

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

Minutes for March 9, 2020; New Lebanon Town Hall

Present: CAC members Cynthia Creech, David Farren, Peg Munves, Steve Powers, Paul Rix; guests Bruce Shenker, Carole Roseman, Steve Dono

We called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M. and agreed to submit the meeting minutes for February 10, 2020, to the Town Clerk for posting. We also agreed to submit CAC Annual Reports for 2018 and 2019 for posting. We welcomed guests Bruce Shenker, Carole Roseman and Steve Dono, who joined us for the Climate Smart Community Task Force discussion and, in the case of Roseman and Dono, the Trees for Tribes program on their property.

David Farren and Steve Powers had joined Beth Roessler and intern Anna Palmer of Trees for Tribes at 9:00 A.M. on March 5 for a site evaluation of the Roseman property on C.R. 9. Beth and Anna had driven from the Hudson River Estuary Program in New Paltz. We explored both sides of C.R. 9 and open fields above the stream that flows the length of the Roseman property. Beth and Anna indicated that the property would be a good candidate to receive free trees from N.Y. State for planting along the riparian corridor as an erosion remedy. They suggested that 10-12 volunteers would need to devote 2-4 hours of labor on two successive days, the first to dig holes, the second to plant trees. The seedlings would need to be protected from deer browsing with plastic sleeves and shouldn't require soil amendments. Thanks to wet soil along the stream bed, the seedlings should then require a minimum of maintenance.

Steve has agreed to chair the Climate Smart Community Task Force. Bob Gilson and Peg Munves would likely also join the Task Force as CAC members. Bruce Shenker would coordinate with N.Y. State authorities. We agreed that every community member who has expressed interest in the task force should be invited to join. At this point, Bruce, Carole Roseman and Steve Dono excused themselves from the meeting.

Regarding 2020 CAC goals, David will contact Sharon Powers to set a time to work on the Scenic Resources map, updating it with new scenic viewsheds and roads that he and Steve had confirmed or identified last fall. Sharon may also be able to help explore ways to create an interactive web site for scenic resources. Peg Munves wrote a draft justification for making Cool Ravines the first Critical Environmental Area that we propose to the Town Board. Paul Rix agreed to reach out to Michelle Bienes and to Michael Clough at the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum to set a date for another nature presentation to the Summer Recreation Program in Shatford Park. Peg provided a brief update on the proposed water study and we then discussed at length the well monitoring tests that NYSDEC had conducted at the abandoned Town Land Fill and concurred on a public statement to the Town Board.

The next monthly CAC meeting will be Monday, April 13, 2020, starting at 6:30 P.M. via a Zoom video conference. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted by David Farren*