

**Town of Clinton Conservation Advisory Council
Minutes – February 12, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Jen Cavanaugh.

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

Members of the public present: none.

Public Comment: None.

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of January 8, 2014, was made by Barbara Mansell and seconded by Jen Cavanaugh. All members voted in favor.

Communications: According to communications from the town, the CAC has \$1000 in its budget for 2014.

Finances:	Source	Amount	Spent	Remaining
	Clinton Watch Funds	\$3740.46	\$2642.71	\$857.75
	Town of Clinton Budget	\$1000	0	\$1000.00

Water, Watersheds, wetlands protection: No new information is available from the Wappingers Intermunicipal Council.

Biodiversity: Chris Graham and Gretchen Stevens of Hudsonia will be presenting a workshop on April 24th at The Omega Institute for landowners of woodland pools and other rare habitats. It is hoped that the half day workshop will include a field trip to a habitat of interest, followed by lunch at Omega. The group discussed how to obtain the GIS lists of landowners by habitat classification from the Hudsonia data. N. Coller agreed to contact Joe Heggenstaller who has worked with the CAC in past projects.

Education and Outreach: No new information.

Nature Trail: B. Mansell discussed meetings with a local group which plans to place a memorial gazebo near the Nature Trail. The location will not impact Nature Trail activities. The CAC discussed the concept of seeking a design for a rustic gazebo similar to ones at Poet's Walk for the Nature Trail. N. Coller will get information about design and cost.

The next event for the Nature Trail will be Saturday, February 15, 2014, when the Great Backyard Birdcount is scheduled. Because of snow cover, the event will

Green Energy and Climate Change: No funding is available to add additional solar panels.

Open Space Plan: J. Cavanaugh has written a letter to the Planning Board, attaching a list of consultants that are considered well-qualified to investigate applications which include areas of

environmental sensitivity. She will send the letter to the Chair of the Planning Board and hope to attend a meeting to discuss the issue.

Conservation and Preservation Award: N. Collier distributed information about past awards given to Clinton residents who have been nominated for the Emil Schoch Conservation and Preservation Award, as well as those who took part in the farm tours. The CAC decided to give the 2014 award to Greg Quinn for his efforts to protect farming in Clinton and to protect land from the harm and disruption of enlarging the existing powerlines. The award will be presented by the Clinton Historical Society at their spring potluck dinner on April 4th.

Goal Setting Update: No new information.

Old and New Business: The group discussed the proposals for enlarging powerlines through Clinton. N. Collier described a telephone conference she had on February 7th with an attorney representing Clinton residents in the proposals for powerline enlargement. The attorney expressed surprise as he looked at the Town of Clinton website showing the planning that the town has accomplished with the new Comprehensive Plan, Open Space and Farmland Protection Plans and Biodiversity Survey and mapping. He stated that he feels the town has excellent information on which to base an analysis of environmental impacts of any powerline expansion.

B. Relyea discussed the issue of the Smyth family wishing to allow the Town of Clinton to use their property as a town Park. The Winnakee Land Trust has tried to discuss this matter with the town and will continue their efforts.

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

Respectfully submitted, **Norene Collier**

Norene Collier, Secretary

Next CAC meeting: March 12, 2014, at 7 PM