

Town of Clinton Conservation Advisory Council
Meeting Location: Town Hall
1215 Centre Rd, Rhinebeck, NY
February 14, 2024, Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:35pm by Barbara Mansell, chair.

CAC Members: Jenn Brown, Barbara Mansell, Jean McAvoy, Lynne Morrell, Joe Phelan, Margaret Pierpont, Deborah Valchar

Town Board Liaison: Katherine Mustello

Members of the Public: Charlie Canham, Karen Foley (Six Senses rep), Paul Thomas

Public Discussion – DEC Wetland Regulatory Mapping Changes

The DEC is planning on implementing a new law that will expand the number of regulated wetlands to further protect water quality and wildlife habitat. These changes were described in the February 1, 2024, DEC Webinar “Overview of NY's Freshwater Wetland Regulatory Changes”. The intention is to safeguard an estimated one million additional acres of currently unprotected wetland habitat, and to regulate smaller wetlands of “unusual importance”, such as vernal pools. In doing so, the current DEC maps will become non-regulatory, meaning they can be used for informational purposes only. The DEC is seeking input on the proposal by February 19, 2024.

Barbara invited Charlie Canham from the Zoning Board and Paul Thomas from the Planning Board to help the group understand what these changes mean to Clinton. Currently, the Town of Clinton has an existing Zoning Law provision, Section 250-78 “Freshwater wetlands, watercourses, lakes, ponds, and floodplains”, that relies in part on the current DEC maps for identification of Town regulated wetlands. Given the revisions proposed by DEC, Section 250-78 may require revision to clarify for property owners, Town officials, and Town Boards how to identify wetlands subject to regulation.

2024 Budget	Amount	Spent	Remaining
CAC A8090.4	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000

Minutes A motion to accept the January 10, 2024, minutes was made by Jenn and was seconded by Deborah. The minutes were approved by the group.

Planning Board

A letter to the Planning Board was submitted on February 7, 2024, after members reviewed materials and maps of the proposed Six Senses Spas project. Reviewers included Jean, Barbara, Margaret, and Deborah.

A letter to the Planning Board was submitted on February 8, 2024. after Barbara reviewed an application for a Wetlands Permit at 438 Hibernia Rd.

Upcoming 2024 Dutchess County Annual CAC & EMC Roundtable Meeting

Town of Clinton CAC 2023 Annual Report was shared with the group before the meeting. It lists the accomplishments and ongoing projects by the CAC/CSC Task Force which will be presented by Barbara and Joe at the meeting on February 29, 2024, 6pm to 8pm, at Dutchess County Farm and Home Center, 2715 Route 44, Millbrook, NY.

CAC/CSC Website

Jenn has been continuing the work that Al began, keeping the original structure set up for www.clintoncac.com. It has pages dedicated to both the CAC and CSC work and information. Jenn and Barbara met with Arlene and Carol to discuss various questions related to linking the town CAC and CSC webpages to the new website. Agendas, Minutes and Annual Reports will continue to be located on the town of Clinton website.

CSC Task Force

The meeting continued to focus on the topic of the assessment of the Town's Bronze Application status, with an anticipated submittal date on or before April 4, 2024. For Bronze Certification, NYSERDA requires a means by which CSC information be made available to the public. The new website will accomplish this.

The Natural Resources Inventory for the Town of Clinton, which was a collaborative, grant-funded effort with the Town of Washington and the Village of Millbrook, has been completed and will be formally presented to the Town Board for adoption.

The Road-Stream Crossing Inventory and Management Plan is complete and was presented to the Town Board in December for adoption.

Work continues with the Climate Resilient Hazard Mitigation Plan. It is a County-wide plan under development by Dutchess County that will assist the Town of Clinton in making this information available to residents.

Education Outreach

"12 Monthly Tips for Being a Friend to the Environment" for January and February was sent by MailChimp to residents. This will be a monthly email and the information comes from DEC "Living the Green Life". Also, a Pollinator Pathway ZOOM presentation on the "Secret Lives of Wild Bees" was shared via MailChimp. Deborah suggested a postcard be sent to everyone in the community to introduce the CAC and explain what we do. She will research the cost of printing and mailing before a decision is made.

Priority Goal for 2024

A new chairperson needs to be appointed by 11/30/24.

Welcome to the Town Folders – No update.

Wappinger Creek Intermunicipal Council (WIC) – No update.

Clinton Nature Trail – No update.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, February 20, 2024 – "The Secret Lives of Wild Bees" - a ZOOM presentation at 6:30pm to 8pm.

Thursday, February 22, 2024 – Clinton Community Day Meeting at 6:30pm in the Clinton Historical Society building.

Thursday, February 29, 2024 – 2024 Dutchess County Annual CAC & EMC Roundtable, 6pm to 8pm, at Dutchess County Farm and Home Center (2715 Route 44, Millbrook, NY). Snow date: March 14th. Registration is required. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-2024-annual-cac-emc-roundtable-tickets-817489060787?aff=oddtcreator>

Saturday, September 7, 2024 – Clinton Community Day

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm. The next meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2024, at 5:30pm.

2024 Meetings: April 10; May 8; June 12; July 10; August 14; September 11; October 9; November 13; December 11.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Mansell