

Minutes –July 13, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by Sarah Love, Chair.

**Note: The CAC met in the new office in the schoolhouse. It is beautiful! Thank you, Town Board!**

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

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

**Public Comment:** Barbara noted that the NYS DEC has placed “Barnie traps,” three-foot long purple box-shaped traps, in trees along some town roads. These traps are sampling for emerald ash borers, which are predicted to destroy ash trees. The DEC is tracking the movement and effects of these destructive, non-native insects.

Sarah asked if information about the traps could be placed on the CAC section of the town website to inform residents. Barbara will investigate that possibility.

The group discussed placing information about energy efficient ways to manage homes on the website. Again, Barbara will follow up.

**Minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes of June 8, 2011, was made by Barbara Mansell and seconded by Jen Cavanaugh. All members voted in favor.

**Communications:** There were no requests from the Planning Board or ZBA.

<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	\$1350	\$196.59	\$1153.41

**Note:** A mailing for a meeting with land trusts was funded: postage was \$85.80.

**Water, Watersheds and Wetlands:** The Clinton CAC will take part in Watershed Awareness Month (July) by sponsoring a bird walk at the Nature Trail on July 23 at 10 AM. She has posted a roadside sign in front of Town Hall. Barbara will lead the bird walk. Sarah noted that many events will take place throughout the county and that the website is the “clearinghouse” for information.

It was noted that a meeting with the land trusts and landowners interested in conservation easements was also scheduled for the same date (July 23 at 10 AM) and time at the Creek Meeting House in Clinton Corners.

Bill gave a powerpoint presentation showing the results of a survey completed by Cornell University and funded by the NYS DEC indicating the understanding of local officials and residents about problems in the Wappinger watershed. The purpose of the survey, which was completed by 342 landowners and 102 municipal officials, was to help municipalities adjust practices related to the health of the Wappinger watershed. The Wappinger watershed is cited by the DEC as a “priority” watershed because of poor water quality. The summary of the survey indicated that 72% of the landowners and 75% of municipal officials were willing to change practices to benefit the watershed. Bill noted that in the Town of Clinton, the Upton Lake, Willowbrook and Great Spring Creek subwatersheds also contribute to the Wappinger watershed.

As a result of research completed by David Burns in 2004 about the Wappinger watershed, the Wappinger Intermunicipal Council (WIC) was formed including all towns and villages in the watersheds. The monthly WIC meetings have been attended by municipal officials and representatives from all municipalities. The first efforts of the group were focused on the health of Wappinger Lake, which has been the recipient of sediment and pollutants from all communities upstream. Research on the watershed demonstrated that traditional land use patterns with increasing amounts of impervious surface caused water quality problems. Wappinger has responded by creating artificial wetlands to absorb some of the sediment and pollutants from communities upstream. As a result the quality of water in the lake has improved.

Currently the WIC wants the towns to support grant applications to monitor storm events in the watershed. This may be accomplished with electronic devices. Jen noted that efforts were underway to better quantify the flow and understand the data. As an active member of the WIC, Bill will be making presentations to Town Boards throughout the watershed. The effort seeks to make the “stakeholders” award and improve practices. He will be giving a packet of supportive information to the Town Boards. Website: [www.dutchesswatersheds.org](http://www.dutchesswatersheds.org).

Sarah asked how the measurement of total maximum daily load (TMDL) was being used. Bill stated that determining TMDL values upstream were the major effort in testing. Jen noted that the watershed was impaired because of sediment and phosphorus, with a combination of point and non-point sources. The WIC is currently waiting for a current DEC report about TMDL measurements in the watershed.

Bill expressed concern that funds for raising awareness and educating the public about watershed issues were being slashed. With changes to be expected due to climate change, the predictions indicate that storm events will be larger, with greater amounts of precipitation.

**Biodiversity Mapping:** A meeting was held with Hudsonia staff last week. Sarah noted that the CAC has volunteered to assist Hudsonia with PR about the project. Material will be placed in the library and town offices. There was a discussion about how to reach out to landowners.

Hudsonia is beginning the process of mapping wildlife habitat in the southeast section of Clinton and has asked with help in contacting landowners and obtaining permission to visit their land. Members identified landowners they knew and volunteered to contact them.

**Energy and Climate Smart Pledge:** A climate smart workshop will take place on July 25 at Norrie Point. The Climate Smart Pledge is available on line.

**Education and Outreach:** It was decided to add news about biodiversity mapping on the website. Norene will obtain information and work with the town. The group noted that the town should have a link to the energy generated by the solar panels on the web site.

**Open Space Plan:** The Open Space Committee continues to review the plan and hopes to finish this summer. Bill suggested that the group could benefit from a discussion about how to implement the recommendations of the Open Space Plan. He suggested scheduling a discussion with an experienced community leader such as Bill Hogan.

**Old and New Business:** Jen described a small grant (\$5,000) available for education about clean air, relating to backyard burning and other issues. The group then discussed what resources were available locally for disposal of leaves and branches. Jen suggested that the town should provide a location for residents to properly dispose of leaves and branches and will check with Town Supervisor, Jeff Burns. Sarah expressed concern about illegal backyard burning, which can cause serious health problems.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Norene Coller

Norene Coller, Secretary

**Next CAC meeting: August 10, 2011 at 7 PM.**