

2021 Annual Report to LaFayette Town Board

LaFayette Advisory Conservation Commission (LACC)

March 3, 2022

Submitted by: Mark Distler, LACC Chair

LACC Members:

Doug Anderson	Carole Dwyer	Isabella Shenandoah-Kurtz	Larkin Podsiedlik
Amy Roe	Markus Schaub	Keith Terrell	Claire Virnoche
Kelly Wypych	Rachel Zevin		

In accordance with the Town of LaFayette code Chapter 15 (Local Law 1-1971), this the 2021 annual report of the activities and work of the LACC. Starting in April, monthly reports were submitted to the Town Board for review at its monthly meetings.

1. **Membership** – Beginning in March with the Town Board appointment of Mark Distler as LACC chair and Carole Dwyer as member, an advertisement for members was placed in the Town newsletter. Volunteers responded and four new members were appointed in April. Through September, one member and two student members were appointed, and two members were offered auxiliary memberships (*i.e.*, no appointment, no voting rights). At the end of 2021, LACC had 7 appointed members, 2 student members, and 2 auxiliary members.
2. **Meetings** – The LACC met five times from April to December. Two of the LACC's ex officio's, Town Supervisor McConnell and Highway Superintendent Robson, attended one meeting each. Meetings focused primarily on initiating and checking on the LACC's projects and programs identified below.
3. **Projects & Programs** - The attached table summarizes the LACC activities and work. It includes 10 new projects (7 active and 3 completed) requested by the Town Supervisor and 3 programs selected by the LACC to build a community conservation culture. Also included are 5 new projects that the LACC will include in its 2022 work.

LACC Project & Program Status Summary

Projects	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Sub team</u>	<u>Current Actions</u>	<u>Previous Actions</u>
Comprehensive Plan Goal #2	Lead the execution of the 12 action items listed under Goal #2 of the 2021 Comprehensive Plan	Mark	-Identify volunteers and subject matter experts needed to conduct 5 action items to be worked on in 2022	-Prepared plan to complete Goal #2 action items
Senior Center	Propose concepts to connect visitors to the nature of Stafford Park	Kelly, Larkin, Mark	-ESF to design ravine landscape & new park plantings in Spring '22 -Look for grants that could fund the construction	-Met ESF to discuss their involvement -Received Supervisor's and Optimist's approval to proceed w/ ESF -Got construction ROM cost estimates for ravine & nature trail plantings
Parks	Propose concepts to increase visitor's awareness of nature and/or environment	Amy, Keith, Mark	-Obtain cost estimates for trees & benches and decide with Optimists on program details -Receive designs from ESF ~May '22 -Select concept for Bailey Park for Spring '22	-Developed list of concepts -Finalized list of plantings for ESF by September; involve Optimists & Prince -Drafted tree/bench memorial program -Received Supervisor approval to obtain cost estimates -Worked out transaction details w/ Chartrand & Marzo
Bailey Park Upgrades	Support Optimists about 2022 upgrades for the Park by helping them communicate with Cardiff Hamlet	Amy	-Provide community input on suggested upgrades	
Electric Car Charging Stations	Develop scope & cost for stations on Town property	Mark, Rachel	-Confirm NYSDEC ZEV grant funding for 2022 -Receive cost estimate from MakeReady contractor -Provide cost estimate and ROI to TB & recommend funding applications	-Contacted CNYRPDB to learn about funding options -Got Supervisor approval to contact contractors -Met with MakeReady contractor at Town office to start cost estimate process, discussed concepts with Supervisor

Solar Farms	Propose recommendations to revise and update the solar farms law (§290-32 (H))	Carole, Kelly, Doug	-Support TB evaluation of proposed recommendations	-Researched other towns' guidance -Drafted recommendation edits to current law -Completed internal review -Submitted recommendations memo to Supervisor -Submitted recommended edits to Town Attorney
Agritourism	Recommend approaches to create a Town initiative	Isabella, Larkin	-Discuss possible scopes with Palmer & McConnell -Consider farm products census	-Discussed possible scopes with Supervisor
Wild Parsnip	Propose approaches to manage the risk of plant at Stafford Park	Claire, Kelly	-Recommend distribution of the new fact sheet via newsletter and social media (discuss with information officer) -Consider expanding resident education to other invasive and hazardous plants	-Discussed with Supervisor prior to identification -Prepared warning signs for installation at parks -Developed fact sheet
Land Use Independent Study (AI 2-1)	Conduct an independent study of regulatory techniques and land use controls to manage future development in order to preserve the Town's public vistas and critical environmental and agricultural areas	Mark, Kelly, ?	Under development	
SEQR Training (AI 2-6)	Enhance understanding of the SEQR process by all review boards to protect our natural resources from the potential negative impacts of development	Mark, Kelly, ?	Under development	
Green Infrastructure & renewable resources for Town	Review and revise the Town Code to include provisions for green infrastructure and renewable energy use	Mark, Keith, ?	Under development	

developments (AI 2-7)	in both building and site design			
UNA & CEA Identification (AI 2-10)	Review and revise the Town Code to include provisions for green infrastructure and renewable energy use in both building and site design	Mark, Amy, ?	Under development	
Tree Planting Program (AI 2-12)	Establish a tree planting program for Town-owned properties and public ROWS	Mark, Rachel, Keith	Under development	

Culture Building Programs

Town Newsletter Articles	Provide communications that increase resident's awareness to nature and environmental conservation	Rotating authors	-Write 2Q article due March on solar farms & community solar -Future topics: glass recycling	22Q1 - People & plastics 21Q4 - LACC update, plastic recycling 21Q3 - LACC update, tick safety
Town Website	Post conservation topics on a LACC web page	Mark	-Continually update content	-Obtained Supervisor & IO approvals -Added existing content to the site page
Resident Experts	Use volunteer resident experts to address conservation-related needs of Boards, as they come up	Mark	Speak with Supervisor about program and ways to eliminate liability concerns for volunteers	

Completed Projects

Comprehensive Plan Update	Participate on Tiger Team to update 2012 Comprehensive Plan	Carole, Kelly, Mark	COMPLETED	-Submitted input on vision, goals, objectives, action items -Provided input on land use approaches -Wrote FAQs for public communication -Prepared for public open house & hearing (10/28) -Provided input on revisions to CP based on public input -Define and organize the
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				Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee (CPIC)
Bailey Park Tree Planting	Coordinate planting of trees at Bailey Park to replace those removed	Amy, Mark	COMPLETED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Obtained cost quote to plant 5 trees -Received Supervisor's approval -Coordinated planting & residents' donation
Apple Valley Park Noise	Provide technical support of noise & noise ordinance	Mark	COMPLETED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Conducted noise evaluation during concert, submitted report -Recommended revisions to noise ordinance