

## ***Conservation Advisory Council, Town of New Lebanon***

Minutes for monthly meeting, July 16, 2018

New Lebanon Town Hall

Present: CAC members Cynthia Creech, David Farren, Jack Lancto, Peg Munves

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. We had agreed to meet on the third Monday in July to allow Steve Winkley to present his water study findings. However, he could not join us due to a personal commitment. We approved the minutes for the monthly meeting on May 7, 2018, to be submitted to the Town Clerk for posting on the town's web site. Craig Westcott has yet to submit the minutes for the monthly meeting on June 11, 2018.

We discussed developments in town. The Town Board voted again to oppose the sale of 16 Lover's Lane by the county to the Corkscrew Rail Trail, recommending instead that a foreclosure auction sale proceed. The Government Affairs subcommittee of the Board of Supervisors then endorsed that action in a split vote. At the public hearing on May 17 at the Lebanon Valley Firehouse, attendees had voiced overwhelming support for a direct sale to the rail trail. Two subcommittees of the Board of Supervisors had previously endorsed that action in unanimous votes.

Cynthia Creech attended the June meeting of the Planning Board. Jack Lancto joined an evening walk through the Hand Hollow Conservation Area led by Heidi Bock of the Columbia Land Conservancy. David Farren participated in a walk through the Rheinstrom Audubon Sanctuary in Hillsdale guided by Claudia Knab-Vispo of the Hawthorne Valley Farmscape Ecology Program.

We discussed the celebratory event for the *Natural Resource Conservation Plan* (NRCP) on September 22. Cynthia will send "Save the Date" postcards to the 22 landowners whose properties we visited, board members and others in town who have been supportive. [Note: Cynthia sent the alert via email instead.] David will ask the Vispos to lead a nature walk in the late afternoon – they will need to walk through the property earlier that week. Gretchen Stevens may not arrive until 7:00 P.M.

Cynthia suggested that the CAC be on record as approving a motion supporting conservation in town. We discussed and decided to hold off for the moment. Instead, we agreed to present a short conservation topic at each monthly meeting of the Town Board taken directly from the NRCP. In this way, the value of the document will be validated and, we hope, understood.

The online scenic resources inventory still needs to be completed. Cynthia thought there had been a change in the town's computer consultant, who we would rely on to post 360 degree views from the identified scenic viewpoints.

The next monthly meeting for the CAC will be Monday, August 13, 2018, starting at 6:30 P.M. at the New Lebanon Town Hall. Steve Winkley has agreed to present his findings on the water study at the September meeting, which will be September 10 starting at 6:30 P.M. at the Town Hall. We will inform other members of the Task Force.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted by David Farren*