

Conservation Advisory Council, Town of New Lebanon

Minutes for monthly meeting, April 9, 2018

Met at Samson Environmental Center, Darrow School, but convened at Jimmy D's

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 P.M. at Jimmy D's. We had met at the Samson Environmental Center at 6:30 but the doors were locked and Craig Westcott responded only later to a phone message. He could not leave campus. The minutes for the monthly meeting on March 12, 2018, were approved and will be submitted to the Town Clerk for posting on the town's web site.

We discussed developments in town, specifically the possible sale to the Corkscrew Rail Trail of a foreclosed 3.4-acre parcel at 16 Lovers Lane that includes the abandoned rail bed. Two subcommittees of the Columbia County Board of Supervisors had approved the sale unanimously after carefully evaluating the property's potential. The parcel's disposal will be decided by a vote of the full Board of Supervisors, scheduled for April 11. At its March meeting, the Town Board heard a large outpouring of support for the sale, during a Winter Advisory, and a minimum of opposition. Nevertheless, their vote to back the county's decision was split 2-2, although they voted 3-1 to forward supporting evidence.

We approved the CAC's 2017 Annual Report and the Town Clerk will post it on the town's web site.

We discussed a celebratory event for the *Natural Resource Conservation Plan* and David Farren offered his home for a summer cookout. Cynthia Creech will review the New Lebanon 200 schedule before we set a date. We would invite landowners and other community members who supported our efforts and our consultants, Gretchen Stevens and the Vispos. Perhaps Gretchen and the Vispos could offer a nature program on the property to kick off the afternoon or evening.

Peg Munves was to supply David with contact information for Michelle Bienes, who runs the summer recreation program at Shatford Park. The CAC would like to offer programs that involve the campers in environmental awareness. Peg was to explore possible presenters of a program on raptors.

Next, we addressed pending proposals before the Planning Board. The Michael Darcy application for Home Occupancy on Lovers Lane for his trucking business will come up for a vote at the next Planning Board meeting. We agreed that the Stewart's Shops proposed expansion site on the opposite side of Routes 20/22 looked good although we have not been asked to respond. We expressed surprise that the sketch plan review for Darrow's campus plan, which was on the Planning Board agenda in March, appears to have been approved without a further hearing.

David will miss the April meeting of the Zoning Rewrite Committee and Peg will present a revised proposal for a pond ordinance. We are awaiting information from Jeff Hattat, the Deputy CEO/ZEO.

The next monthly meeting for the CAC will be Monday, May 7, 2018, starting at 6:30 P.M. at Darrow's Samson Environmental Center.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by David Farren