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LaFayette Advisory Conservation Commission

Report to LaFayette Town Board –June 2026

Submitted by Kelly Wypych, LACC Chair

Current Membership:

- Payton Kremers has served out his current term on the LACC. We thank him for his participation and leadership.

Highlights:

1. A workshop on the Preserving Rural Character project was held on May 18th and we've received draft report information and educational information from our consultant. The volunteer team is regrouping on June 15th to discuss what we've learned so far from the consultant.
2. A tree planting at the town offices was held on May 16th. LACC members and other volunteers planted several trees under the expert guidance of Julie Liebmann.
3. The contract for the approved tree removal has been signed.

An updated Project Status Table is attached.

Attachments:
LACC Updated Project Status Tables
Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Wypych for LACC

LACC Project & Program Status Summary – 5/31/2026

Projects	Objective	Project Team	Planned Actions	Previous Actions
Parks	Propose concepts to increase visitors' awareness of nature and/or environment	Amy, Keith, Mark	• Consider signage for plant & wildlife species, submit recommendation to TB (pushed until Spring)	• Bailey Park Memorial Program COMPLETED • Selected tree & bench locations, with input from Parks • Obtained TB approval to expand program • Launched program on website & via social media Stafford Park Memorial Program COMPLETED • Drafted tree/bench memorial program for Stafford Park • Received Supervisor prior approval to obtain cost estimates • Worked out transaction details w/ Bookkeeper & Optimists • Designed tree and bench locations • Obtained latest cost estimates & finalized details • Got program approved by TB • Launched program on website via social media
Clean Energy	Earn CEC designation under NYSERDA program and CSC certification under the NYSDEC program that help identify energy reduction and clean energy projects	Mark, Craig, Keith	• Identify another 34 CSC points so we can receive bronze certification and earn a $40k NYSERDA (CEC) grant	• Submitted TB's benchmarking resolution to NYSERDA • Received NYSERDA CEC designation & $5k grant • Identified cost & energy saving for Town's street lighting conversion to LED • Recommended street lighting LED conversion for TB approval • Applied for & received $5k CEC grant to cover LED conversion cost • Authorized LED conversion project w/ Nat Grid • Collected Town building data for benchmarking setup • Submitted NYSERDA application for high impact action for Town's community solar subscriptions • Completed set up of Town's benchmarking program, apply for NYSERDA grant credit • Applied for & received $5k grant from NYSERDA for Comm Ctr lighting upgrades • Requested free energy study of Community Center & $10k grant • Completed municipal fleet inventory & earned 200 grant points • Registered for CSC after passing a pledge resolution and task force resolution • Identified projects from energy study to use $10k grant at Comm Ctr • Confirmed & corrected savings from streetlight LED conversion • Obtained quote, completed work to add insulation at Comm Ctr • Submitted for reimbursement by $10k NYSERDA grant • Implemented clean heating/cooling community education plan (articles, ELW) • Provided educational information vis CNY Smart Energy at Community Day • Assessed benefit of leveraging National Grid grant for LED conversion at Community Center and Highway Building • Coordinated education display at Community Day with Smart Energy CNY
Rural Character Preservation (AI 21)	Conduct an independent study of land use techniques to manage future development in order to preserve the Town's public vistas and agricultural areas	Kelly, Mark, Craig, Doug, Payton	• Regroup with volunteer team to review and clarify draft report is set for June 15. • Draft study recommendations for review by the TB	• Developed SOW for expert consultant & requested proposals • Received proposal from land use expert • Received confirmation that County will approve 2025 grant to cover proposal cost • Submit recommendation to TB of study plan and received approval to accept grant & proposal Received County grant funding • Held kick off meeting with consultant, rough time phased plan underway • Published newsletter article seeking volunteers for the review committee • Developed time phased study plan • Received Draft Study report • Established volunteer Review Committee and held orientation meeting • Additional workshop with consultant was held on May 18

