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# LaFayette Advisory Conservation Commission

**Report to LaFayette Town Board –Submitted 7 October 2026**

Submitted by Kelly Wypych, LACC Chair

Current Membership:

- We request the Town Board to approve Craig Archer's membership for an additional year.
- Note that the LACC is seeking additional members and volunteers. Kelly to draft a newsletter courting volunteers and members

Highlights:

1. Kelly attended a 3 day training session "Land Use Leadership Alliance" which offered a lot of info on land use, zoning, economic opportunities and regulations related to clean energy projects.
2. The next quarterly LACC meeting is planned for Tuesday December15th at 5pm.
3. An updated project table is attached below reflecting updates from our last meeting on 9/10.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Wypych for LACC

## LACC Project & Program Status Summary – 9/10/2026

| Projects | Objective | Project Team | Planned Actions | Previous Actions |
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| **Parks** | Propose concepts to increase visitors' awareness of nature and/or environment | Amy, Mark | • Consider signage for plant & wildlife species, submit recommendation to TB (pushed until Spring)<br>• Create Habitats first, then plan signage<br>• Involve HS students. Blitz. HS science teachers and big picture as a project idea. | • Bailey Park Memorial Program COMPLETED<br>• Selected tree & bench locations, with input from Parks<br>• Obtained TB approval to expand program<br>• Launched program on website & via social media<br>Stafford Park Memorial Program COMPLETED<br>• Drafted tree/bench memorial program for Stafford Park<br>• Received Supervisor prior approval to obtain cost estimates<br>• Worked out transaction details w/ Bookkeeper & Optimists<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 |
| **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 | • 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<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<br>• Collected Town building data for benchmarking setup<br>• Submitted NYSERDA application for high impact action for Town's community solar subscriptions<br>• Completed set up of Town's benchmarking program, apply for NYSERDA grant credit<br>• Applied for & received $5k grant from NYSERDA for Comm Ctr lighting upgrades<br>• Requested free energy study of Community Center & $10k grant<br>• Completed municipal fleet inventory & earned 200 grant points<br>• Registered for CSC after passing a pledge resolution and task force resolution<br>• Identified projects from energy study to use $10k grant at Comm Ctr<br>• Confirmed & corrected savings from streetlight LED conversion<br>• Obtained quote, completed work to add insulation at Comm Ctr<br>• Submitted for reimbursement by $10k NYSERDA grant<br>• Implemented clean heating/cooling community education plan (articles, ELW)<br>• Provided educational information vis CNY Smart Energy at Community Day<br>• Assessed benefit of leveraging National Grid grant for LED conversion at Community Center and Highway Building<br>• 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 | • Regroup with volunteer team to review and clarify draft report is set for June 15.<br>• Draft study recommendations for review by the TB | • Developed SOW for expert consultant & requested proposals<br>• Received proposal from land use expert<br>• Received confirmation that County will approve 2025 grant to cover proposal cost<br>• Submit recommendation to TB of study plan and received approval to accept grant & proposal Received County grant funding<br>• Held kick off meeting with consultant, rough time phased plan underway<br>• Published newsletter article seeking volunteers for the review committee<br>• Developed time phased study plan<br>• Received Draft Study report<br>• Established volunteer Review Committee and held orientation meeting<br>• Additional workshop with consultant was held on May 18 |

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| **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 | • Write recommendations of potential CEAs & PB awareness<br>• Review draft recommendations with town boards<br>• Submit recommendations to TB<br>• Consider education/reminders about protected areas such as 100' from Butternut Creek for example.<br>• Next step: Regroup, review writing assignments | • Decided UNAs are the same as CEAs<br>• Drafted initial list<br>• Spoke with NYSDEC<br>• 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 | • Consider application for Tree City USA designation (what are the requirements? Burden is that you have to recertify every year.)<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<br><br>Next: Get next maintenance into the budget process for 2027 | • 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<br>• Surveyed trees on Town properties and delivered report to TB<br>• Obtained quotes for tree maintenance and submitted for TB approval (not approved for 2025)<br>• Recommendation submitted to TB for maintenance and new tree planting<br>• Tree planting conducted at the town offices in May 2026<br>• This year's tree removal was funded and completed in summer 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)<br>• Identified possible impacts from planned project<br>• Submitted findings and recommendations to Town Board (July 2024)<br>• Recommended revisions to local law for TB adoption<br>• Communicated concerns to County & Lemondes<br>• Met with Senator May to communicate concerns and gain her support<br>• Published an article for the January 2026 LaFayette Newsletter |
| **Steep Slopes** | Investigate and mitigate risk from areas with landslide potential | Darcy, Mark | • 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, would need to involve maint people at the parks.<br>• Consider educational outreach. Note that other native plants need to be integrated w/ milkweed planting. Educational components to track monarch migration and manage milkweed. | • |
| **Town Newsletter Articles** | Provide communications that increase resident's awareness to nature and environmental conservation | Rotating authors | • Next: Please join.<br>• Plan Q2 Newsletter Article (Septic System Care)<br>• Future topics: Tree maintenance, Rural character study | • 2025 Energy/money saving, stormwater, C&D, CSC/CEC, Wind Farm<br>• 2024 Rural character, Heat pumps, Air quality trends, 2023 accomplishments 2023 Recycling rules, Spotted lanternfly, Honey bees, Community solar campaign<br>• 2022 Invasive species, Community solar, Solar farm law, People & plastics 2021 LACC update, Plastic recycling, Tick safety |

**Completed Projects**
(since April 2021)

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| **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<br>• Shared information via newsletter article and handout with building permits |
| **Residential Stormwater Control** | Educate about residential stormwater control | Amy, Darcy, Doug | COMPLETED<br>*Consider future educational outreach should residents show interest.* | • Wrote newsletter article<br>• **Project completed** |

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| **Invasives** | Propose approaches to manage the risk of invasives in our community | Kelly, Craig | COMPLETED<br>'Repost wild parsnip posters in parks each Summer (late June) | 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<br>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<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, 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<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 |
| **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<br>Identified volunteers and subject matter experts needed to conduct 5 action items for 2022<br>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<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) |
| **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<br>Received Supervisor's approval<br>Coordinated planting & residents' donation |
| **Apple Valley Park Noise** | Provide technical support of noise & noise ordinance | Mark | COMPLETED | Conducted noise evaluation during concert, submitted report<br>Recommended revisions to noise ordinance |
| **Community Solar** | 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 |
| **Electric Vehicle Charging Stations** | Develop scope & cost for stations on Town property | Kelly, Mark | ON HOLD until proper location is identified<br>Develop ROI with input from other pay4use<br>Submit recommendation for TB approval<br>If approved, apply for funding grants | Contacted CNYRPDB 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 estimates from two contractors |
| **Senior Center** | 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 |