

Conservation Advisory Council, Town of New Lebanon

Minutes for February 10, 2020; New Lebanon Town Hall

Present: CAC members Cynthia Creech, David Farren, Peg Munves, Paul Rix

Guests: Deb Gordon (our Town Board liaison), Carole Roseman, Sal & Hollis Shariff

We called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M. and agreed to submit the meeting minutes for January 12, 2020, to the Town Clerk for posting. We welcomed four guests, including Deb Gordon, our liaison from the Town Board. Cynthia Creech explained the absence of two CAC members. We discussed the first Town Board meeting of 2020 presided over by the new Town Supervisor and the contention surrounding the no-smoking zone created at the main entrance. Joe Ogilvie plans to read a letter at tomorrow's Town Board meeting setting the record straight about the Corkscrew Rail Trail.

David Farren is still writing a draft 2019 Annual Report and will share it before the March meeting. Regarding 2020 CAC goals, David and Steve Powers need to complete their work on updating the Scenic Resources map and determine how best to create an interactive link on the town's website. Peg Munves volunteered to take the first go at writing a justification for making cool ravines the first Critical Environmental Area we propose to the Town Board. Peg provided a brief update on the proposed water study. A limited number of tests can be funded by the New York Rural Water Association but sites have yet to be selected. We discussed the Climate Smart presentation scheduled for tomorrow evening's Town Board meeting and the proposed resolution. Carole Roseman pointed out that many different avenues exist for the town to demonstrate success in becoming Climate Smart. Carole also suggested that air quality be addressed in the revised Comprehensive Plan. She doesn't see it addressed in the Natural Resource Conservation Plan. She has raised her concern about unacknowledged health effects caused by smoke from homes heated with wood.

Deb Gordon reviewed the steps necessary to secure funding for a municipal wastewater system, starting with a pre-feasibility study. She believes such a system is necessary for economic development to be successful in the town's commercial district. She is concerned that Darrow's Living Machine model, worthy of consideration, may be ruled out by bond issue requirements for a municipality.

In Bob Gilson's absence, David will try to attend the Planning Board meeting on February 19, 2020. The proposal to install a laundromat in the Dollar Store plaza should be on the agenda. The Planning Board has been asked to respond to proposed changes to the zoning ordinances.

The next monthly CAC meeting will be Monday, March 9, 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