Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: kcoyross [redacted]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 5:41 PM
To: supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: Fwd: This year's top places to bike and learn in the U.S.

Colleen,

This is what I was talking about in my note to you. The Town Board should see this, and it's just one organization among many touring companies and individuals who seek out and use rail trails.

Thanks, Karen

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

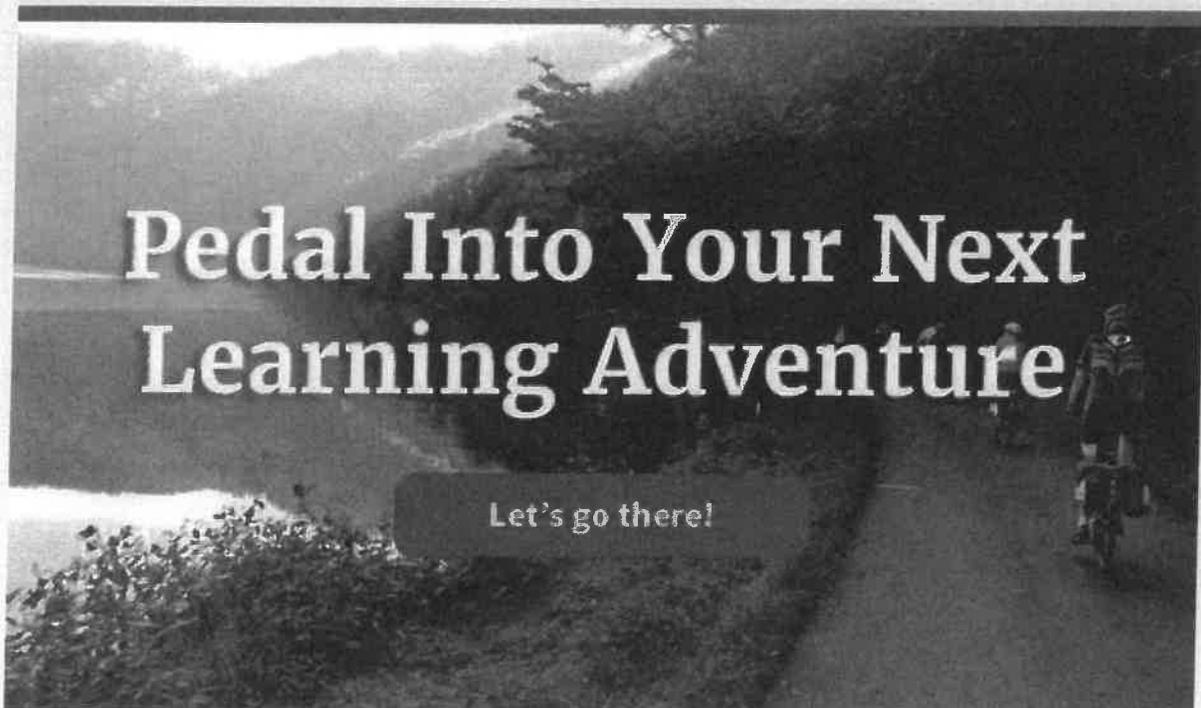
From: Road Scholar [redacted]
Date: 3/12/18 10:36 AM (GMT-08:00)
To: [redacted]
Subject: This year's top places to bike and learn in the U.S.

Extraordinary Routes in Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont & More

(800) 454-5768

ROAD SCHOLAR

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Colleen Teal | Town Supervisor

From: Barbara Chasen [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2018 4:16 PM
To: Supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com
Subject: I support the sale; Barbara Chasen [REDACTED]
Attachments: Letter to New Lebanon Board re rail trail 03132018 2.docx; Economic Value of the Rail Trail to New Lebanon.docx

Categories: County Meeting

March 13, 2018

New Lebanon Town Board

New Lebanon, NY 12125

Re: Corkscrew Rail Trail in New Lebanon

To the New Lebanon Town Board:

We support having a rail trail in New Lebanon. We ask you to *support the resolution for the private sale of the rail bed property to the Corkscrew Rail Trail by Columbia County.*

Do not require the property to go back on the auction block. The economic benefits that a rail trail brings are much greater than tax income on the property.

This is our chance to create an economic driver that our town really needs. Trail users reliably spend money locally year-round. Property values around trails increase, as does the speed of sale. Towns with trails find that empty commercial properties fill up.

A trail protects the property from vandalism and industrial abuse. It also provides a way for kids, people and bikers to walk safely without being on the highway. It provides easy access to stores and destinations in town too.

It is very important to us that you vote to support the development of the rail trail in New Lebanon. Stand behind the sale of this property for use as our rail trail.

