

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

Minutes for May 11, 2020, via Google Meet (hosted by Marcie Robertson)

Present: CAC members Jenna Barbary-Glovsky, Cynthia Creech, David Farren, Bob Gilson, Peg Munves, Steve Powers, Paul Rix; guests Bruce Shenker, Monte Wasch

We called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M. and agreed to submit the minutes for April 13, 2020, to the Town Clerk for posting. Due to Marcie being on an unexpected phone call, there was a slight delay before David Farren joined everyone to start the meeting. At its April meeting, the Town Board appointed Jenna Barbary-Glovsky to a 2-year term as a CAC member. We welcomed Jenna and guests Bruce Shenker and Monte Wasch.

Cynthia Creech and Peg Munves volunteered to help plant seedlings for the Trees for Tribes project at the Roseman property. Jenna believes she can enlist members of the Darrow community in addition to herself. Peg asked for a sample volunteer request that she could send to the Boy Scouts, etc. David will oblige. The delivery from New Paltz of 106 potted seedlings along with wooden stakes, weed mats and ground staples is expected on May 17. The seedlings originate at the state-owned nursery in Saratoga County and New York State delivers them gratis.

Steve Powers reported on the first Climate Smart Community Task Force meeting, which he chaired and Jenna attended. Bob Gilson will be able to attend the next meeting. To begin, the Task Force plans to focus on clean energy. A significant number of points have already been accumulated to be applied to the NYS rating system.

Regarding 2020 CAC goals, we agreed it would be best to delay proposing Cool Ravines as the first Critical Environmental Area (CEA) to the Town Board until we can meet again in person. Meanwhile, Cynthia explored the cool ravine heading north from Main Street in Lebanon Springs and gathered its local history. Peg volunteered to contact Uli Rose and David will contact Paul St. Germain. As well, the online Scenic Resources inventory will be delayed until Sharon Powers and David can meet again in person. Paul Rix will reach out to Michelle Bienes and naturalist Michael Clough once we know the status of this summer's Recreation Program in Shatford Park.

The proposed water study continues to take a back seat to the well testing for PFOA contamination downgradient of the abandoned town landfill. Paul summarized the status of the well testing by NYSDEC. Remediation funding via grants may be available. His notes of his conversation with an expert from Hoosick Falls have been very helpful. David shared them with Gretchen Stevens and she replied immediately at how impressed she was with the town's approach.

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We discussed the 2020 CAC budget and the need for cuts in light of an expected shortfall in sales tax revenue and NYS assistance. We could cancel the internet service for the field tablet, provided it can be reestablished, and the Shatford Park summer program may prove unlikely.

Bob Gilson volunteered to write a draft Mission Statement and requested contact information for Gretchen Stevens and Ingrid Haeckel. David will oblige. To our knowledge, the CAC has never had a Mission Statement. Bob also volunteered to take meeting minutes beginning in June. Bob expects to continue attending Planning Board meetings. Peg requested that Michelle Bienes provide detailed plans for the proposed laundromat to all CAC members.

The Zoning Rewrite Committee's recommended Local Law is on hold to save attorney's fees. The committee had adopted Cynthia's recommended changes to agricultural definitions. The Comprehensive Plan Update Committee continues to meet and will send out a survey to all town residences. Unfortunately, the grants that David and Winfried Fuchshofen applied for from the Hudson River Valley Greenway and the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, which we had been assured would be awarded, are no longer available due to the COVID-19 crisis. The committee will need to operate this year without the guidance of a consultant.

The next monthly CAC meeting will be Monday, June 8, 2020, starting at 6:30 P.M. via video conference.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted by David Farren*