

Conservation Advisory Council, Town of New Lebanon

Minutes for April 13, 2020, via Zoom

Present: CAC members Jenna Barbary, Cynthia Creech, David Farren, Peg Munves, Steve Powers, Paul Rix; guest Bruce Shenker

We called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. and agreed to submit the meeting minutes for March 9, 2020, to the Town Clerk for posting. David Farren introduced prospective CAC member Jenna Barbary and we welcomed guest Bruce Shenker.

Trees for Tribes has chosen the Roseman property on C.R. 9 as its first site in New Lebanon. We will need to recruit volunteers and coordinate a delivery time and work schedules to dig holes and plant seedlings along the riparian corridor on the property. The seedlings will be labeled and come with tubes and weed mats. Delivery has been scheduled for May 17 but planting could take several weeks.

Creating the Climate Smart Community Task Force with Steve Powers as chair and Bruce Shenker as the NYSDEC liaison is an agenda item for the Town Board meeting tomorrow evening. Steve will then schedule the first meeting. Jenna Barbary's CAC appointment is another agenda item tomorrow evening. Jenna and Bob Gilson have agreed to join Steve as CAC members on the task force.

Regarding 2020 CAC goals, David met Sharon Powers at her home on March 11 to revise the Scenic Resources map. Thanks to Sharon's diligence and the Town Clerk's sharing the NRCP PDF files, the map and table will now identify additional view sheds and scenic roads when the NRCP is next reprinted. Sharon would be happy to explore ways to create the interactive web site we envision for scenic resources. David has yet to address the draft justification prepared by Peg Munves for Cool Ravines to be the first Critical Environmental Area we propose to the Town Board. We agreed it would be best to propose CEAs in Town Hall once Town Board meetings convene there again. Paul Rix still needs to reach out to Michelle Bienes and naturalist Michael Clough to set a date for Michael to present to the summer recreation program in Shatford Park. The proposed water study has taken a back seat to the PFOA contamination at the abandoned town landfill. Paul will reach out to other communities that have faced the same issue. Meanwhile, the Supervisor has notified all landowners within a half mile of the landfill and down gradient to expect NYSDEC to approach them about well tests.

The next monthly CAC meeting will be Monday, May 11, 2020, starting at 6:30 P.M. via video conference. Cynthia Creech suggested that we meet face to face at the Shatford Park pavilion, maintaining social distancing, but Paul wouldn't be able to join.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by David Farren