

## **Town of Clinton Conservation Advisory Council**

### **Minutes – December 9, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Norene Collier, Chair.

**Members present:** Norene Collier, Barbara Mansell and Bill Relyea.

**Members of the public present:** Dick Collier, Greg Quinn and Eliot Werner, Town Board member-elect.

**Public Comment:** Members welcomed Eliot Werner as a new member of the Town Board.

**Minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes of November 11, 2015, was made by Bill Relyea and seconded by Barbara Mansell. All members voted in favor.

**Communications:** The dam at Hibernia has not been dismantled. The home owner evidently is applying for a grant to pay for the work.

**New Business:** Permits are now being given for the installation of solar panels as required by the new town law. Previous to adopting the law, the Building Inspector had given approximately a dozen permits. The town moratorium has caused a pause in that process while the law was written and accepted by the Town Board. Eliot felt that the CAC may wish to look at new requests for permits for solar panels and suggested that the CAC contact the Planning Board secretary for information. A discussion was held about construction for new solar panels on route 9G north of Hollow Road.

<b>Finances:</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Remaining</b>
	Town of Clinton	\$975.00	\$797.32	\$177.68

**Water, Watersheds and Wetlands:** No new information.

**Biodiversity:** The group discussed how best to encourage helping town residents to become informed about and work with the information and maps developed by Hudsonia in their extensive research of the town's land. Bill suggested that members of the CAC should continue to work closely with the Planning Board, expressing their concern and offering assistance in evaluating land proposed for development. Hudsonia may be consulted for assistance.

**Education and Outreach:** All folders have been distributed. Barbara will prepare new folders for the use of town offices.

**Nature Trail Subcommittee:** Bill volunteered to attend a conference being held by the Winnakee Land Trust about trails. Past efforts to develop new trails in town have not supported by landowners.

**Green Energy and Climate Change:** No new information.

**Zoning Revision:** New zoning for tree protection, signs and home occupations was discussed. Charlie Canham, Clinton resident who is a forest specialist with the Cary Institute, was invited to attend a meeting to aid the committee with their research on protecting trees. Greg added that the forests were suffering from a lack of brush piles which provides shelter for many animals, including ruffed grouse.

**Proposed Powerlines:** Greg stated that National Grid had resumed cutting trees on his property. The new policy involved cutting trees between 10 and 30 feet from the powerlines. The rationale behind this action is that past major power outages have been caused by trees falling on powerlines.

Greg noted that the Public Service Commission (PSC) is voting on December 17<sup>th</sup> about whether to build new powerlines. He is concerned that the smaller 115 KV lines in Clinton may be enlarged to 345 KV, which will require a larger envelop and higher towers. That will increase the EMF surrounding the lines. Governor Cuomo seems to support increased the powerlines, despite many public objections. Cuomo also supports REV (Reformed Energy Vision) including microgrids and small solar installations.

**Greg urged members to attend a showing of three films at Upstate Films in Rhinebeck on Sunday, December 13, one of which concerns powerlines. Scenic Hudson will be involved and Ned Sullivan is expected to speak.**

**Old Business:** No new information.

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

Respectfully submitted,

**Norene Coller**

Norene Coller, Chair

**Next CAC meeting: January 13, 2016 at 7 PM**

