

Conservation Advisory Council, Town of New Lebanon

Minutes for January 7, 2019

New Lebanon Town Hall

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

We chose to meet on the first Monday of January because the Town Board would meet the following evening, the second Tuesday. We conducted three interviews, beginning at 6:00 P.M. with Paul Rix, followed at 6:30 P.M. with Steve Powers and concluding at 7:00 P.M. with Bob Gilson. All three had submitted letters of interest as prospective CAC members. Steve and Bob joined us for the business meeting.

We called the meeting to order at 7:25 P.M. and approved the minutes for December 10, 2018, to be posted on the town's web site by the Town Clerk.

We discussed the upcoming Conservation Forum to be hosted by Grow the Valley on January 12 starting at 10:00 A.M. at Town Hall. As a co-sponsor, CAC had been invited to present. Craig Westcott reviewed his slide presentation "It's all about the Shed, Man" that Peg Munves had helped put together. We approved the presentation and agreed that Craig would be an excellent presenter. David Farren accepted Cynthia Creech's invitation to help with a shake-down for the presentation at Town Hall at 5:30 P.M. on Friday, January 11.

David provided an update on the Comprehensive Plan revision. He had scheduled a meeting with Nan Stolzenburg for 3:00 P.M. on Tuesday, January 15, after a lengthy phone conversation with her on December 12. The meeting will be at Town Hall. Nan worked as a consultant on the 2005 Comprehensive Plan and works with many towns in the Hudson Valley on revising their plans. The Hudson Valley Greenway's first grant deadline of February 9 won't be met, but they routinely fund Comprehensive Plans and have three additional grant deadlines later in the year, the first on May 10.

In the interest of time, we tabled a discussion of the CAC's goals for 2019.

The Zoning Rewrite Committee's recommendations for changes to the zoning ordinances will be discussed at a special meeting of the Town Board on January 17.

This meeting is Craig's final meeting as an appointed CAC member. He was a charter member, joining when the Town Board created the CAC in 2010. A long-time teacher and administrator at Darrow School, Craig now resides in Canaan and works for the Columbia Land Conservancy in Chatham. We value his contributions and hope he will continue to be involved.

The next monthly meeting for the CAC will be Monday, February 11, 2019, starting at 6:30 P.M. at the New Lebanon Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by David Farren