

Minutes –March 9, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Sarah Love, Chair.

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

Members of the public present: None

Public Comment: Sarah congratulated Bill Relyea for being appointed to the CAC at the January, 2011, Town Board meeting.

Sarah explained that Amy Bloomfield from the DEC amphibian monitoring program had visited the vernal pool on her family's property and decided that it may not be suitable for their use. Norene will send Amy the contact information for two other town residents who are willing to have the DEC monitor their vernal pools.

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of February 9, 2011, was made by Bill Relyea and seconded by Barbara Mansell. All members voted in favor.

Communications: The permits of Wowaka on East Fallkill Road and Pearl on Schultz Hill Road will be discussed at the March 15th meeting of the Planning Board. Jen has written comments on both applications. Jen and Norene will attend.

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

Goals for 2011: Jen reported on the Cornell Cooperative Extension Roundtable in February in which county CAC's reported on their efforts and ongoing projects as showing good collaboration. She was especially impressed with the work that the Red Hook CAC has accomplished in energy conservation.

Education and Outreach: Barbara suggested that the Nature Trail Committee should function as a sub-committee of the CAC. All members agreed. She explained that Paul Schwarze wishes to pursue constructing a gazebo on the Nature Trail property. Town Board Liaison, Frank Venezia, does not believe that this is permitted on the land purchased by Iroquois Gas Pipeline for the town to use as open space. Paul intends to contact Iroquois for further information. He will come to the CAC with his request. Jen suggested that Paul's efforts might be better used creating rain gardens for the schoolhouse which has been moved to town property.

Barbara described the Great Backyard Bird Count day at the Clinton Library on February 19th as a success, considering that heavy snow cover on the Nature Trail prevented the small group from walking on the trail! A photograph of children with binoculars was featured in Hudson Valley News. The children had a wonderful time! Among birds spotted was a pileated woodpecker!

Barbara has called the family of David Foote, Eagle Scout who created the trail markers. She established June 4th as a possible date for a ceremony honoring him for his efforts. Barbara suggests having a bird walk on the chosen date. Barbara will confirm that that date is acceptable for Supervisor, Jeff Burns, and Clinton librarian, Terry Sennett.

Energy Conservation: Jen described a website with information about energy which might be used by the CAC on the town website. Sarah suggested that as we get more information which might be useful to town residents we could create links to information about solar panels. Barbara will organize information highlighting energy efficiency and climate change.

Open Space Plan: The Open Space Committee is working on completing the plan which was started in 2008, revising the current document and adding information on biodiversity and habitat. The CAC has volunteered to assist with this effort.

Sarah discussed her efforts to focus the mapping of the plan in a manner that will allow town residents to visualize open space resources. She has almost completed the habitat map for the Comprehensive Plan based on mapping completed by town volunteers based on Hudsonia criteria. A discussion was held about the resources to be protected including stream corridors, wetlands, riparian areas, aquifers, forested habitat and critical tree species. The group decided that a watershed approach would be key to characterizing land use patterns.

The group discussed possible recommendations of the plan, including aquifer and riparian area protection and adopting conservation subdivision as a town law. Working with landowners whose land holds important resources will be one outcome of the plan.

Old and New Business: Norene recommended that Lenore Maroney and Dottie Distil, owners of Tale of the Hawk Farm, on Fiddler's Bridge Road should be recipients of the Emil Schoch Conservation and Preservation Award for 2011. The group agreed.

Jen described the Clean Air-Cool Planet Community Catalyst Fund which awards communities \$250 to \$2500 as a possibility for Clinton.

The group discussed the planting of a memorial tree for former CAC member, Bob Messerich. Bill suggested that this might be done in the fall. As a native tree, the tulip tree was suggested.

Jen will meet with Supervisor, Jeff Burns, to inform him about the DEC requirement that Clinton must comply with MS4 regulations in the Wappinger watershed in the future. The regulations control pollutants moving into the creek throughout the watershed.

Sarah noted that new SEQRA forms are being used by the DEC.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted, **Norene Coller**

Norene Coller, Secretary

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