UNA & CEA (AI 210)	Inventory and identify sensitive environmental areas in the Town and designate Critical Environmental Areas (CEAs) as defined by the NYSDEC	Mark, Amy, Darcy, Payton	• Write recommendations of potential CEAs & PB awareness • Review draft recommendations with town boards • Submit recommendations to TB • Consider education/reminders about protected areas such as 100' from Butternut Creek for example.	• Decided UNAs are the same as CEAs • Drafted initial list • Spoke with NYSDEC • Spoke with experts & residents about potential CEAs
Tree Program (AI 212)	Establish a tree planting program for Townowned properties ~~and public ROWS~~	Mark, Darcy, Doug, Gregg, Julie, Payton	• Consider application for Tree City USA designation • Develop tree care program • Submit program recommendation to TB • Apply for NYSDEC funding for maintenance • 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 • Worked with CCE for free trees at Stafford Park • Organized Arbor Day celebration during Stafford plantings on April 22, 2023 • Applied for & received $1k grant from NYUFC for Arbor Day celebration • Surveyed trees on Town properties and delivered report to TB • Obtained quotes for tree maintenance and submitted for TB approval (not approved for 2025) • Recommendation submitted to TB for maintenance and new tree planting • Tree planting conducted at the town offices in May 2026
Maple Harvest Wind	Evaluate possible environmental and human impacts from planned wind project	Darcy, Mark	• Coordinating with other towns for communication with elected officials	• Researched new NYS permitting regulations and submitted findings & recommendations to TB (May 2024) • Identified possible impacts from planned project • Submitted findings and recommendations to Town Board (July 2024) • Recommended revisions to local law for TB adoption • Communicated concerns to County & Lemondes • Met with Senator May to communicate concerns and gain her support • Published an article for the January 2026 LaFayette Newsletter
Steep Slopes	Investigate and mitigate risk from areas with landslide potential	Darcy, Payton	• Set time to meet with Town Attorney to discuss potential law/code adjustments	• Review laws from nearby localities
Monarch Butterflies	Investigate ways to support Monarchs and engage local community	Amy Roe	• Write a recommendation to present to TB	•
Town Newsletter Articles	Provide communications that increase resident's awareness to nature and environmental conservation	Rotating authors	• Plan Q2 Newsletter Article (Septic System Care) • Future topics: Tree maintenance, Rural character study	• 2025 Energy/money saving, stormwater, C&D, CSC/CEC, Wind Farm • 2024 Rural character, Heat pumps, Air quality trends, 2023 accomplishments 2023 Recycling rules, Spotted lanternfly, Honey bees, Community solar campaign • 2022 Invasive species, Community solar, Solar farm law, People & plastics 2021 LACC update, Plastic recycling, Tick safety

Completed Projects
(since April 2021)

Repurpose C&D Materials	Educate contractors working in Town how to repurpose C&D materials	Keith, Craig	COMPLETED	• Learned about existing programs and outlets including list of resources • Shared information via newsletter article and handout with building permits
Residential Stormwater Control	Educate about residential stormwater control	Amy, Darcy, Doug	COMPLETED *Consider future educational outreach should residents show interest.*	• Wrote newsletter article • **Project completed**

Invasives	Propose approaches to manage the risk of invasives in our community	Kelly, Craig	COMPLETED 'Repost wild parsnip posters in parks each Summer (late June)	Discussed with Supervisor prior to identification Prepared warning signs for installation at parks Developed fact sheet Wrote newsletter article highlighting 3 invasives Reposted wild parsnip signs at parks (where found)
SEQR Enhancement (AI 26)	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	COMPLETED	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, PB & ZBA
Solar Farms Law	Propose recommendations to revise and update the solar farms law (§29032 (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	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	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	Conducted noise evaluation during concert, submitted report Recommended revisions to noise ordinance
Community Solar	Promote NYS Community Solar program with residents	Mark, Amy, Kelly, Payton, Larkin, Keith	COMPLETED	Wrote newsletter article Obtained cost savings estimate for Town to subscribe to solar project Recommended 3 opportunities to TB, all approved Managed Town's subscription to solar project (started monthly savings) Developed community campaign plan for TB & NYSERDA approval Launched campaign Submitted documentation to NYSERDA & receive more grant points Presented at local group meeting Held webinar on February 28 Tracked new subscriptions & applied for CEC grant points
Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	Develop scope & cost for stations on Town property	Kelly, Mark	ON HOLD until proper location is identified Develop ROI with input from other pay4use Submit recommendation for TB approval If approved, apply for funding grants	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 estimates from two contractors
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	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