

## Monthly Report to LaFayette Town Board

LaFayette Advisory Conservation Commission (LACC)

April 7, 2022

Submitted by: Mark Distler, LACC Chair

These are the LACC activities between March 8 and April 7, 2022:

1. **Membership** – A new member has joined the LACC as an auxiliary member, Craig Archer. Also Carole Dwyer’s membership term ends this month and the LACC requests the Town Board to appoint her to another year (until April 2023).
2. **Meetings** – A meeting was held on March 24.
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. The LACC presented an overview of the Town’s revised solar farms law (§290-32 (H)) at the March 8 Town Board meeting and wrote an article about it for the Town’s newsletter. Since the revised law was approved, the LACC’s solar farms project is now considered closed.
  - b. Our Senior Center project is on hold until the Town’s decision on how to proceed given the high construction bids announced at the last Town Board meeting. In the meantime, the LACC received feedback from SUNY ESF that it could not find students to design the landscaping portion of the project. Working with the Optimists, the current plan is to ask local landscape companies to design the landscaping, of which preliminary response is positive.
  - c. As the Lead Party of Goal 2 (Preservation of Rural Character) of the 2021 Comprehensive Plan, the LACC started work on five of the 12 action items under that goal this year.

## LACC Project & Program Status Summary

<b>Projects</b>	<b><u>Objective</u></b>	<b><u>Sub team</u></b>	<b><u>Current Actions</u></b>	<b><u>Previous Actions</u></b>
<b>Senior Center</b>	Develop landscaping design that will connect visitors to the nature of Stafford Park	Kelly, Larkin, Mark	ON HOLD -? 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
<b>Parks</b>	Propose concepts to increase visitor's awareness of nature and/or environment	Amy, Keith, Mark, Markus	-Obtain cost estimates for trees & benches and decide with Optimists on program details -Receive designs from ? ~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
<b>Bailey Park Upgrades</b>	Support Optimists about 2022 upgrades for the Park by helping them communicate with Cardiff Hamlet	Amy	-Provide community input on suggested upgrades	
<b>Electric Vehicle Charging Stations</b>	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
<b>Agritourism</b>	Recommend approaches to create a Town initiative	Isabella, Larkin, Markus	-Discuss possible scopes with Palmer & McConnell -Consider farm products census	-Discussed possible scopes with Supervisor
<b>Invasive &amp; Hazardous Plants</b>	Propose approaches to manage the risk of invasive & hazardous plants at our parks	Claire, Kelly	-Repost old parsnip posters in parks in Spring -Consider expanding resident education	-Discussed with Supervisor prior to identification -Prepared warning signs for installation at parks -Developed fact sheet

<p><b>Land Use Independent Study (AI 2-1)</b></p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Mark, Kelly</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Receive proposals from land use experts</li> <li>-Obtain funding</li> <li>-Establish review committee</li> <li>-Conduct study</li> <li>-Draft recommendations to TB</li> </ul>	<p>-Developed SOW for expert consultant &amp; requested proposals (3 expected)</p>
<p><b>SEQR Enhancement (AI 2-6)</b></p>	<p>Enhance understanding of the SEQR process by all review boards to protect our natural resources from the potential negative impacts of development</p>	<p>Mark, Kelly, Doug</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Evaluate needs by interview of boards &amp; others conducting SEQR reviews</li> <li>-Develop focused enhancement purpose</li> <li>-Research enhancement options to meet needs</li> <li>-Recommend enhancement program to TB</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Green Infrastructure &amp; Renewable Energy (AI 2-7)</b></p>	<p>Review and revise the Town Code to include provisions for green infrastructure and renewable energy use in both building and site design</p>	<p>Mark, Keith</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Consider delaying this AI until after AI 2-8</li> <li>-Research codes of other towns</li> </ul>	
<p><b>UNA &amp; CEA (AI 2-10)</b></p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Mark, Amy, Larkin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Survey experts &amp; town residents for potential UNAs/CEAs</li> <li>-Write description of potential UNAs/CEAs</li> <li>-Review draft recommendations with review boards</li> <li>-Submit recommendations to TB</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Tree Planting Program (AI 2-12)</b></p>	<p>Establish a tree planting program for Town-owned properties and public ROWS</p>	<p>Mark, Rachel, Keith, Markus, Doug</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Inventory trees on Town properties &amp; ROWs</li> <li>-Work with OCSWCD to conduct tree risk assessment &amp; estimate new trees</li> <li>-Research and apply for funding</li> <li>-Develop tree care program</li> <li>-Submit program</li> </ul>	<p>-Decided to exclude ROWs from program</p>

			recommendation to TB -Implement new tree planting and care program	
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### Culture Building Programs

<b>Town Newsletter Articles</b>	Provide communications that increase resident's awareness to nature and environmental conservation	Rotating authors	-Write 3Q article on community solar farm, due June -Future topics: glass recycling	22Q2 - Solar Farm law 22Q1 - People & plastics 21Q4 - LACC update, plastic recycling 21Q3 - LACC update, tick safety
<b>Town Website</b>	Post conservation topics on a LACC web page	Mark	-Continually update content	-Obtained Supervisor & IO approvals -Added existing content to the site page
<b>Resident Experts</b>	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	
<b>NYSACC Newsletter</b>	Write article about LACC for NYSACC's quarterly newsletter	TBD	-Write article about LACC for the Spring edition due May 1 -Take photos of LACC, Bailey Park, Wild Parsnip, ?	

### Completed Projects (since April 2021)

<b>Solar Farms</b>	Propose recommendations to revise and update the solar farms law (§290-32 (H))	Carole, Kelly, Doug	COMPLETED	-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
<b>Comprehensive Plan Goal #2</b>	Lead the execution of the 12 action items listed under Goal #2 of the 2021 Comprehensive Plan	Mark	COMPLETED	-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

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