

**Town of Clinton Conservation Advisory Council  
Minutes –December 16, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Sarah Love, Chair.

**Members present:** Sarah Love, chair, Jen Cavanaugh, Norene Coller and Barbara Mansell.

**Members of the public present:** None.

**Public Comment:** Jen noted that Breezy Hill Farm has opened a store selling produce in Rhinebeck.

**Minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes of November 18, 2010 was made by Jen Cavanaugh and seconded by Barbara Mansell. All members voted in favor.

**Communications:** In a discussion about the application of Stephen Wowaka of East Fallkill Road before the Planning Board for subdivision, Jen noted that the cluster plan proposed by the applicant for six homes on the north end of the lot had some problems. One lot had three driveways crossing its property. There seems to be poor planning of sewage disposal. Jen suggests that the applicants might consider that, because of the limitations of the property (wetlands, floodplains and impermeable soil), that two areas on the property might be considered for cluster, on the north and south areas of the property. Sarah noted that hydrology was a great concern with lots in the eastern part of the property. Jen will write the letter to the Planning Board, which will meet on December 21<sup>st</sup>. The group discussed the concept of a Conservation Subdivision for this property.

Norene noted that another application soon to come before the Planning Board was that of Pearl on Schultz Hill Road where an old home, which is close to the road, will be demolished and another home built. The new home will be further from the road, but will require steep slope and wetland permits since the proposal involves building down a steep slope next to a pond. Norene believes that this was the mill pond for a sawmill shown on the maps of 1967 and 1876,

**Grant update:** The grant funds available to the CAC are as follows:

<b>Finances:</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Remaining</b>
	McDermott Trust	\$1000	\$836.75	\$ 164.25
	Town of Clinton	\$1500	\$1281.57	\$218.43

Note: \$79.38 was deducted from the total for costs the CAC had to participate in the Earth Day event at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds.

Sarah stated that the CAC budget for 2011 will be 10% less than 2010, or \$1350.

**Education and Outreach:** Barbara reported that she has submitted a letter of interest to be appointed chair of the Clinton Nature Garden Committee. Paul Schwatze, current committee chair, has asked the Recreation Committee for funds to purchase lime for the field in the Nature Trail to encourage the growth of wild flowers. A meeting will be held on Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 10am to discuss.

Barbara also noted that the 2011 Great Backyard Bird Count will be held February 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>. An event with the Clinton Community Library will be planned. Last year this was a great success!

Barbara has updated the CAC website with information about Conservation Easements and a paragraph describing David Foote's Eagle Scout Nature Trail project with a link to a photo album.

Norene stated that Planning Board member, Eliot Werner, has agreed to accompany her to Columbia County on January 31<sup>st</sup> to take part in a workshop sponsored by Hudsonia and the Columbia County Land Trust about the relationship between CAC's and Planning Boards. Bill Relyea has also agreed to take part since, as a former CAC member, he worked with the Planning Board to establish a stronger relationship.

**Open Space and Farmland Protection:** Norene noted that the Town Board had passed the proposed Farmland Protection Plan at their meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Jen explained that a grant for urban forestry has recently been made available. She believes that some aspects of the grant would be helpful to Clinton, particularly funds to develop demonstration rain gardens. She believes we could create a beneficial Arbor Day Project with the Clinton Community Library.

**Comprehensive Plan:** Norene stated that the Comprehensive Plan Committee was working on recommendations for the plan. The CAC has made many recommendations to be considered.

**Old and New Business:** Sarah expressed concerns about scheduling conflicts for the date and time of CAC meetings. Members discussed options. Norene made a motion that in 2011 the CAC should meet on the second Wednesday at 7 PM. Barbara seconded the motion. All members voted aye.

Members discussed reaching out to some new possible CAC members for 2011. Various town residents were suggested as possible valuable CAC members.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

***Norene Collier***

Norene Collier, Secretary

**Next CAC meeting: January 12, 2011 at 7 PM.**

Please note that the CAC will meet on the second Wednesday at 7 PM.