

**Conservation Advisory Council, Town of New Lebanon**  
**Minutes for monthly meeting on December 13, 2021, held via Zoom**

**Present:** CAC members David Farren, Tyler Fogg, Robert Gilson, Donald Lamonaca, Adelia Moore, Peg Munves, Steve Powers; Guests Marc Anthonisen, Bruce Shenker

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. The minutes for the monthly meeting on November 8, 2021, were approved as amended and will be sent to the Town Clerk for posting.

- **Budget Hearing:** The Town Board has approved our budget request for 2022 to include \$2,100 for well testing for PFOAs and PFOSs. Steve Winkley has volunteered to help select testing sites. The budget also includes an Open Space Inventory grant for \$5,000 from the Hudson River Estuary Program. We have yet to hear whether the grant has been awarded.
- David Farren attended the Estuary Program webinar on Protecting Wildlife Habitat presented by two biologists based in the Adirondacks. They acknowledged that new solar arrays would take precedence over wildlife migration corridors.
- David noted that 4 members of the CAC are up for renewal with interviews scheduled for December 29. Adelia Moore will resign from the CAC to devote time to other commitments.
- David proposed that we become a member of the New York State Association of Conservation Commissions. The dues are \$75.00 annually. The CAC voted yes, unanimously.
- **Water Study:** The Source Water Protection Plan will be presented to the Town Board in late winter/early spring. Steve Winkley has been updating maps. Peg Munves has found a testing lab with a discounted rate per test of \$247, to include PFOA/PFOS. Steve will advise on sites.
- **Infrastructure:** Peg and Deb Gordon are exploring the possibility of developing wastewater treatment for downtown New Lebanon in conjunction with the BEDC Infrastructure Committee. A feasibility study could be done at zero cost to the town. They will look at both traditional sewage treatment and the more environmentally friendly *living machine system*. Peg noted that South Burlington, VT, a town of about 20,000, uses a living machine system.
- **Trees for Tribes:** Donald Lamonaca reported that the remaining unplanted potted seedlings were winterized just before the snow. Peg will present a revised planting plan to the Town Board in March. David will relay the approved plan to the Trees for Tribes staff.
- **Critical Environmental Areas:** David will arrange a presentation to the Town Board in January. Decisions on recommended buffer zones await and will determine how many abutters need to be contacted. Bruce Shenker has been reaching out to abutters and so far there have been no nos. Phil Gellert has expressed concern about how CEAs may impact his property values. For Gellert's Cemetery Road parcel, Gretchen Stevens recommends a buffer that protects the entire steep slope from lumbering.
- **Climate Vulnerability plan:** Steve Powers reported that while the partnership with Cornell continues, nothing new will happen until next year. Cornell Cooperative Extension and the students did a Climate Resilience Plan in May. It included an Excel spreadsheet with 120 items and a Word document with up to 10 accommodations. If the Town Board accepts the report, it will be posted on the Town's website.
- **Planning Board:** The plan for the Historic Overlay District has been redrawn. Carol Reichert has proposed opening a museum on their property. Opponents of Nokomis have hired an attorney. The proposed RV storage facility needs now to respond to the scoping document.

*Minutes for CAC monthly meeting on December 13, 2021, continued*

- **Comprehensive Plan Update:** The Town Board will vote on a resolution approving the updated plan tomorrow evening. The process, begun in 2019, will then be complete with implementation to follow. Due to the pandemic's unforeseen impacts on the town, the updated plan is meant to be revisited in 3-5 years. The Natural Resource Conservation Plan is an integral part. Hudsonia has agreed to update two maps to reflect the expanded Hand Hollow State Forest.
- **Zoning Rewrite Committee:** Regulations for Food Trucks and other matters will be addressed in the new year.

The next CAC monthly meeting will be January 10, 2022, at 6:30 P.M. via Zoom. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted by Robert Gilson*