Very truly yours, Barbara Chasen [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: kcoyross [REDACTED]

Sent: Sat, Mar 10, 2018 3:13 pm

Subject: Corkscrew Rail Trail effort in New Lebanon needs your input

Dear neighbors and friends,

Love rail trails? Use them? Hope we can get one? Well, The Corkscrew Rail Trail (CRT) is trying.

When they heard that a small parcel of the rail trail behind the Rt. 20 commercial strip was going up for auction for an asking price of \$500, they requested that the County donate it to the CRT. The County agreed. And then a few on our Town Board raised objections to this parcel being bought by a nonprofit and wanted it sold so the Town could keep it on the tax rolls (at \$600/year). That's pretty backward and short-sighted thinking. Here's why...and attached is a quick study sheet on how rail trails are a **PROVEN** economic benefit to towns.

I've seen the parcel, and there's a horrid burned out house, a broken down shed, and piles of rotting garbage and debris. It's pretty disgusting. The CRT would clean this up and make it a nice place to walk, bike, ski or snowshoe.

It's a small piece, for sure, but it's a start.

Thank you for whatever you can do. Best, Karen Ross

Here's what's in the attachment for some background on the parcel:

The Economic Value of the Rail Trail to New Lebanon--

- The rail trail parcel is a narrow lot of 3.44 acres, about a half-mile long, that starts on Lover's Lane and runs parallel to route 20 along the Wyomanock Creek.
- The Corkscrew Rail Trail wanted to buy it as part of a rail trail running 6 miles long into Stephentown, NY, 2.5 miles of which are already in official operation.
- The parcel was part of a tax foreclosure auction being run by the County in March of 2018. The Corkscrew Rail Trail asked the County to sell the property to them outright for the minimum bid of \$500 so that it could be put into community use. The County agreed.
- However, there is objection now within the NL town board that doing this would reduce tax income to the town, because the the Rail Trail is a tax-exempt organization. If the objection wins out, the property would go back up for auction.
- The parcel generates about \$600 a year in tax income.
- The property could develop more tax income only if an owner could get both a special permit and a variance to build on or improve it. It also appears to be on regulated wetlands.

Here's what you can do before Tuesday: (the easiest and quickest is to send an email to the Town Supervisor---and then send this on to others you know who might support this effort). Time is of the essence!

1) Go to the Town Board meeting on Tuesday night, March 13 at 7 pm. RLT is hoping to have at least 20-25 people there for support. This will be early on the agenda

2) Send an email of support to the Town Supervisor

Send it to supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com or call the Town Hall at 794-8889 and leave a message for Colleen. Please tell our Supervisor Colleen Teal that you want the Town to support the Rail Trail purchase. Attached and below is a sample letter/email you can use.

3) Sign a printed letter and ask others to sign it too and then mail (by Monday) or drop it off at the Town Hall.

You can do just one, or all three. But please take action if you want to see the rail trail in New Lebanon.

Here's a letter you can print or email:

March 13, 2018

New Lebanon Town Board

New Lebanon, NY 12125

Re: Corkscrew Rail Trail in New Lebanon

To the New Lebanon Town Board:

We support having a rail trail in New Lebanon. We ask you to *support the resolution for the private sale of the rail bed property to the Corkscrew Rail Trail by Columbia County.*

Do not require the property to go back on the auction block. The economic benefits that a rail trail brings are much greater than tax income on the property.

This is our chance to create an economic driver that our town really needs. Trail users reliably spend money locally year-round. Property values around trails increase, as does the speed of sale. Towns with trails find that empty commercial properties fill up.

A trail protects the property from vandalism and industrial abuse. It also provides a way for kids, people and bikers to walk safely without being on the highway. It provides easy access to stores and destinations in town too.

It is very important to us that you vote to support the development of the rail trail in New Lebanon. Stand behind the sale of this property for use as our rail trail.

Very truly yours, (Add your signature and state whether or not you are a New Lebanon resident--or pay taxes here.)

March 13, 2018

New Lebanon Town Board
New Lebanon, NY 12125

Re: Corkscrew Rail Trail in New Lebanon

To the New Lebanon Town Board:

We support having a rail trail in New Lebanon. We ask you to *support the resolution for the private sale of the rail bed property to the Corkscrew Rail Trail by Columbia County.*

Do not require the property to go back on the auction block because the rail trail is non-profit. The economic benefits that a rail trail brings are much greater than tax income on the property.

This is our chance to create an economic driver that our town really needs. Trail users reliably spend money locally year-round. Property values around trails increase, as does the speed of sale. Towns with trails find that empty commercial properties fill up.

A trail protects the property from vandalism and industrial abuse. It also provides a way for kids, people and bikers to walk safely without being on the highway. It provides easy access to stores and destinations in town too.

It is very important to us that you vote to support the development of the rail trail in New Lebanon. Stand behind the sale of this property for use as our rail trail.

