

Conservation Advisory Council, Town of New Lebanon

Minutes for January 13, 2020

New Lebanon Town Hall

Present: CAC members Cynthia Creech, David Farren, Bob Gilson, Peg Munves

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 P.M. We discussed the meeting minutes for December 9, 2019; once redrafted, David Farren will submit them to the Town Clerk for posting.

We discussed the last Town Board meeting of 2019 and the upcoming meeting of a newly constituted Town Board. Deb Gordon will be our liaison. The contentious final meeting of 2019 suffered from incorrect information regarding the Corkscrew Rail Trail, referred to as the Stephentown Rail Trail. Cynthia Creech and Peg Munves responded during that meeting but without correcting the misnomer.

David distributed a final list of action items still pending from the *2005 Comprehensive Plan* that the CAC will recommend be retained. We discussed several items in agriculture that had been added and agreed to submit the final list to the Comprehensive Plan Revision Committee.

We discussed topics that should be included in a 2019 Annual Report for the CAC. David will create a draft document for members to review. David also shared the butterfly identification cards created by the Vispos of Hawthorne Valley Farmscape Ecology Program.

Regarding 2020 CAC goals, we confirmed that cool ravines will be the first Critical Environmental Areas that we propose to the Town Board. We will first need to research them thoroughly and then formulate our rationale. David and Steve Powers will complete their work updating scenic view sheds and roads in town with the goal of creating an interactive online resource. Peg proposed a water study to include testing at selected sites in town, a follow-up to the water quality forum she had sponsored back in March. Steve Winkley's Rural Water Association may be able to underwrite the costs of testing. We suggested that students at New Lebanon Jr/Sr. High School and Darrow School could be involved.

Bob Gilson will attend the Planning Board meeting on January 15, 2020. One pending proposal is to install a laundromat in the vacant storefront at the Rtes. 20/22 end of the Dollar Store plaza. The contemplated septic system would need to be adequate.

The next monthly CAC meeting will be Monday, February 10, 2020, 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