

Monthly Report to LaFayette Town Board

LaFayette Advisory Conservation Commission (LACC)

May 5, 2022

Submitted by: Mark Distler, LACC Chair

These are the LACC activities between April 8 and May 5, 2022:

1. **Membership** – No changes.
2. **Meetings** – No meeting was held. The next one is scheduled for May 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. As reported last month regarding our Senior Center project, the Optimists contacted local landscape companies to design the proposed landscaping for Stafford Park, and Carol Watson Greenhouse has agreed to help. A schedule has not been confirmed at this time.
 - b. Regarding the SEQR Enhancement project, interviews were conducted and needs were identified. After speaking with the Supervisor, the LACC is now working with the Town's SEQR experts to develop a training program for the Town's boards.

LACC Project & Program Status Summary

Projects	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Sub team</u>	<u>Current Actions</u>	<u>Previous Actions</u>
Senior Center	Develop landscaping design that will connect visitors to the nature of Stafford Park	Kelly, Larkin, Mark	ON HOLD -CWG 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, Markus	-Obtain cost estimates for trees & benches and decide with Optimists on program details -Receive designs from CWG ~? '22 -Select concept for Bailey Park for ? '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 Vehicle 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 grant 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
Agritourism	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
Invasive & Hazardous Plants	Propose approaches to manage the risk of invasive & hazardous plants at our parks	Claire, Kelly, Craig	-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>Land Use Independent Study (AI 2-1)</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"> -Receive proposals from land use experts -Obtain funding -Establish review committee -Conduct study -Draft recommendations to TB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Developed SOW for expert consultant & requested proposals
<p>SEQR Enhancement (AI 2-6)</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"> -Recommend enhancement program to Supervisor -Prepare program with SMEs -Deliver program to Town Board first 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Evaluated needs by interviewing those conducting SEQR reviews -Developed focused enhancement purpose -Researched enhancement options to meet needs
<p>UNA & CEA (AI 2-10)</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"> -Survey experts & town residents for potential UNAs/CEAs -Write description of potential UNAs/CEAs -Review draft recommendations with review boards -Submit recommendations to TB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Drafted initial list -Spoke with NYSDEC
<p>Tree Planting Program (AI 2-12)</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"> -Inventory trees on Town properties -Work with OCSWCD to conduct tree risk assessment & estimate new trees -Research and apply for funding -Develop tree care program -Submit program recommendation to TB -Implement new tree planting and care program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -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 3Q article on community solar, due June -Future topics: glass recycling	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
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	
NYSACC Newsletter	Write article about LACC for NYSACC's quarterly newsletter	TBD	-Write article about LACC due ~June -Take photos of LACC, Bailey Park, Wild Parsnip, Stafford Park tree planting	

Completed Projects (since April 2021)

Solar Farms	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
Comprehensive Plan Goal #2	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

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