

Conservation Advisory Council, Town of New Lebanon

Minutes for October 7, 2019; New Lebanon Town Hall

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. We approved the meeting minutes for September 9, 2019, to be posted on the town's web site by the Town Clerk. This month's meeting falls a week earlier than usual due to the Town Board meeting tomorrow evening, the second Tuesday.

Cynthia Creech, Bob Gilson and Steve Powers attended the Columbia County CAC Roundtable convened by the Columbia Land Conservancy in Hudson on October 2. They reported that it was well attended and provided useful information on vernal pools. One idea discussed was to reach out to architects, engineers and realtors throughout the county to promote existing natural resource and open space inventories. CACs would thereby be positioned to offer advice on critical environmental factors to developers in advance.

Peg Munves, with Steve's help, presented a blown-up draft map from Steve Winkley's Water Source Study. We each agreed to review the map over the coming month and respond to it, and any others, at our November meeting. Cynthia reported that the CAC's 2020 budget is set at \$1,200, the 2019 level, at least through the preliminary hearings.

Steve Powers has taken more photographs at scenic vista overlooks that had not been included in the 2017 *Natural Resource Conservation Plan*. We should soon be ready to move forward with the interactive inventory we envision for the town's web site.

David Farren plans to attend the Inventories to Action workshop in Castleton-On-Hudson on November 9. Gretchen Stevens of Hudsonia and Ingrid Haeckel and Nate Nardi-Cyrus of the Hudson River Estuary Program led a similar workshop last fall in Putnam County that was well received. The town will likely reimburse the \$20 registration fee.

We continued our review of the Action Items from the *2005 Comprehensive Plan*, getting through three quarters of the list. We agreed to complete the task at our November meeting. We have agreed that many of the action items need still to be fulfilled.

Bob Gilson will attend the Planning Board meeting on October 16, should one be necessary. We are not aware of any pending proposals that require a CAC response.

A second meeting of the Comprehensive Plan Revision Committee will be held on October 15. The committee will begin addressing the list of action items. Meanwhile, the Zoning Rewrite Committee continues to address possible regulations for short-term rentals and changes to the use table.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by David Farren