

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

Minutes for monthly meeting, November 13, 2017

Samson Environmental Center, Darrow School

Present: CAC members Cynthia Creech, David Farren, Jack Lancto, Peg Munves, Craig Westcott and guests Gretchen Stevens of Hudsonia and Ingrid Haeckel of the Hudson River Estuary Program

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 P.M. Members had no suggested revisions to the minutes for the monthly meeting on October 9, 2017, and they were approved.

Gretchen Stevens led us through a discussion of the bound Natural Resource Conservation Plan (NRCP), received by CAC members on November 6 and distributed to the various board members. The final document had been posted also on the town's web site. We congratulated Gretchen on the exemplary document and will propose at the Town Board's November 14 meeting that the NRCP be approved by resolution at their December 12 meeting. The resolution would be the culminating action of our work plan as submitted with the grant application to the Hudson River Estuary Program. We will also address pricing for copies of the bound NRCP to be sold to the public.

We focused on tasks yet to be completed. David Farren suggested that Darrow students during Hands to Work sessions could help fashion an online scenic resource inventory, using precise coordinates and photographs taken from different angles, and Craig Westcott thought this possible. More sites remain to be captured, especially in the western half of town. Identifying potential Critical Environmental Areas (CEAs) is another task to be completed. Ingrid Haeckel knows of only one CEA in Columbia County at the moment, in Greenport, protecting that town's public water supply. The CAC will also need to develop protocols for updating NCRP maps and other information. Gretchen will provide the town with her complete data files to allow for updating when necessary. Also, David and Tistrya Houghtling will need to complete the final reports required by the grant on December 13, following payment of the printer's invoice that the Town Board is expected to approve at their December 12 meeting.

The final town budget for 2018 allocates \$2,000 to the CAC.

Initial responses to the well water survey for the Source Water Protection Plan, as reported by Steve Winkley, have been too few. David will ask the Town Clerk to post a reminder on the town web site, with a link to the survey, to be followed if necessary with a blast email reminder.

We turned our attention to pending proposals before the Planning Board. Cynthia Creech and David plan to attend the next meeting of the Planning Board, scheduled for 7:30 P.M. on November 15, and expect to be able to address concerns about the Stewart's Shops expansion. Craig made known his displeasure that the CAC's advice seems not to have registered in deliberations by the Planning Board.

The next monthly meeting for the CAC will be Monday, December 11, starting at 6:30 P.M. at Darrow's Samson Environmental Center.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted by David Farren*