

Conservation Advisory Council, Town of New Lebanon

Minutes for July 8, 2019

New Lebanon Town Hall

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. We approved the meeting minutes for June 10, 2019, to be posted on the town's web site by the Town Clerk.

David Farren shared the copy of the County's *2018 Natural Resources Inventory* that he borrowed from the Town Clerk's office. Tistrya has created a link to the Hudson River Estuary Program's Natural Resource Mapper on the CAC's web site. Cissy Hernandez has expressed interest in doing the same for the Land Use Office.

We revisited the Critical Environmental Areas (CEAs) we had identified last month and reached a consensus that it would be best to propose CEAs once elections for the Town Board occur in November. We could propose our entire list or introduce one habitat at a time. We concurred that areas with extensive aquifers, the Shaker Swamp, the Knob and other unfragmented forests, cool ravines, riparian corridors with ancient forest patches, and hedge rows on agricultural lands are all potential CEAs. In addition, certain ponds may merit special protection.

Paul Rix gave an update on the raptor demonstration scheduled for August 2 in Shatford Park.

The town now has a Google account. David will work with Tistrya to recover the Gaia GPS program purchased by the town in December 2017 through Craig Westcott's Google account. David and Steve Powers will then update the Scenic Resources Inventory, to include roads, and create an interactive inventory to be posted on the town's web site.

The Zoning Rewrite Committee (ZRC) interviewed seven candidates in mid-June to join the committee to revise the Comprehensive Plan and reached quick consensus on four town residents. Meanwhile, the ZRC's recommended changes to the zoning ordinances are still awaiting review by the Town Attorney.

Bob Gilson plans to attend the Planning Board meeting on July 17.

The next monthly meeting for the CAC will be Monday, August 12, 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