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

Monthly Meeting Minutes for June 13, 2016

Samson Environmental Center, Darrow School

Present: Cynthia Creech, David Farren, Peg Munves

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 P.M.

Cynthia Creech provided an update on town developments. The Wyomanock designation had passed the State Senate and reached the floor of the State Assembly when Assemblyman McLaughlin’s office called Supervisor Teal for a last minute clarification. Rather than ask Town Board members for their input with virtually no notice, Supervisor Teal requested that the resolution be withdrawn. Upon a new resolution passed by the current Town Board and submitted with a letter of support from Supervisor Teal, the measure can be reintroduced in the 2017 legislative session. State Senator Marchione attended the playground ribbon cutting in Shatford Park and spoke to Cynthia, assuring her that a reintroduced measure would be viable.

David Farren attended a workshop on habitat connectivity at the Poestenkill Fire House on Saturday, June 11. Gretchen Stevens of Hudsonia and Ingrid Haeckel of the Hudson River Estuary Program presented a two-hour course on wetland and upland habitats and conservation best practices. Due to threatening thunder storms, the site visit that was to follow at the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance’s Community Forest in East Poestenkill had to be postponed.

David Farren related developments in the NRCP, specifically the second site verification visit scheduled for 9:00 A.M. on Friday, June 17, on lands along Hand Hollow Road recently conveyed by Christine Dreyfus to the Open Space Institute (OSI). Charlie Burgess at the OSI’s Albany offices has issued permission provided an indemnification form is signed and returned. Gretchen Stevens will accompany Cynthia and David on the visit and provide maps. Craig and Peg hope to join a second verification visit later in July. Cynthia will invite Christine Dreyfus to join us and direct our parking.

The remote mapping, although incomplete, is well enough along to provide guidance for most site verification visits. David will provide a list with contact information, choosing representative parcels throughout the town. Peg has agreed to contact landowners to schedule the visits. Gretchen Stevens and perhaps Conrad Vispo will accompany us on occasion, especially if the site is new to them. Gretchen will print and provide maps in advance for each listed parcel.

We discussed Gretchen Steven’s presentation at the Town Board meeting on June 14, scheduled to be first on the agenda. David will help Gretchen set up at 6:45 P.M. The current Grow the Valley newsletter announced the presentation. We also discussed the poster to be prepared for display at the Farmers Market and Town Picnic and possibly other venues and the need to provide NRCP status updates in the town newsletter.

The next CAC monthly meeting will be held August 8, 2016, at 6:30 P.M. at the Samson Environmental Center at Darrow School. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted by David Farren*