

**Town of Clinton Conservation Advisory Council
Minutes –November 18, 2010**

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

Members present: Sarah Love, chair, Norene Coller, Mike, Digiacomio, and Barbara Mansell.

Members of the public present: None.

Public Comment: None.

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of October 21, 2010, with minor edits, was made by Mike Digiacomio and seconded by Barbara Mansell. All members voted in favor. Norene will send the corrected minute to Barbara to be placed on the Town web site.

Communications: A request has been made by the Planning Board to review an application by Stephen and Rhonda Wowaka on East Fallkill Road to subdivide a 36 acre property into 6 lots. Sarah and Norene have visited the site to confirm recommendations. Jen Cavanaugh and Norene attended the Planning Board meeting of November 16th to present a letter and make comments. Major concerns were having the stream and its buffer correctly mapped, along with corrected wetland and floodplain boundaries. The site has numerous limitations to development with hydrology, poor drainage and steep slopes. The Planning Board has required the applicant to submit a new cluster plan.

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	\$1500	\$1216.90	\$283.10

Education and Outreach: Sarah described the meeting she attended where the most recent Dutchess County Natural Resource Inventory was presented. The plan was an update from the 1985 NRI. Major participants in the revision were Cornell Cooperative Extension, Vassar College and Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development. The final document is found on the County Planning website and will only be available in a digital version.

A major feature is the addition of a description of ecosystem services; that is, the economic value provided by the natural features of the land. There is also a description of the result of development described as “sprawl,” compared to development characterized as “smart growth.”

A major section on implications for local decision making should be helpful for town Planning Boards and CAC’s. The Greenway Compact and the concept of Centers and Greenspaces are featured under regional planning.

One statistic of note that impressed Sarah was the information that between 1936 and 2010, there has been a 53 % increase in forest cover, which is particularly significant for native bird populations.

Norene stated that she has been approached by Gretchen Stevens of Hudsonia to take part in a workshop sponsored by Hudsonia and the Columbia County Land Trust about the relationship between CAC’s and Planning Boards. It seems that Columbia County does not have the strong network of CAC’s that exists in Dutchess County which they feel assists the Planning Boards making more wise decisions in relation to environmental issues. She has asked the Planning Board for a representative to attend with her.

Open Space and Farmland Protection: Norene stated that the Farmland Protection Plan was accepted by the Town Board at the November meeting. The Farmland and Open Space Committee will reconvene in January to complete the Open Space Plan. Barbara noted that Joyce Tomaselli has completed a map of bicycle trails in Clinton. Sarah was asked if she could create a digital version of that map. All CAC members are hoping for a trail network map that would benefit town residents and visitors.

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: The CAC agreed to submit a letter to Supervisor Jeff Burns for his signature to support county funds to the Environmental Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension. They are facing major budget cuts in the 2011 budget.

There was a discussion about the Ruskey Lane schoolhouse which has been moved to Town Hall property. The CAC will have an office in the basement of schoolhouse. Mike asked if the CAC would have a computer in the office. Sarah noted that all maps are now found on Geoaccess and could be on the computer, along with historic environmental maps. Norene noted that she had many CAC maps in her home which she would happily bring to the new CAC office.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Norene Coller

Norene Coller, Secretary

Next CAC meeting: December 16, 2010