

**Town of Clinton Conservation Advisory Council
Minutes – January 14, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Norene Coller, Chair.

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

Members of the public present: None.

Public Comment: Norene Coller obtained materials from Clinton resident, Joyce Tomaselli, at the Town Board meeting about new recycling efforts through Cornell Cooperative Extension and Dutchess County Resource Recovery Agency. Norene volunteered that the CAC would be willing to work with the county in holding an event in Clinton to encourage recycling. Barbara Mansell will obtain some materials from Joyce Tomaselli to include in the welcome folders for newcomers.

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of November 12, 2014, was made by Barbara Mansell and seconded by Bill Relyea. All members voted in favor.

Communications: The CAC was asked in November, 2014, to comment on an application to the Planning Board for a steep slope permit on the Furman property at 194 Long Pond Road which was considered by the Planning Board on November 18th. Norene Coller attended that meeting to present comments of concern of the CAC about steep slope and erosion issues which members had noted in site visits. She distributed comments received from Town Engineer, Peter Setaro, which had been given to the Planning Board stating that issues of concern had been resolved. CAC members continue to express their concern with possible effects on Long Pond, the road and neighboring properties.

Members discussed an application from John Perseley, 18 Schoolhouse Road, for permission to install a deck on the back of the house. The deck presently exists. It was noted that the deck and, most likely, the house are in the floodplain of the Little Wappinger Creek and, by current standards, should not have been built in this location. This is a long-standing pre-existing condition. Members felt that there was no need to comment.

Finances:	Source	Amount	Spent	Remaining
	Clinton Watch	\$3740.46	\$2642.71	\$857.75
	Town of Clinton	\$975.00	0	\$975.00

Water, Watersheds and Wetlands: Members would like to reach out to the Long Pond Association in the spring to determine what problems they are facing. We would like to establish an active relationship with that organization and encourage them to take part in CAC meetings and activities. Working with The Omega Institute, the Long Pond Association is taking an active role in dealing with erosion and other issues affecting the lake and lake shore properties.

Biodiversity: In the spring the CAC will sponsor a workshop to be held at The Omega Institute developed by Hudsonia about wildlife corridors. The group would like to have the workshop open to all town residents and discussed details of mailing procedures and costs. Laura Weiland will be contacted when Omega reopens in the spring.

Education and Outreach: Barbara Mansell has no new information about newcomer folders which are placed with the Town Clerk, Clinton library and Clinton Corners post office.

A discussion was held about planning tours for town residents about natural resources and farms. Previous tours which visited 15 Clinton farms were well attended. The group is considering planning additional tours to reach out to town residents, perhaps involving Omega and The Cary Institute.

Nature Trail Subcommittee: The group would like to use the remaining Clinton Watch funds and discussed developing a more substantial kiosk at the entrance which would allow for better display of maps and information.

Green Energy and Climate Change: Norene Coller has examined materials provided by the Town Clerk about the town's geothermal system. Town Engineer, Peter Setaro, provided contact with the contractor, Bob Travis, who built the town's geothermal system. He has provided websites which may be used as Barbara Mansell adds information to the town web site.

Open Space Plan: Barbara Mansell stated that the recommendations for the Open Space Plan will be implemented by the Zoning Revision Committee on which she serves as a representative of the CAC.

Zoning Revision: Barbara Mansell is an active member of the committee revising the Zoning Law. The CAC discussed current committee efforts to develop a law controlling logging. The group discussed concepts relating to biodiversity which will be included in the new law. The committee will meet twice monthly on the first and third Thursdays to speed the process of completing the revision.

Norene Coller stated that she is writing a grant to the Hudson River Valley Greenway to support the revision of the zoning law. She discussed the writing of the grant and asked members for their assistance. She will complete that application before February 6th.

Proposed Powerlines – Environmental Subcommittee: Applicants continue to submit new proposals for powerline changes. At present, none proposed to enlarge the right-of-way or increase the height.

Old and New Business: No new information.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Norene Coller

Norene Coller, Chair

Next CAC meeting: February 11, 2015 at 7 PM