

**Town of Clinton Conservation Advisory Council
Minutes –June 8, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Norene Coller, acting chair in absence of Sarah Love.

Members present: Jen Cavanaugh, Norene Coller, Mike DiGiacomo, Barbara Mansell and Bill Relyea.

Members of the public present: None.

Public Comment: Bill spoke about the concerns of the Open Space Committee about public access to lakes for recreation, particularly Long Pond and Silver Lake. He has done research on the history of the Federation of Dutchess County Fish and Game Club properties on both lakes and their intention to allow public access on the property that organization owns. The Clinton Planning Board requested the Federation to develop a site plan for the property on Silver Lake. It was approved by the Zoning Enforcement Officer as a “recreation site;” however, public outcry from local landowners required him to take the matter to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The ZBA supported the Zoning Enforcement Officer. Currently Federation members use the property, but have not developed a site plan. They may give the property to NYS DEC. Bill is trying to determine what ruling was made by the Planning Board.

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of April 13, 2011, was made by Bill Relyea and seconded by Barbara Mansell. All members voted in favor. A motion to approve the minutes of May 11, 2011, was made by Jen Cavanaugh and seconded by Bill Relyea. All members voted in favor.

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

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

Finances:	Source	Amount	Spent	Remaining
	McDermott Trust	\$1000	\$836.75	\$ 164.25
	Town of Clinton	\$1350	\$110.79	\$1239.21

Education and Outreach: Barbara described the official opening ceremony for the Nature Trail on Saturday, June 4, at 10 AM, honoring Eagle Scout, David Foote. Supervisor Jeff Burns praised David for his efforts and presented him with a certificate. A red ribbon was “officially” cut and about 20 residents (including 8 children) enjoyed refreshments and a tour of the Nature Garden. She thanked Bill and Mike for working with David to identify trees and critical environmental features, such as wetlands and floodplains. She hopes that the Boy Scouts will continue to assist the Nature Trail group with maintenance in future community service.

The group discussed the possibility of adding to the plantings of wild flowers in the Nature Trail area. Much of the soil is poor and does not support a variety of flowering plants. Bill volunteered to contact Bill Hamilton at the nearby horse farm for a donation of manure to enrich the soil.

Hudson River Estuary Grant for Biodiversity Mapping: Norene noted that the Town was in the process of signing a contract with the DEC to have Hudsonia map biodiversity in Clinton. There is no time outline for the project at present.

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.

Open Space Plan: Norene explained that July 23rd had also been chosen by the land trusts and Jeff Burns to hold a meeting for landowners of properties 20 acres or greater in size. Rebecca Thornton of Dutchess Land Conservancy has agreed to the date. Bill will check with Lucy Hayden of Winnakee Land Trust. The meeting will be held at the Creek Meeting House in Clinton Corners.

The group discussed the need to mail a letter to landowners to inform them of the opportunities for protecting their land and about the meeting. Bill made a motion that the CAC fund the postage to send letters to landowners (not to exceed \$90) and Mike seconded the motion. All members voted in favor.

Bill noted that the Open Space Committee was making good progress completing the Open Space Plan. One shortcoming of the plan is the lack of walking and biking trails in town. Bill suggested contacting local biking organizations about possible bike loops.

Old and New Business: Clinton Watch, an organization which was active in past years in Clinton, has contacted the CAC for suggestions to make use of their fund balance for the benefit of the town. The group discussed the matter and decided that using the funds to improve the soil and layout of Nature Trail plantings would be a great benefit. The area could demonstrate to the public how to use “green” methods of landscaping to improve the soil and plant native wildflowers and trees. Clinton Watch would be credited with a notice at the entrance of the Nature Trail.

The group then adjourned the meeting and walked to the recently moved schoolhouse to view the new CAC office. All were very pleased with the beautiful setting with windows and storage space. Many suggestions were made about how to use the office. Norene will move maps and materials stored in her home to the new office this month.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 830 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Norene Coller

Norene Coller, Secretary

Next CAC meeting: July 13, 2011 at 7 PM.