

**Town of Clinton Conservation Advisory Council  
Minutes – March 11, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Norene Coller, Chair.

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

**Members of the public present:** Dick Coller and Greg Quinn.

**Public Comment:** Norene explained that she had attended a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Hudson River Valley Greenway at Locust Grove that morning to speak briefly when the Town of Clinton was awarded a \$10,000 grant for assisting with updating the Zoning Law.

Greg described his idea about creating a website to support local farmers as a means of advertising their crops and attracting customers. He will provide more information as the process develops.

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

**Communications:** The Town Board adopted a moratorium on the installation of solar panels at the Town Board meeting on March 10th.

<b>Finances:</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Remaining</b>
	Clinton Watch	\$3740.46	\$2642.71	\$857.75
	Town of Clinton	\$975.00	\$25.47	\$949.53

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

**Biodiversity:** In the spring the CAC will sponsor a workshop to be held at The Omega Institute developed by Hudsonia about wildlife corridors. Laura Weiland will be contacted when Omega reopens later this month. Barbara and Norene have heard from Gretchen Stevens of Hudsonia that Laura Heady of the DEC would like to take part in the workshop and open it to residents of other towns. Details must be worked out. Bill will contact Laura Heady for more information.

**Education and Outreach:** Barbara Mansell has added information about recycling to the newcomer folders which are placed with the Town Clerk, Clinton library and Clinton Corners post office.

Barbara stated that Joyce Tomaselli of Cornell Cooperative Extension will hold a recycling public information event later in the spring on a Saturday during the hours of a Town recycling and trash day.

A discussion was held about contacting town residents to notify them about upcoming events. Mailings are expensive and there is no e-mail address list for town organizations. More information later.

The group decided to award the 2015 Emil Schoch award to Skip Backus of Omega on Long Pond and Art DePasqua, president of the landowners association on Silver Lake. Both groups have

worked consistently to conserve the lakes and assist landowners with issues relating to erosion and the results of pollution. The award will be made at the potluck dinner held by the Clinton Historical Society on April 10<sup>th</sup> at the Creek Meeting House in Clinton Corners.

**Nature Trail Subcommittee:** The CAC has been asked to plant a memorial tree for Fran Monahan, former town supervisor and friend, during the month of June. Norene has been doing research on native trees which might be suitable. Greg volunteered to obtain native trees wholesale and plant them in the Nature Garden. Trees will be selected and planted later in the spring.

Barbara will plan an event in the spring for Fran's friends at the Nature Garden. Other improvements will be made for that occasion. The group would like to make use of the remaining funds in the Clinton Watch account.

Barbara explained that the Clinton Nature Trail has been chosen by the Waterman Bird Club and the Winnakee Land Trust to hold an education event and bird walk for children who attend all the public schools in the town. The event is called "No Child Left Inside" and will be held on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. Barbara will arrange for the highway department to mow the trail. The larger room in Town Hall has been reserved for displays. There will be a number of volunteers to lead bird walks. Barbara has been helping prepare lists of birds which most likely will be seen, noting that there is a variety of wildlife habitat along the trail and many species have been seen in the past. The Winnakee will notify all students in the school districts in the Town of Clinton.

**Green Energy and Climate Change:** Barbara has placed information about the town's geothermal system on the Town web site.

**Open Space Plan:** There is some hope that the Greenway grant funds will assist with the implementation of the goals of the Open Space Plan.

**Zoning Revision:** Barbara Mansell discussed the meetings of the Zoning Revision Committee and noted that the group was making progress.

**Proposed Powerlines – Environmental Subcommittee:** Greg explained that the Hudson Valley Smart Coalition (HVSEC), the Coalition of municipalities, citizen groups, conservation entities, farms, etc. of which he is a member, is preparing for a technology conference to be held at the end of June about the proposed power line upgrade. He stated that there had been considerable "push back" from members of the Coalition that would be impacted by upgrades of power lines. The conference response, being organized by the coalition, would be focusing on the "need" issue. There are ten projects "in the queue." He noted that the PSC apparently had done little to address the "need" issue before issuing the RFP in 2013. There have already been major changes in the proposals and he predicts there will be more.

Greg has been notified that a tree cutting service will be on his land tomorrow to cut all trees in the purchased right-of-way, a much greater area than the current "envelop" of the powerline. He is concerned about damage to his farm crop, black currants, which are grown under the powerline.

He stated that National Grid had nine new proposals. He emphasized the idea that we do not need the additional power. There is new discussion about burying the lines. The cost of that proposal has decreased dramatically.

**Old and New Business:** No new information.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:00

Respectfully submitted,

**Norene Coller**

Norene Coller, Chair

**Next CAC meeting: April 8, 2015 at 7 PM**