

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

Minutes for monthly meeting, March 12, 2018

Samson Environmental Center, Darrow School

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 P.M. Members approved the minutes for the monthly meeting on January 8, 2018. No meeting had been scheduled in February due to two Quad Board meetings, one on January 30 and another on February 27.

We discussed the Quad Board meetings. Cynthia Creech, Jack Lancto and Peg Munves attended both meetings and David Farren the first. At the second meeting, the Town Attorney, Town Engineer and one ZBA member voiced forceful support of conservation and cited the quality of the *Natural Resource Conservation Plan for the Town of New Lebanon 2017*, appreciated by CAC members. The Town Attorney made plain the NRCP and Comprehensive Plan could not be ignored.

We focused on tasks yet to be completed. Craig Westcott withdrew his assurance that Hands to Work students could help with an online scenic resources inventory, saying it is not a priority. He also announced he will leave his position at Darrow at the end of the academic year and is looking for a place to live in the area. He may relocate outside New Lebanon. The push to identify Critical Environmental Areas (CEAs) and gain approval from the Town Board will be placed on a back burner. Zoning issues seem to predominate for now. We agreed that a 3-year cycle for updates to the NRCP seems feasible.

David discussed the CAC Roundtable held on January 29 in Hudson, convened by Christine Vanderlan of the Columbia Land Conservancy. The attendance was smaller than usual but the audience appreciated his update on developments in New Lebanon. The fact that the CAC is asked to respond to every development proposal, and be notified at the sketch plan stage, was viewed as an impressive achievement.

David provided an update on the 2017 Annual Report he is working on. It will be available for review before the April monthly meeting.

We next addressed pending proposals before the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. The Michael Darcy application for Home Occupancy on Lovers Lane for his trucking business will come up for a vote at the next ZBA meeting. At the February special meeting, Cynthia Creech testified against the application as an abutting landowner and felt she was shouted down by one ZBA member.

David suggested that the CAC could offer programs to the summer recreation camp in Shatford Park as a way to introduce young people to environmental awareness.

The next monthly meeting for the CAC will be Monday, April 9, 2018, starting at 6:30 P.M. at Darrow's Samson Environmental Center.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted by David Farren*