

Town of New Lebanon, NY CAC

Meeting Minutes: Wednesday June 29 2011

Present: Trina Porte, David Cullen, Craig Westcott (minutes)

4:09 Trina Porte called the meeting to order

Discussion of New Business:

-The group pulled together phrases, thoughts and categories to make the beginning of a NLCAC Mission Statement:

The What We Do:

To be a sustainable community within the larger scheme of a sustainable Columbia County, with conservation/preservation at the core of solidifying local agriculture, food security, and markets, contiguous forest, fresh water, and wetland reserves, and historic sites as central economic, human, and environmental features of our Town.

The How We Do It:

To provide information and recommendations of best practices (conservation easements for open spaces and critical natural resource areas, energy efficiency resources for developed areas, etc.) to the Town.

-Possible community event on April 24, 2012 could be to open the Darrow School trails to the public and provide access to and information regarding the Shaker Swamp Project trail.

-The previous meetings' minutes were approved: Craig Westcott so moved. David Cullen seconded.

-David Cullen has two confirmed NYSERDA energy representatives in New Lebanon (Chris Dreyfus and Craig Westcott), and one other possibility Sharon Moon. David Cullen will find out from Meredith from NYSERDA if a training can be done for these energy efficiency reps, and possibly other towns' reps at Darrow School (possibly as early as July 13-August 7).

-The USDA Rural housing services rep Joan Young from Middletown, NY has been communicating with David Cullen regarding homeowner loans and grants for energy efficiency upgrades and general housing.

-GJGNY –Green Job Green New York. LBVA/Fiona Lally and NYSERDA Meredith will apply to get NYState to give GJGNY workshop on how to get New Lebanon involved in this program.

-Trina Porte will petition the Town of New Lebanon for a 15 minute CAC presentation on the NYSDEC New Lebanon Habitat Survey in September/October 2011.

-The next CAC meeting or two will be to continue to draft this presentation

-Trina Porte will ask Conrad Vispo of Hawthorne Valley Farmscape Ecology what he would charge to do an OSI using GIS and the new New York State Columbia County Orthographic maps, and the CAC will send a letter to the Town Board with a recommendation to have his fee budgeted in the next fiscal year. The CAC will also continue to research grant opportunities for funding the OSI work.

Next Meeting: Wednesday July 27, 2011 at Darrow School SEC

Trina Porte adjourned the meeting at 5:31pm.