

**TO:** Town of Lewisboro Town Board  
Town of Lewisboro Planning Board

**FROM:** Lewisboro Conservation Advisory Council

**SUBJECT:** CAC Annual Report for 2012

**DATE:** December 21, 2012

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The Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) presents its annual report for 2012 to the Town of Lewisboro, as required by state law.

Committee Participation in Town business.

During 2012, we operated with six members. Three full and two advisory member positions remain vacant. This resource limitation has constrained our activities or put a greater burden on our team members. Minutes for all of the meetings are available through the Town Clerk.

The CAC also reaches out to other committees. A CAC representative attends and participates in Planning Board meetings and at least one member usually joins the Planning Board at their site walks. The CAC Chair remains an active member of the Stormwater and Lakes Committees. A CAC member is on the Preserve Committee, and another attends ZBA meetings as the CAC interface. The CAC has reached out to the Sustainability, PRAC, and OSAC committees to solicit input and discuss items of mutual interest.

Advisory Role

During 2012 through November, the CAC issued 19 letters on applications to the planning board. CAC participation at planning board meetings enables us to articulate our views on applications and to stay informed on the activities in front of that board.

While the number of letters is indicative of activity, we believe that the CAC has continued to build a trusted advisory relationship to the Planning Board on conservation and environmental issues. We are gratified that the members of the Planning Board thoughtfully consider our inputs.

CAC members also had the opportunity to appear before the Town Board in 2012 on two occasions to discuss the proposed tree ordinance.

Actions on Town Code Improvements

The CAC participated in discussion of the Parks ordinance. The CAC also continued work on the town's tree ordinance to clarify and improve the existing legislation.

### Old Business.

The CAC coordinated the preparation of the Leon Levy Preserve Management Plan for the Town with the assistance of significant stakeholders, including members of PRAC, during 2009. This document was turned over to the OSPAC for future action.

The CAC also reminds the Town Board of a proposal to simplify the Wetland Code. The CAC remains in support of that proposal.

### Concerns

There are, as always, some concerns in addition to the old business items noted above. First, in addition to our open positions, some CAC member terms expire at the end of 2012, and we are dependent upon the appointment or reappointment of capable, knowledgeable, committed members with environmental experience to continue the CAC activities. We fear the current relationship with the Town Board will make finding those volunteers more difficult. The CAC is comprised of volunteers appointed by the Town Board to work on conservation issues that are important to the Town and its residents. When, as part of our role, we bring an issue forward to the Town Board, we expect to be able to present our work and participate in a discussion in a professional and courteous manner.

### Intermunicipal Cooperation

The Lewisboro CAC has been active in ELLA, the Environmental Leaders Learning Alliance, which has participants from many towns in Westchester and Putnam Counties. Members have attended classes on GIS, an eight- course site planning exercise, and a stormwater best practices review. ELLA also serves as a sharing vehicle and sounding board on common problems. In addition, we continue to work with individual municipalities in comparing municipal codes and approaches to common concerns.

### Appreciation

The CAC members have contributed their valuable time, varied perspectives, and interest in serving the Town to this volunteer committee. While we don't always agree, everyone is always interested in what is best for Lewisboro, and we appreciate that participation and intent. In addition, we appreciate the many people who have helped us learn and develop individually and as a group in our CAC role.