

**Town of Clinton Conservation Advisory Council
Minutes –May 11, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Norene Coller, acting chair in absence of Sarah Love.

Members present: Jen Cavanaugh, Norene Coller, and Bill Relyea.

Members of the public present: Frank Venezia, Town Board Liaison.

Public Comment: Frank spoke about his awareness of the Town of Clinton’s involvement with energy efficiency, in response to the request made by Jean McAvoy and Melanie Moore from the Hudson River National Estuarine Sanctuary at Norrie Point during the April 13th meeting. Frank believes that Clinton has made excellent efforts to create an energy efficient town hall area. These efforts have been largely unrecognized. He noted the following efforts:

1. Installation of solar panels on the highway garage salt shed, connecting to computer system for public education.
2. Moving schoolhouse for town offices and efficient outside lighting.
3. Green building standards followed for reconstruction of the school house as required by New York State.

The group discussed the construction of composting bins possible pick-up of brush.

Frank stated that Town Clerk, Carol Mackin, was doing research about a resolution voted on by the Town Board committing to energy conservation about four years ago.

Frank would like to receive a copy of the Energy Smart Pledge from Jean Mc Avoy.

The group discussed the possible construction of a demonstration rain garden at the location of the schoolhouse and, in the future, the Mason Hall. Jen described rain gardens as “functional landscaped space,” requiring engineered soil structure that readily absorbs water and is well drained. The plants which filter the water in the garden could possibly be grass. Frank expressed concern about the high water table at the town site. Jen noted that funds could be obtained for construction of a rain garden.

Frank has checked on the concerns of the CAC about their role in reviewing applications which come before the Planning Board, since Jen has spent considerable time in environmental reviews. Chairman, Mike McCormack, is pleased with the assistance the CAC has provided to the Planning Board. Mr. McCormack believes that the CAC is doing important work.

Minutes: The minutes of the April 13th meeting were not approved since there was no quorum.

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: There will be an official opening ceremony for the Nature Trail on Saturday, June 4, at 10 AM, honoring Eagle Scout, David Foote. All are invited.

Hudson River Estuary Grant for Biodiversity Mapping: Norene announced that the Millbrook Tribute Gardens has donated funds to supplement the DEC grant, allowing the town to work with Hudsonia to complete biodiversity mapping in 2011 and 2012. A contract has yet to be signed by the town. Jen noted that a contract and scope of services should be part of the work plan.

Water, Watersheds and Wetlands: Bill described a report he made and discussion held at the Wappinger Town Board with the Wappinger Intermunicipal Watershed group, focusing on a survey completed by the WIC with town officials and residents. Bill will be making a similar presentation to the Clinton Town Board about the survey results for Clinton. He would like the CAC members to understand the survey results before he makes his presentation.

Frank noted that he felt that town officials understand the issues involved in protecting the watershed; however, landowners often seem to have little understanding. He feels that the owners of critical habitat should be the audience for outreach efforts. There was a discussion about how best to accomplish these educational efforts.

Open Space Plan: The group discussed maps prepared by Sarah Love for the Open Space Plan, noting that defining “open space” may be difficult since Clinton is fortunate to have a great deal of scenic historic and open land. It was determined that adding “scenic” features to a Clinton road map would not be effective. Rather a few photographs of outstanding natural and historic locations could be included as examples of the town’s scenic features.

Clinton’s “sense of place” was discussed. Most Clinton residents like their quiet town and have little need for recognition. The location of signs welcoming travelers to Clinton was discussed. Jen noted that wooden signs, similar to those in Salt Point, were attractive. Frank stated that he would ask Highway Superintendent, Theron Thompkins, about creating signs.

Old and New Business: Volunteers are needed on May 16th to plant trees at North Park Elementary School and to do research on juvenile eels on the Crum Elbow Creek. Contact Chris Bowser of DEC Estuary Program.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Norene Coller

Norene Coller, Secretary

Next CAC meeting: June 8, 2011 at 7 PM.