

## Monthly Report to LaFayette Town Board

LaFayette Advisory Conservation Commission (LACC)

July 6, 2023

Submitted by: Mark Distler, LACC Chair

These are the LACC activities between June 3 and July 6, 2023:

1. **Membership** – One of the student members, Isabella Shenandoah-Kurtz, completed her two year term and has graduated. A new student member has been proposed by teach Dave Amidon. Please appoint our new student member, Kaitlyn Fabend, for a 2-year term.
2. **Meetings** – No meeting was held during this time period. The next meeting is scheduled for September 23.
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. **Invasives:** LACC placed 10 posters warning of wild parsnips at Stafford Park.
  - b. **Tree Program:** LACC completed a assessment of trees on Town-owned properties, and will prepare a maintenance plan and submit to the Town Board for consideration for 2024 funding.

Attachments: LACC Project Status Summary

## LACC Project & Program Status Summary

| Projects                                   | Objective  | Project Team                                   | Current Actions  | Previous Actions   |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Parks</b>                               | Propose concepts to increase visitor's awareness of nature and/or environment  | Amy, Keith, Mark, Markus                       | -Develop a memorial tree and bench program for Bailey Park   | -Developed list of concepts<br>-Finalized list of plantings for ESF by September; involve Optimists & Prince<br>-Drafted tree/bench memorial program for Stafford Park<br>-Received Supervisor approval to obtain cost estimates<br>-Worked out transaction details w/ Chartrand & Marzo<br>-Designed tree and bench locations<br>-Obtained latest cost estimates & finalized details<br>-Got program approved by TB<br>-Launched program on website via social media channels |
| <b>Electric Vehicle Charging Stations</b>  | Develop scope & cost for stations on Town property   | Mark, Kelly                                    | -Request other cost estimates<br>-Develop ROI with input from other pay-4-use<br>-Submit recommendation for TB approval<br>-If approved, apply for funding grants  | -Contacted CNRPPDB to learn about funding options<br>-Got Supervisor approval to contact contractors<br>-Met with MakeReady contractor at Town office to start cost estimate process<br>-Discussed concepts with Supervisor<br>-Received cost estimate from MakeReady contractor   |
| <b>Invasives*</b>                          | Propose approaches to manage the risk of invasives in our community  | Kelly, Craig                                   | -Add links to invasive educational material and remediation projects on town website<br>-Repost wild parsnip posters in parks each Spring  | -Discussed with Supervisor prior to identification<br>-Prepared warning signs for installation at parks<br>-Developed fact sheet<br>-Wrote newsletter article highlighting 3 invasives   |
| <b>Clean Energy Community*</b>             | Earn CEC designation under NYSERDA program and recommend energy reduction projects   | Mark, Craig, Keith                             | -Follow up on LED conversion project & check savings<br>-Collect Town building data for benchmarking setup<br>-Complete set up of Town's benchmarking program<br>-Consider next CEC action (e.g., clean energy audits)   | -Submitted TB's benchmarking resolution to NYSERDA<br>-Received NYSERDA CEC designation & \$5k grant<br>-Identified cost & energy saving for Town's street lighting conversion to LED<br>-Recommended street lighting LED conversion for TB approval<br>-Applied for & received \$5k CEC grant to cover LED conversion cost<br>-Authorized LED conversion project w/ Nat Grid  |
| <b>Land Use Independent Study (AI 2-1)</b> | 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                                    | -Obtain funding via 2024 budget<br>-Establish review committee<br>-Conduct study<br>-Draft recommendations to TB   | -Developed SOW for expert consultant & requested proposals<br>-Received proposal from land use expert  |
| <b>SEQR Enhancement (AI 2-6)</b>           | 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                              | -Deliver enhancement program to PB   | -Evaluated needs by interviewing those conducting SEQR reviews<br>-Developed focused enhancement purpose<br>-Researched enhancement options to meet needs<br>-Recommended enhancement program to Supervisor<br>-Prepared recommendation for program with SMEs<br>-Delivered enhancement program to Town Board & ZBA  |
| <b>UNA &amp; CEA (AI 2-10)*</b>            | Inventory and identify sensitive environmental areas in the Town and designate <del>Unique Natural Areas (UNAs)</del> or Critical Environmental Areas (CEAs) as defined by the NYSDEC                    | Amy, Darcy, Mark, Payton                       | -Survey experts & town residents for potential CEAs<br>-Write description & rationale of potential CEAs<br>-Review draft recommendations with review boards<br>-Submit recommendations to TB   | -Decided UNAs are the same as CEAs<br>-Drafted initial list<br>-Spoke with NYSDEC<br>-Spoke with some experts about potential CEAs   |
| <b>Tree Planting Program (AI 2-12)*</b>    | Establish a tree planting program for Town-owned properties <del>and public ROWS</del>   | Mark, Darcy, Doug, Keith, Markus, Gregg, Julie | -Develop plan for maintenance & new trees<br>-Consider application for Tree City USA designation<br>-Develop tree care program<br>-Submit program recommendation to TB<br>-Apply for NYSDEC funding for maintenance<br>-Implement new tree planting and care program | -Decided to exclude ROWs from program since they are private properties<br>-Identified properties and prepared maps of each<br>-Worked with CCE for free trees at Stafford Park<br>-Organized Arbor Day celebration during Stafford plantings on April 22, 2023<br>-Applied for & received \$1k grant from NYUFC for Arbor Day celebration   |

