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LaFayette Advisory Conservation Commission (LACC)

Report to LaFayette Town Board – April 9, 2025

Submitted by: Payton Kremers, LACC Chair

This report covers updates to the LACC activities since our last report on March 5, 2025.

Membership – The Town Board approved another year renewal for Mark Distler’s membership. The LACC requests your approval to renew for another year the memberships for Amy Row, Kelly Wypych, and Doug Anderson.

Meetings – A meeting was held on March 18. A meeting summary was prepared.

Projects – Attached is a status summary of LACC’s projects.

Attachment: LACC Project Status Table

Respectively submitted,

Payton Kremers

LACC Project & Program Status Summary

Projects	Objective	Project Team	Planned Actions	Previous Actions
Parks	Propose concepts to increase visitor's awareness of nature and/or environment	Amy, Keith, Mark	-Consider signage for plant & wildlife species, submit recommendation to TB	<u>Bailey Park Memorial Program - COMPLETED</u> -Selected tree & bench locations, with input from Parks -Obtained TB approval to expand program -Launched program on website & via social media <u>Stafford Park Memorial Program - COMPLETED</u> -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)
Rural Character Preservation (AI 2-1)	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	-Receive County grant agreement -Submit recommendation to TB of study plan and request approval to accept grant & proposal -Implement study plan -Establish review committee -Conduct study -Draft study recommendations to 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
UNA & CEA (AI 2-10)	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 recommendation of potential CEAs & PB awareness -Review draft recommendations with town boards -Submit recommendations to TB	-Decided UNAs are the same as CEAs -Drafted initial list -Spoke with NYSDEC -Spoke with experts & residents about potential CEAs
Tree Program (AI 2-12)	Establish a tree planting program for Town-owned properties and public ROWS	Mark, Darcy, Doug, Keith, Gregg, Julie, Payton	-Submit recommendation to TB for new trees -Request expenditure item for trees in 2026 budget -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)
Residential Stormwater Control	Educate about residential stormwater control	Amy, Darcy, Doug	-Consider other educational outreach	-Wrote newsletter article
Repurpose C&D Materials	Educate contractors working in Town how to repurpose C&D materials	Keith, Craig	-Learn about already available programs and outlets -Share information via newsletter article or handout with building permits	
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
Steep Slopes	Investigate and mitigate risk from areas with landslide potential	Darcy	-Discuss with Town Attorney	-Review laws from nearby localities
Town Newsletter Articles	Provide communications that increase resident's awareness to nature and environmental conservation	Rotating authors	-Write 25Q3 article -Future topics: Tree maintenance, CSC/CEC, Rural character study	2025 - Energy/money saving, stormwater 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)

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 2-6)	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 (§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	-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 pay-4-use -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