

Conservation Advisory Council, Town of New Lebanon

Minutes for May 13, 2019

New Lebanon Town Hall

Present: CAC members Cynthia Creech, David Farren, Bob Gilson, Steve Powers, Paul Rix

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. We approved the meeting minutes for April 8, 2019, to be posted on the town's web site by the Town Clerk.

Cynthia Creech provided an update on the Democratic Party town caucus and the endorsed candidates for the November elections. David Farren shared his materials from the New York State Land Trust Alliance (LTA) Land Conservation Symposium held in Saratoga Springs on March 3. Staff members of the New York State Hemlock Institute (NYSHI) based at Cornell University would be happy to address citizen groups and provide instruction on how to identify Hemlock Woolly Adelgid infestations and, as importantly, lack of the same. David described his experience on May 2 working with a small group of Taconic Hiking Club members, led by Karen Ross, to clean up the Taconic Crest Trail. The trail within New Lebanon survived the winter in remarkably good condition. He also provided an update on the Corkscrew Rail Trail's acquisition of the Lover's Lane parcel. Starting June 1, there will be three clean-up Saturdays during the month of June. We also discussed the adjoining parcel with the railroad station.

Steve Powers provided a summary of the Map Reading Workshop that he and David attended on April 30 at the Colonie Town Library. Ingrid Haeckel and Nate Nardi-Cyrus of the Hudson River Estuary Program (HREP) led the training. David will ask the Town Clerk to post a link to the HREP's Natural Resources Mapper on the CAC home page and explore whether the Land Use Office should also post it.

We discussed goals for 2019. David and Steve Powers will work together to update the Scenic Resources Inventory once the town establishes an account with Google, which should be shortly. The field tablet requires an official Gmail account to access Gaia GPS, our tracking software. Paul Rix will not be involved with Hands to Work at Darrow School. Meanwhile, he and Peg Munves need to work together to plan conservation programming for the summer camp in Shatford Park. Also, we will identify Critical Environmental Areas in town at the June meeting.

David provided an update on the Comprehensive Plan revision. Thanks to a posting in the town newsletter, at least 7 town residents have expressed interest in working on the revision with the Zoning Rewrite Committee. The vetting process to appoint 4 may take several months. At Cynthia's suggestion, we will begin assessing the 2005 Action Plan at our June meeting with the aim of achieving consensus as a CAC on which of the outlined action items remain to be achieved and how to address new action items.

We were informed of the Planning Board agenda for May 15 (the first Wednesday was May 1) and Bob Gilson volunteered to attend. The CAC has no concerns on either of the agenda's two proposals.

The next monthly meeting for the CAC will be Monday, June 10, 2019, starting at 6:30 P.M. at the New Lebanon Town Hall. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by David Farren