

# Town of Clinton Conservation Advisory Council

## Minutes – February 14, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM by Barbara Mansell, Chair.

**Members present:** Maya Goer-Palenzuela, Marian Thompson, Barbara Mansell, Bill Relyea, Mike Whitton and Norene Coller.

**Member of Town Board present:** Mike Whitton.

**Member of the public present:** Jean McAvoy.

**Minutes:** Bill moved that the minutes of the November 8, 2017 be accepted, Norene seconded. Maya moved that the minutes January 10, 2018 be accepted, Bill seconded. All members voted in favor for both.

**Public Comment:** Mike stated that the “Timber Protection and Harvest Law” was voted down, 3 to 2, at the March 13 Town Board meeting and it has been tabled.

Mike described what it means to be part of a Solar Community where residents can receive their electricity that is provided by solar energy only. After doing some research, Marian stated that the cost is more expensive than expected. Jean stated the town grant would give any resident an opportunity to buy into community solar and the ability to use new technology with solar power.

Mike stated that the town had invited a Community Choice Aggregation company to do a presentation on how a CCA works. It allows local governments give the opportunity to give our residents more control to lower their overall energy costs via clean energy. The company declined to participate because of a new tariff to be added on solar panels.

Mike stated that Ray Oberly has applied for a grant from Didi Barrett’s office for 65 solar panels to be added to what is already in place on the Highway Department’s storage shed.

**Communications:** Norene reported that she had attended the Planning Board meeting about the Hart subdivision on Schultz Hill Road and reported that the CAC had no concerns. She commented on the lack of information on the property and the difficulty of assessment in winter weather. She suggested that assessment be planned in the spring. No action on the application was taken.

<b>Finances:</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Remaining</b>
	<b>Town of Clinton</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Annual Review for 2017:** The Annual Review for 2017 was presented. This review will be shared on February 28, 2018, at the Dutchess County Environmental Management Council meeting at the Farm and Home Center. Barbara and Norene will attend.

**Climate Smart Pledge:** Some members of the CAC plan to attend 2018 Dutchess County Annual CAC and EMC Roundtable meeting at the Farm and Home Center on February 28<sup>th</sup>. The topics that will be presented: The NYS Climate Smart Communities Certification Program and The NYS Clean Energy Communities Program

Jean suggested that the first step in the process for setting goals to become a Climate Smart Community is benchmarking the town's energy use. Marian asked if Central Hudson gives the town a breakdown of this. Norene suggested that we invite Jeff Burns to learn about the town's Geothermal Thermal System.

**Zoning Revision:** The next meeting of the Zoning Revision Committee will occur on February 19th in the Mason Hall. All are invited to attend.

**Open Space:** No new information.

**Water, Watersheds and Wetlands:** Barbara stated that she received an initial Aquifer Overlay map from the Dutchess County Soil & Water Conservation District, however, they need the data for Zoning Districts to complete the map. Norene will contact Sarah Love about maps of town water resources. She will also check about required certification.

Maya stated that she is organizing a River Sweep event along the Little Wappinger Creek in places such as Fran Mark Park and Clinton Nature Trail in May.

**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:** Barbara would like to add information on zoning requirements to the Welcome Folders. Barbara suggested that the CAC have a table on the Clinton Library's Book Sale on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Jean suggested that we contact Laura Heady of the DEC to get information about the "Big Night" survey of amphibian crossings. The temperatures have to be above 40F and it must be raining.

Mike suggested the CAC enlist students to help with environmental education for community service.

**Nature Trail Subcommittee:** On February 17 at 9:30 AM the Clinton Community Library will sponsor a slide show on the Great Backyard Bird Count followed by a bird walk in the Nature Trail by Barbara Mansell All are welcome to attend.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 5:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

*Norene Collier*

Norene Collier

**Next CAC meeting: March 14, 2018 at 4pm**