

Conservation Advisory Council, Town of New Lebanon

Monthly Meeting Minutes for September 11, 2017

Samson Environmental Center, Darrow School

Present: CAC members Cynthia Creech, David Farren, Peg Munves, Craig Westcott and guest Gretchen Stevens of Hudsonia

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 P.M. There were no objections to the meeting minutes for the July 10 meeting and they were approved.

Gretchen Stevens led us through the latest draft of the Natural Resources Conservation Plan (NRCP), received by CAC members on Dropbox earlier in the day. She cautioned not to spend time on close copy editing of this draft as it will be revised again shortly. That revision should be the one posted on the town's web site. An executive summary and map of agricultural uses are still to be added. The extensive appendices will also be added. Gretchen has the end of funding on October 31 in sight and shared an excellent book she relies upon by Peter Stott, *Looking for Work: The Industrial History of Columbia County*.

David Farren noted that he has seen many hayfields worked that had been fallow. Cynthia Creech suggested that a transitional dairy operation now underway at Fairweather Farm may account for the demand.

The site verification visits for the NRCP are now complete. Our work on scenic vistas, however, has yet to be wrapped up. In August, David Farren visited Denise Clayton's property on Parker Lane off West Hill Road and Peg Munves and David visited the Bog on Canaan Road, Shaker View Farm on Cemetery and West Hill Roads, and Buttermilk Falls on C.R. 13. Tom Gerety and Adelia Moore, owners of the Bog, kayaked with us and were excellent hosts, as were Linda and Dale Dymond, owners of the Buttermilk Falls property.

Cynthia agreed to display the NRCP banner at the last Music in the Park although she didn't think she could stay for the duration.

Cynthia noted that the solar energy ordinance has yet to be approved by the Town Board. The town attorney is in the throes of comparing the proposed town ordinance to New York State requirements.

Peg mentioned that the CAC would likely be asked to comment for the Planning Board on a proposed expansion by Stewart's Shops.

David reminded Craig Westcott that he will be hosting the inaugural meeting on source water protection in New Lebanon to be led by Steven Winkley of the New York Rural Water Association. The meeting is scheduled for October 2 starting at 7:00 P.M. at Darrow.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M. The next CAC monthly meeting will be October 9 at Darrow's Samson Environmental Center.

Respectfully submitted by David Farren