

Monthly Report to LaFayette Town Board

LaFayette Advisory Conservation Commission (LACC)

October 6, 2022

Submitted by: Mark Distler, LACC Chair

These are the LACC activities between September 5 and October 6, 2022:

1. **Membership** – No change.
2. **Meetings** –A meeting was held on September 27. Nine members attended. New student member, Payton Kremers, introduced himself and lead a discussion about the blight of the honey bee. A meeting summary will be available in the next month’s report.
3. **Projects & Programs** - See attached status summary of projects requested by the Town Supervisor and programs selected to build a community conservation culture. Of note:
 - a. Three trees were planted at Stafford Park, the first of the Memorial Tree and Bench Program.
 - b. The SEQR Enhancement training was conducted for the Zoning Board of Appeals (chair and one member) on September 27. The final training will be for the Planning Board.
 - c. The Town’s community solar subscription agreement was signed and submitted. The Town is now saving on 12 of its 13 electric accounts. A press release is being prepared for Town Board review.

Attachments: LACC Project Status Summary

LACC Project & Program Status Summary

Projects	Objective	Project Team	Current Actions	Previous Actions
Senior Center	Develop landscaping design that will connect visitors to the nature of Stafford Park	Kelly, Larkin, Mark	ON HOLD -Design ravine landscape & new park plantings in Spring '23	-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, Markus	-Decide on option for Bailey Park	-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 -Designed tree and bench locations -Obtained latest cost estimates & finalized details -Got program approved by TB -Launched program on website via social media channels
Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	Develop scope & cost for stations on Town property	Mark, Rachel	-Receive additional cost estimate and develop ROI -Submit recommendation for TB approval -If approved, apply for NYSDEC ZEV grant	-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 -Received cost estimate from MakeReady contractor

Invasive & Hazardous Plants	Propose approaches to manage the risk of invasive & hazardous plants at our parks	Kelly, Craig	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Remind Optimists to repost wild parsnip posters in parks each Spring -Recommend community education on identifying & reporting invasive species -Develop educational materials about 3 invasive species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Discussed with Supervisor prior to identification -Prepared warning signs for installation at parks -Developed fact sheet -Wrote newsletter article on invasives
Community Solar	Promote NYS Community Solar program with residents	Mark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Write follow-up newsletter article -Manage Town's solar project subscription setup -Manage Town's benchmarking setup -Develop community campaign plan for approval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wrote newsletter article -Obtained cost savings estimate for Town to subscribe to solar project -Recommended 3 opportunities to TB, all approved
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Obtain funding via 2023 budget -Establish review committee -Conduct study -Draft recommendations to TB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Developed SOW for expert consultant & requested proposals -Received proposal from land use expert
SEQR Enhancement (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, Doug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Update and deliver program to PB & ZBA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Evaluated needs by interviewing those conducting SEQR reviews -Developed focused enhancement purpose -Researched enhancement options to meet needs -Recommended enhancement program to Supervisor -Prepared recommendation for program with SMEs -Delivered enhancement program to Town Board

UNA & CEA (AI 2-10)	Inventory and identify sensitive environmental areas in the Town and designate Unique Natural Areas (UNAs) or Critical Environmental Areas (CEAs) as defined by the NYSDEC	Mark, Amy, Larkin	-Survey experts & town residents for potential CEAs -Write description & rationale of potential CEAs -Review draft recommendations with review boards -Submit recommendations to TB	-Decided UNAs are the same as CEAs -Drafted initial list -Spoke with NYSDEC
Tree Planting Program (AI 2-12)	Establish a tree planting program for Town-owned properties and public ROWS	Mark, Rachel, Keith, Markus, Doug	-Inventory trees on Town properties -Develop cost estimate for new tree plantings -Research funding availability -Develop tree care program -Submit program recommendation to TB -Implement new tree planting and care program	-Decided to exclude ROWs from program since they are private properties -Identified properties and prepared maps of each

Culture Building Programs

Town Newsletter Articles	Provide communications that increase resident's awareness to nature and environmental conservation	Rotating authors	-Write 1Q article on invasive plants or honey bees, due December -Future topics: glass recycling	22Q4 - Invasive Species 22Q3 - Community Solar 22Q2 - Solar farm law 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 -Monthly updates
NYSACC Newsletter	Write article about LACC for NYSACC's quarterly newsletter	TBD	-Write article about LACC -Take photos of LACC, Bailey Park, Wild Parsnip, Stafford Park tree planting	

Completed Projects (since April 2021)

Agritourism	Recommend approaches to create a Town initiative	Isabella, Larkin, Markus	ON HOLD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Discussed possible scopes with Supervisor -Discussed possible projects with Palmer & McConnell
Solar Farms	Propose recommendations to revise and update the solar farms law (§290-32 (H))	Carole, Kelly, Doug	COMPLETED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Researched other towns' guidance -Drafted recommendation edits to current law -Completed internal review -Submitted recommendations memo to Supervisor -Submitted recommended edits to Town Attorney -Present proposed recommendations to Town Board
Comprehensive Plan Goal #2	Lead the execution of the 12 action items listed under Goal #2 of the 2021 Comprehensive Plan	Mark	COMPLETED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Prepared plan to complete Goal #2 action items -Identified volunteers and subject matter experts needed to conduct 5 action items for 2022 -Held kickoff meetings
Comprehensive Plan Update	Participate on Tiger Team to update 2012 Comprehensive Plan	Carole, Kelly, Mark	COMPLETED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -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 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