

09.14.2015 Meeting Minutes, Town of New Lebanon Conservation Advisory Council
Samson Environmental Center, Darrow School
Attendees: Cynthia Creech, Jack Lancto, David Farren
Absent: Craig Westcott
Call to order 6:38 pm
Adjourned at 7:45 pm

Cynthia Creech related the process of introducing a resolution to the New Lebanon Town Board requesting that the Wyomanock Creek be added to the list of designated inland waterways in New York State. The Town Board adopted the resolution at its meeting on September 8 and additionally authorized Supervisor Mike Benson to send a cover letter with the resolution asking State Senator Kathy Marchione to introduce a bill. The Senate creates the bill and forwards the resolution to State Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin for the Assembly to create its own. Mike Benson's letter with a copy of the adopted resolution has been sent. David Farren will ask Stephentown colleagues with the Corkscrew Rail Trail Association to approach Larry Eckhardt and request that the Stephentown Town Board adopt an equivalent resolution to be forwarded to State Senator Marchione. Colleen Teal is to forward the documents as attachments to David.

David Farren related course content and passed out information from the 3-day Short Course on Habitat and Water Resource Assessment that he completed at the NYSDEC regional office in New Paltz last week (the course ran from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM Thursday, Friday and Saturday). Identifying intermittent woodland pools can be done in the fall since the pools leave behind telltale indicators even when they are dry. Much of our work pulling together a Natural Resources Conservation Plan (NRCP) for the Town of New Lebanon can be done using open source mapping resources. For continuity, it will be important to assess resources beyond the town's physical boundaries. Cynthia Creech confirmed that Christine Dreyfus would be happy for her property to be Site 1 for the NRCP.

Gretchen Stevens of Hudsonia was the lead instructor for the Short Course, assisted by Laura Heady and Ingrid Haeckel of the Hudson River Estuary Program. We are awaiting word about the grant, which should come shortly. If we are not awarded the grant in this cycle, a new round of funding will be announced this fall.

The Town Board has yet to confirm dates for budget hearings. A CAC member will need to advocate for funding over two years for our NRCP project.

The next meeting of the New Lebanon CAC will occur on Monday, October 12 (Columbus Day), 2015, at the Samson Environmental Center at Darrow School, 6:30-8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by David Farren