

Town of Clinton Conservation Advisory Council (CAC)

clintoncac.com

**Meeting Location: Top floor of Masonic Hall at the Town Complex,
1215 Centre Road, Rhinebeck, NY
Minutes – January 8, 2025 – 5pm**

CAC members present: Michael Hurd, Barbara Mansell, Jean McAvoy, Joe Phelan, Margaret Pierpont, Deborah Valchar,

Town Board liaison: Katherine Mustello

Review and approve minutes – December 11, 2024 (minutes recorded by Jenn). Joe Phelan moved to accept minutes. Michael Hurd seconded. All in favor.

CAC A8090.4	Amount	Spent	Remaining
2025 Budget Requested \$2,500	\$2,500	0	\$2,500

Proposed East Clinton Firehouse - Michael:

- Construction of new East Clinton Firehouse postponed while the Planning Board waits to receive additional information
- Michael Hurd's review of proposed firehouse plans observes:
 - Proposed exit road onto Salt Point Turnpike has acute, acute right turn. Dutchess County has already noted the problem.
 - The site parcel, already owned by East Clinton Fire Department, is bordered by a perennial stream to the west and an intermittent streambed to the north which is partially obstructed.
 - Some of the proposed parking lot and grading activity may encroach on wetland buffers.
 - Proposed firehouse is within the 100 year floodplain.
- Existing firehouse will eventually be sold to help finance construction of the new firehouse.
- A bond must pass to finance new firehouse construction.
- **Michael** will schedule a meeting of CAC members to review the plans and craft a letter to the Planning Board in advance of their February 4, 2025 meeting.

Education and Outreach - Jean:

- Jean contacted the Friendship Garden Club about possible speakers on environmental topics. Like the CAC, it has been unable to obtain speakers from the Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners.
- Discussion followed on potential sources of speakers, such as Cary Institute, Omega Institute, Dutchess Community College, Vassar College, Marist College, Scenic Hudson, Nature Conservancy, Winnekee Land Trust, Dutchess Land Conservancy, Hudsonia or DEC.
- **Barbara** will call an Education Subcommittee meeting to consider future plans.

CAC/CSC Website (www.clintoncac.com) - Barbara

- Barbara reported that Jenn has updated the website, adding information about local invasive species and articles about birds and wildlife in Clinton.

Welcome to the Town of Clinton Postcards - Deborah

- Price quotes have been received from Minuteman Press. The committee favored a 4"x6" rather than a 5"x7" postcard.
- Deborah will ask Carol Mackin for names and addresses of Town of Clinton households.
- Deborah will explore differences between costs of bulk mail and addressed mail, and whether a bulk mailing can be targeted to Town of Clinton residents only.
- Deborah will schedule a CAC subcommittee meeting to brainstorm postcard design.
- There was general approval of adopting some variant of the bookmark design to help establish an identifiable CAC "look".

Welcome to the Town of Clinton Folders - Barbara

- Barbara will start making up additional copies of the folders.

Climate Smart Community Task Force - Joe

- \$10,000 NYSERDA (NYS Energy Research and Development Agency) grant for Highway Garage energy survey has been received.
 - Joe, Michael Whitton and Eliot attended a Zoom meeting with NYSERDA's Jaden Beck and HVRC's Elizabeth Sun.
 - Upcoming scoping meeting involves Clinton Highway Superintendent Todd Martin and L&S Energy, a NYSERDA-approved energy audit vendor.
 - Need to consider whether old town garage will be included in the survey.
 - L&S will start work ~ 2 weeks after the scoping session, and produce a report with recommended actions one month after finishing survey.
- \$50,000 NYSEDA grant for implementing energy audit recommendations has been applied for.
 - Application reviewed by Elizabeth Sun, Hudson Valley Regional Council (HVRC) prior to submission
 - No response to the grant application has been received yet
 - Update requested via 01/08/2025 email to HVRC
- Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County inquiry re: Climate Smart Resiliency Planning
 - Representatives from Dutchess County Cornell Cooperative Extension reached out to Joe Phelan (Clinton CSC Task Force) and Barbara Mansell (Clinton CAC) regarding potential interest in participation in a project to develop a plan for the Town of Clinton to address potential local impacts related to climate change. Given our collective interest, Barbara and Joe each submitted a letter of interest, as requested by Dutchess CCE, to be used to support a grant proposal to be submitted to HVRC.
- Iroquois Pipeline:
 - Susan Karnes Hecht, Town of Poughkeepsie CSC Task Force, sent an email to Joe with updates on changes in updating and use of the pipeline, and asked the Town of Clinton to adopt a Board resolution opposing expansion of pipeline pressure.

- Matter was discussed at the December 2024 Clinton CSC meeting. Michael Whitton had already sent a response. It is up to the Town Board as to whether or not they wish to adopt a resolution.
- Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)
 - Town of Clinton is planning informational meetings about resuming CCA with Joule.
 - Katherine Mustello commented that Joule approached the town board, but was vague about the process.
 - Joe forwarded email to Michael Whitton and Eliot Werner re: Village of Rhinebeck plan to find alternative provider besides Joule.
 - Village of Rhinebeck is working with Joule.
 - Town of Red Hook is working with Joule.
 - Michelle Hinchey is proposing a bill for NYS to take over control of Central Hudson.

Clinton Nature Trail – Barbara Mansell

- No updates

Upcoming Meetings and Events Involving CAC Presence

- Tuesday, February 18, 2025 – Planning Board Meeting, 7pm in Masonic Hall
- Presumably May 2025 – Clinton Community Library Book Sale (no date yet)
- Saturday May 24, 2025 – Community Yard Sale & 3v3 Basketball Tournament, Fran Mark Park
- Saturday June 7, 2025 – Clinton Community Day

Next CAC Meeting – February 12, 2025, 5:30pm in Masonic Hall

2025 CAC Meetings – March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, October 9, November 12, December 12.

Meeting adjourned 7:00pm.