

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

Monthly Meeting minutes

May 9, 2016

Samson Environmental Center, Darrow School

Present: Cynthia Creech, David Farren, Peg Munves, Craig Westcott

The meeting called was called to order at 6:35 P.M.

We welcomed Peg Munves as our newest member.

Cynthia Creech provided an update on town developments and suggested that the CAC co-sponsor workshops on solar energy that are contemplated by the Zoning Re-write Committee. We agreed to do so. She attended the first half hour of the presentation on climate change arranged by Bruce Shenker at the Town Library on April 19 and was pleased to see three members of the Town Board and a good turnout of concerned townspeople there.

Craig Westcott had to depart early but before leaving provided an update on the Hands to Work mapping sessions at Darrow, which have been key to launching the Natural Resources Conservation Plan (NRCP).

David Farren related developments in the NRCP, specifically the first site verification visits on Darrow's grounds. They have gone well. Gretchen Stevens and Conrad Vispo, our consultants, accompanied Craig, David and Peg. Abe and Marshal, the Darrow students who have done remote mapping during the Hands to Work sessions, accompanied us once. The remote mapping is nearly complete and we will work with Gretchen in selecting landowners to approach about site verification visits throughout the summer. Peg Munves volunteered to be a point person in securing permission.

We discussed anticipated NRCP developments and agreed to display a poster board at each Farmer's Market and at the town picnic in late July. We will ask Gretchen Stevens to present an NRCP update at a Town Board meeting in June or July. We agreed to publicize that presentation in the Grow the Valley newsletter and to provide an update on NRCP progress in the reconstituted town newsletter that is delivered quarterly to every postal address in town.

Photographs will be a key element of the completed NRCP. Photographers will be cited and good quality photographs of the town's natural resources are invited from all sources.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted by David Farren*