Very truly yours,

Name
New Lebanon resident? Yes No

The Economic Value of the Rail Trail to New Lebanon

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- The Corkscrew Rail Trail wanted to buy it as part of a rail trail running 6 miles long into Stephentown, NY, 2.5 miles of which are already in official operation.
- The parcel was part of a tax foreclosure auction being run by the County in March of 2018. The Corkscrew Rail Trail asked the County to sell the property to them outright for the minimum bid of \$500 so that it could be put into community use. The County agreed.
- However, there is objection now within the NL town board that doing this would reduce tax income to the town, because the Rail Trail is a tax-exempt organization. If the objection wins out, the property would go back up for auction.
- The parcel generates about \$600 a year in tax income.
- The property could develop more tax income only if an owner could get both a special permit and a variance to build on or improve it. It also appears to be on regulated wetlands.

Using this property for a rail trail drives more economic benefit to the town:

- NY State says that rail trails typically produce between \$1 to \$40 in local spending to the area *per visit*.
- In NY State, there are 400 million days devoted to recreational walking and biking per year. This is why rail trails are called "quiet economic engines".
- Homes located near a trail sell more easily, more quickly, and for higher prices.
- Local trails are greatly sought after by home-buyers, second only to swimming pools/beaches.
- Trails revitalize areas, creating demand for empty commercial spaces.
- Trails are known to reduce vandalism and litter, because trail users care about nature.
- Creating a rail trail on this parcel can protect it from abuse and graveyard storage of machinery. There is dumping and debris on the property now. The Corkscrew Rail is ready to clean this up, as it has done on large sections of the trail in Stephentown already.
- The parcel is narrow, marshy and non-conforming, with a permitted use only for farm-related business. It's back in the trees and not visible to route 20, so it does not have traditional commercial value.
- A residence can't be built on the property either without a special permit, a variance, and likely a permit from DEC too.
- But because of the old rail bed and the existing pathway, the parcel is ready to be used right now as a woody trail.
- It offers a perfect way for kids, walkers and bicyclists to get through town, avoiding the highway but with ready access to stores and destinations.

Information source: <https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/trails/documents/StatewideTrailsPlan/StatewideTrailsPlanExecutiveSummary.pdf>.

Excerpts From
<http://conservationtools.org>

Greenways and trails can be catalysts for community revitalization, transforming eyesores such as abandoned rail corridors or neglected waterfronts into the community centerpieces.

Community trails often become a focus of community pride and a means of preserving and celebrating what is special about a community.

A litter-strewn 2.8-mile stretch of abandoned rail corridor between in Fulton County, NY is now the Johnstown-Gloversville Rail Trail. It is the pride of the communities and a very pleasant place to spend an afternoon. The Fulton County Regional Chamber of Commerce, which sponsored the rail-trail project, hopes to expand it another 14 miles and market it as a tourist destination with tourist information centers at both ends.

In Dunedin, Florida, after the abandoned CSX railroad was transformed into the Pinellas Trail, the downtown went from a 35% storefront vacancy rate to a 100% storefront occupancy with a waiting list for available space.

Since the Katy Hiking and Biking Trail opened in Marthasville, a small, quiet town in Missouri, more than a dozen new businesses have opened and renewed civic pride has led to numerous beautification projects. The western half of the trail generates \$3 million annually in local revenue.

Since the opening of the Yough River Trail, the once plentiful vacant buildings in Connellsville, Pennsylvania are now scarce. Many professionals are moving into the downtown and the newly formed Connellsville Festival Committee is busy organizing events.

In Vermont, tourists stay about one day longer in Stowe than in the state's other resort areas. This extra day and the revenue it generates are attributed to the Stowe Recreation Path, a 5.5-mile multi-use trail.

PHONE CALL

FOR _____ DATE 3/12 TIME _____ A.M. / P.M.

M. Sarah Westwood

OF PHONE/MOBILE # _____ FAX _____

MESSAGE _____

SIGNED PRO-Rail Trail

TELEPHONED
 RETURNED YOUR CALL
 PLEASE CALL
 WILL CALL AGAIN
 CAME TO SEE YOU
 WANTS TO SEE YOU

PHONE CALL

FOR _____ DATE 3/12 TIME 11:55 A.M. / P.M.

M. Jane Ross - West Lebanon

OF PHONE/MOBILE # _____

MESSAGE _____

PRO Rail Trail

SIGNED _____

TELEPHONED
 RETURNED YOUR CALL
 PLEASE CALL
 WILL CALL AGAIN
 CAME TO SEE YOU
 WANTS TO SEE YOU

Corkscrew Rail Trail

Millie Smith

Jac -
 - VP -
 VERY VERY
 Supportive