

Conservation Advisory Council, Town of New Lebanon

Minutes for monthly meeting, October 9, 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 6:35 P.M. Members had no suggested revisions to the minutes for the September 11 monthly meeting and they were approved.

Gretchen Stevens led us through the latest draft of the Natural Resource Conservation Plan (NRCP), received by CAC members on Dropbox earlier in the day. The appendices had not been included. David Farren had reviewed much of the document, but not all, and shared some findings. Gretchen stressed that the scenic resources section needed fleshing out and Peg Munves volunteered to move swiftly to capture scenic viewsheds in the Rocky Foothills and Western Hills sections of town. The initial inventory begun by Karen Ross in 2006 had concentrated on the other two sections of town, the High Taconics and Wyomanock and Kinderhook Valleys. David and Craig Westcott had previously agreed to work with Hands to Work students from Darrow in capturing coordinates for scenic vistas, especially in the Western Hills, but October 25 was the first available date. Gretchen needs to send the final plan to the printer by that date, to insure completion of the project before funding from the Hudson Valley Estuary Program grant ends on October 31. Hence, as the plan states, the inventory of scenic resources will be an ongoing task. During the meeting, as Gretchen took notes, Cynthia Creech, Peg and Craig consulted and agreed on the most likely scenic viewsheds yet to be captured. David noted once again that he had seen many hayfields on parcels that were previously fallow. Cynthia Creech and Peg put their heads together and fleshed out the map of agricultural uses. Meanwhile, site verification visits are now complete. David had submitted a written report on 2017 visits to Gretchen.

Craig reviewed the initial meeting for the Source Water Protection Plan held on October 2 at Darrow and led by Steve Winkley of the New York Rural Water Association. David will submit a written article for the town newsletter, scheduled for November 1 with a submission deadline of October 16. The article will provide a link to a well water survey, the first step in compiling the plan. Townspeople will be encouraged to link to the survey and provide detailed information about their own wells.

After Peg had to excuse herself at 8:00 P.M., we turned our attention to pending proposals before the Planning Board. Cynthia took notes on our discussion and will submit the CAC written response by the end of the week, half a week before the Planning Board meets on Wednesday, October 18. Gretchen contributed to our discussion. We agreed that the expansion of Stewart's Shops on the east side of the Routes 20/22 business corridor poses risks to the unconsolidated aquifer and Wyomanock Creek. Likewise, we agreed that the new use of the Shed Man property at the southern junction of Routes 20/22 also impacts the Wyomanock and needs to be more carefully considered. Both sites are on the 100-year floodplain.

The next monthly meeting for the CAC will be Monday, November 13, starting at 6:30 P.M. We will meet at Craig's house on the Darrow campus, the first house to the right (south) of visitor parking. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by David Farren