

Conservation Advisory Council, Town of New Lebanon

Minutes for April 8, 2019

New Lebanon Town Hall

Present: CAC members Cynthia Creech, David Farren, Peg Munves, Steve Powers, Paul Rix

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. We approved the meeting minutes for March 11, 2019, to be posted on the town's web site by the Town Clerk.

Cynthia Creech pointed out that Pat Liddle will present a session on animal tracking on April 12. Peg Munves and Steve Powers attended the CAC Roundtable in Hudson on March 18. Bruce Shenker and Michael O'Hara (from Hudson) presented the Columbia County Environmental Management Council's adopted resolution on climate change and led a useful discussion. David Farren provided an update on the Corkscrew Rail Trail's acquisition of the Lover's Lane parcel.

We revisited goals for 2019. David and Steve will work together to update the Scenic Resources Inventory after David connects with Craig Westcott to master the field tablet's many features. Craig had purchased Gaia GPS as our tracking software. Paul Rix indicated that his position at Darrow School will be settled soon and the Hands to Work program may then be able to help again with CAC work. Meanwhile, he and Peg will work together to plan conservation programming for the summer camp in Shatford Park. We will identify Critical Environmental Areas in town by the June meeting.

David provided an update on the Comprehensive Plan revision. The town seeks four volunteers not currently serving on any town board or committee to join the Zoning Rewrite Committee in helping with the revision. The position has been advertised but few have expressed interest so far.

We have not been informed of the Planning Board agenda for March 17 but Cynthia volunteered to attend. A new Planning Board member should be appointed at tomorrow evening's Town Board meeting.

The Zoning Rewrite Committee's recommendations for changes to the zoning ordinances are under review by the Town Attorney. David and Peg worked on ponds and water resources as one addition to the code. The next step would be a public hearing and the Town Board could then vote on their adoption.

The next monthly meeting for the CAC will be Monday, May 13, 2019, starting at 6:30 P.M. at the New Lebanon Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by David Farren