

Town of Clinton Conservation Advisory Council

Minutes – November 8, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 PM by Norene Coller, Chair.

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

Members of Town Board present: Dean Michael and Eliot Werner.

Members of the public present: Jean McAvoy, Marian Thompson and Mike Whitton.

Public Comment: A discussion was held about the proposed development along the Crum Elbow Creek which is in a mapped wildlife conservation area. It was noted that the current town plan focuses on protecting groundwater which is necessary for drinking water for residents. Plans for development (a tree house) by a Clinton resident along the creek have caused concern among residents of Clinton and Rhinebeck. Michael Trimble, Chairman of the Planning Board of Rhinebeck, visited the landowner and expressed concern about the damage to important wildlife habitat due to the plan for a structure. The landowner was not aware of the information and expressed interest in protecting the habitat. The landowner is reconsidering the plan. Currently, no construction materials are present along the creek. More information will be available for the next CAC meeting.

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of October 11, 2017, was made by Bill Relyea and seconded by Barbara Mansell. All members voted in favor.

Communications: No communications were received.

Finances:	Source	Amount	Spent	Remaining
	Town of Clinton	\$700.00	\$45.12	\$654.12

Zoning Revision: No new information.

Climate Smart Community Pledge: A discussion was held about the Climate Smart Pledge. Dean stated that he requested that the CAC be appointed as representative of the town in dealing with climate smart issues.

Dean suggested that Barbara invite Europa McGovern, Climate Smart representative from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, to speak to the Town. Barbara volunteered to work with the Town Board to determine a good date for the presentation.

Jean asked if we should “take stock” of the situation in Clinton. Mike stated that there is an online list of town activities which the CAC could check to determine what has been accomplished. Dean stated that Red Hook has taken an active role in Climate Smart planning.

Eliot stated that 8 recharging stations had been approved and were being installed behind Stewart’s in Clinton Corners.

Open Space: No new information.

Water, Watersheds and Wetlands: Barbara stated that discussion at the Zoning Revision Committee had focused on an observation by planner, Russell Urban Mead, that Clinton had no maps of local aquifers. Norene will check the Town Hall for that map. She remembers the town acting on studies and maps of streams and aquifers in the past. Dean suggested that Clinton should have a map which shows the location of parcels in relation to water resources, particularly aquifers.

Biodiversity: Norene stated that she was checking what other towns have accomplished in creating Critical Environmental Areas to designate and protect key wildlife habitat.

Education and Outreach: The town website continues to include basic information about environmental concerns, providing information to member of the public. Barbara noted that volunteers were needed to help create ways to educate residents about the importance of protecting the town's water resources.

Mike suggested that the CAC should include information about town zoning requirements in information included in the Welcome Packet. He suggested that the local real estate companies would be a good location for the packets. Eliot stated that the zoning law did not include educational information. There was a discussion about how to include more information about Clinton's important environment in town documents, with reference to the DEC's website.

Dean suggested that the CAC should reach out to the Clinton Library to make information available. He suggested that the library would be an important location for information on the Crum Elbow Creek.

It was suggested that the town develop an e-mail list to inform residents. Another suggestion was made that the town write and mail a newsletter to better inform the public. Mike suggested that the CAC could mail folders to newcomers to town.

Zoning Revision: No new information.

Nature Trail Subcommittee: No new information.

Old Business: None.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Norene Coller

Norene Coller, Chair

Next CAC meeting: Undecided, possibly December 13, 2017.