

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

Minutes for monthly meeting, November 12, 2018

New Lebanon Town Hall

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. We approved minutes for the monthly meetings on September 10 and October 8, 2018, to be posted on the town's web site by the Town Clerk.

Peg Munves related her brief presentation at the Town Board's October meeting about our celebration on September 22 of the Natural Resource Conservation Plan; except for the Town Board, every municipal board was represented. David Farren reminded Cynthia Creech and Peg to submit their expenses for reimbursement. Cynthia believes the CAC budget for 2019 will be the same as 2018.

David and Craig Westcott related their experiences at the Land Trust Alliance Rally in Pittsburgh in October. More than 1,600 attended, mostly young staffers from land trusts across the country. It was the first Rally for David and Craig. Andy Bicking of Scenic Hudson in Poughkeepsie received the LTA's Advocacy Ambassador of the Year award a year after Peter Paden of the Columbia Land Conservancy had received the same award. The Rensselaer Plateau Alliance was recognized during the accreditation ceremony. David's best takeaway from the excellent workshops he attended was this: What's the opposite of best practices? Innovation.

We agreed to have David address the issue of Critical Environmental Areas (CEAs) before the Town Board tomorrow evening. The Board would need to adopt any recommendations by the CAC and we will begin the process of identifying CEAs in town by focusing on the Wyomanock floodplain. As well, the scenic viewshed inventory still needs to be completed and should be mentioned tomorrow evening.

We discussed pending proposals before the Planning Board and noted with gratitude that the PB denied unanimously the application for Home Occupation at 46 Lovers Lane. We have not yet been informed about the PB agenda for their November meeting.

The Zoning Rewrite Committee has submitted to the Town Board for their consideration a cluster of recommended changes to the zoning ordinances. The changes arose from a compendium compiled by the Code Publishing Company of contradictions or unclear language within the current ordinances. Peg will be stepping down from ZRC membership, leaving just David to represent the CAC.

Craig shared his conversation with a prospective CAC member. This individual would be very interested in joining the CAC except that a recent change in work responsibilities may require a move away from New Lebanon.

The next monthly meeting for the CAC will be Monday, December 10, 2018, starting at 6:30 P.M. at the New Lebanon Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted by David Farren*