

Conservation Advisory Council, Town of New Lebanon

Minutes for monthly meeting held via Google Meet and Zoom, September 13, 2021

Present: CAC members David Farren, Tyler Fogg, Robert Gilson, Donald Lamonaca, Adelia Moore, Peg Munves, Steve Powers, guests Marc Anthonisen, Steve Winkley

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. We approved the minutes for the monthly meeting on August 9, 2021, as amended and they will be sent to the Town Clerk for posting. Steve Powers suggested adding the “Stellar Volunteer” citation awarded to Peg Munves during the town picnic on August 1.

Raptor Presentation: Bob Gilson reported that Sunny Kellner, a Sharon, Connecticut, Audubon Society educator, introduced 4 birds of prey during her informative 1½ hour program for the Summer Youth Program in Shatford Park on August 19. The campers were enthralled and had much to contribute.

Critical Environmental Areas: Donald Lamonaca left a message for Paul St. Germain to talk about his cool ravine. There are 8 different landowners who are abutters. David Farren and Bruce Shenker will explore the reputed cool ravine on the opposite side of C.R. 9 from Hand Hollow Conservation Area. Much of that land is owned as well by the CLC. Bruce Shenker has reached out to several of the abutters of the Warm Spring, and so far there have been no objections to the CEA designation. Amy Kroboth, the Spring owner’s widow, can’t commit to protecting it until the probate process in Berkshire County Court is completed.

New Lebanon Drinking Water Source Protection Plan: Steve Winkley has been working with the Town for the past 3 years to study our water resources and how best to protect them. He has produced interactive maps that document water sources and wells as well as a *Source Water Inventory*, a *Potential Contaminant Sources Inventory*, and has identified how to protect and manage our resources. Most recently, Steve helped identify 20 local wells for sampling by NYSDOH – all were fine. Steve will have a draft Household Water Protection Plan to the CAC by mid-November. If implemented, the plan would account for 10 points toward our Silver Certification. All services have been provided to the Town at no cost.

FY 2022 Budget: The CAC is going to ask for an increase in its annual budget to cover the costs of well sampling and testing for PFOAs and PFOSs. The motion to increase the budget was passed unanimously.

Trees for Tribs: Peg said that TFT is going amazingly well. We have had over 50 volunteer hours. At Tistrya’s request, Peg and Adelia have used flags to mark out proposed changes to the layout of the plantings. The plan is to create some teardrop shaped areas where there can be parking, and possibly picnic tables. The hope is to integrate more of the remaining unplanted trees and shrubs into the new layout to facilitate watering. CAC members will meet with Peg to discuss the new design before the October Town Board meeting. About 60 of the unplanted trees and shrubs have “disappeared,” so far.

Hazard Mitigation Plan: Marc reported that Cornell students have analyzed over 100 items in the Town to create a *Climate Smart Resilience Plan* and a *Climate Vulnerability Assessment* to determine how prepared the town is in the event of a natural disaster. The plan would guide future emergency preparedness needs. Ed Godfroy is the county representative for the town – he is an employee of the County Public Works Department. While implementing the plan is not in the CSC’s court, the Task Force can be involved in linking the science to hazard mitigation.

Planning Board: The Planning Board met on August 18. The meeting began with a public hearing to discuss both the proposed RV storage facility on Route 22, and the Nokomis project on Wadsworth. There is widespread opposition to both proposals. Given the vocal opposition to both projects, the Board is continuing the public hearings to September 22.

Comprehensive Plan Update: The Comprehensive Plan Update is online. There will be public forums on Tuesday, September 21 at 7:00 P.M., and Saturday, September 25 at 10:00 A.M. The CAC parts of the plan seem to be in order.

The next CAC meeting is October 11, 2021, at 6:30 P.M. It will be an online meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Robert Gilson