### Other Culture Building Programs

|                                 |  |                  |   |   |
|---------------------------------|--|------------------|---|---|
| <b>Town Newsletter Articles</b> | Provide communications that increase resident's awareness to nature and environmental conservation | Rotating authors | -Write 23Q3 article on invasives, due June 6<br>-Future topics: new recycling rules                       | 23Q3 -Spotted Lanternfly<br>23Q2- Honey bees<br>23Q1 - Community solar campaign<br>22Q4 - Invasive species<br>22Q3 - Community solar<br>22Q2 - Solar farm law<br>22Q1 - People & plastics<br>21Q4 - LACC update, plastic recycling<br>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<br>-Added existing content to the site page<br>-Updated monthly   |
| <b>NYSACC Newsletter</b>        | Write article about LACC for NYSACC's quarterly newsletter   | TBD              | -Write article about LACC<br>-Take photos of LACC, Bailey Park, Wild Parsnip, Stafford Park tree planting |   |

**Completed Projects** (since April 2021)

|                                   |   |   |  |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| <b>Agritourism</b>                | Recommend approaches to create a Town initiative  | Isabella, Larkin, Markus                | COMPLETED  | -Discussed possible scopes with Supervisor<br>-Discussed possible projects with Palmer & McConnell  |
| <b>Solar Farms Law</b>            | Propose recommendations to revise and update the solar farms law (§290-32 (H))                | Carole, Kelly, Doug                     | COMPLETED  | -Researched other towns' guidance<br>-Drafted recommendation edits to current law<br>-Completed internal review<br>-Submitted recommendations memo to Supervisor<br>-Submitted recommended edits to Town Attorney<br>-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<br>-Identified volunteers and subject matter experts needed to conduct 5 action items for 2022<br>-Held kickoff meetings  |
| <b>Comprehensive Plan Update</b>  | Participate on Tiger Team to update 2012 Comprehensive Plan                                   | Carole, Kelly, Mark                     | COMPLETED  | -Submitted input on vision, goals, objectives, action items<br>-Provided input on land use approaches<br>-Wrote FAQs for public communication<br>-Prepared for public open house & hearing (10/28)<br>-Provided input on revisions to CP based on public input<br>-Define and organize the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee (CPIC)   |
| <b>Bailey Park Tree Planting</b>  | Coordinate planting of trees at Bailey Park to replace those removed                          | Amy, Mark                               | COMPLETED  | -Obtained cost quote to plant 5 trees<br>-Received Supervisor's approval<br>-Coordinated planting & residents' donation   |
| <b>Apple Valley Park Noise</b>    | Provide technical support of noise & noise ordinance  | Mark                                    | COMPLETED  | -Conducted noise evaluation during concert, submitted report<br>-Recommended revisions to noise ordinance   |
| <b>Community Solar</b>            | Promote NYS Community Solar program with residents  | Mark, Amy, Kelly, Payton, Larkin, Keith | COMPLETED  | -Wrote newsletter article<br>-Obtained cost savings estimate for Town to subscribe to solar project<br>-Recommended 3 opportunities to TB, all approved<br>-Managed Town's subscription to solar project (started monthly savings)<br>-Developed community campaign plan for TB & NYSERDA approval<br>-Launched campaign<br>-Submitted documentation to NYSERDA & receive more grant points<br>-Presented at local group meeting<br>-Held webinar on February 28<br>-Tracked new subscriptions & applied for CEC grant points |
| <b>Senior Center</b>              | Develop landscaping design that will connect visitors to the nature of Stafford Park          | Kelly, Larkin, Mark                     | ON HOLD<br>-Design ravine landscape & new park plantings | -Met ESF to discuss their involvement<br>-Received Supervisor's and Optimist's approval to proceed w/ ESF<br>-Got construction ROM cost estimates for ravine & nature trail plantings   |