

Town of Clinton Conservation Advisory Council
Meeting was held via Zoom
February 9, 2022 Minutes

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

CAC members: Jean McAvoy, Maya Goer-Palenzuela, Barbara Mansell, Joe Phelan, Margaret Pierpont, Marian Thompson

Member of the Town Board: Katherine Mustello

2022 Budget	Amount	Spent	Remaining
CAC A8090.4	\$2,100.00*	\$0	\$2,100.00

*Travel. .411 \$100

*Supplies .481 \$2000 (This is earmarked for 6 benches, dog waste stations, plantings and signs.)

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes from January 12, 2021 was made by Marian Thompson and seconded by Joe Phelan. The minutes were accepted by members.

Barbara Mansell and Jean McAvoy reviewed a Planning Board application, Riegert 2 Lot Subdivision – Browning Road and Ruskey Lane, on January 28, 2022. The application involves subdividing a 63.89 acres parcel into two lots consisting of 5.995 acres (Lot 1) and 57.895 acres (Lot 2). The intention is to build on Lot 1. Comments for Lot 1 were sent to the Planning Board and the letter was shared with members.

The 2022 Annual Dutchess County CAC & EMC Roundtable will be held via Zoom on Thursday, March 31, 2022.

The plan to add a webpage each for Pollinator Pathway and CSC Task Force webpages to the town’s website is on hold. Town Supervisor, Mike Whitton, met with Fred Shequine, website coordinator, who said Fred must find a new host server to improve the website’s efficiency.

Pollinator Pathway (PP)

Maya Goer-Palenzuela shared her revised “Land Management Proposal” based on the feedback she received at last month’s meeting. The proposal includes keeping the mowing height to 4”-6” in town parks and roadsides to encourage insect populations to thrive. Katherine Mustello suggested that a small test area be set aside to educate people who come to the Green Fair. Maya is planning to present the Land Management Proposal at the March 8, 2022 Town Board meeting.

Barbara Mansell contacted the Friendship Garden Club proposing a collaborative effort to include the town’s gardens in the Pollinator Pathway. This will be discussed at the club’s April meeting. There was initial concern as to the level of commitment for maintaining gardens. Katherine Mustello suggested contacting Jane Rodd, Program Leader of the 4H at the CCEDC, for volunteers who need community service hours to help. Joe Phelan also suggested the Boy Scouts.

The Pollinator Pathway supports a *No Mow in May* initiative. At last month’s meeting, members wanted to know why this is recommended. Barbara Mansell shared a very informative article that she found on the PP website called “*Lazy Lawn Mowing Helps Pollinators*”. This is the perfect example of the kind of information that would be listed on a PP page on the town website. Margaret Pierpont plans to create a “Q&A Mowing” handout for the Green Fair.

Margaret Pierpont said Skip Backus of Omega Institute will list the property on the Pollinator Pathway map. She also suggested a possible tour at the Omega Institute. The question as to who would be invited for the walk came up.

There was a brief discussion of the idea of having a hands-on workshop for planting pollinator-friendly planters or pots. How to do that, who would run it—and whether we want to do it at all is still to be determined.

Barbara Mansell shared new programs being developed by Joyce Tomaselli of the CCEDC for possible future library presentations. “Controlling Invasives in Managed Landscapes and Beyond” will be available after March 3, 2022. “What’s the Buzz: Creating Pollinator Friendly Communities” will expand on the 30 minutes presentation that she gave on Susan Hecht’s Zoom program *How to plant a garden, for people who are just starting out*. The cost is \$75 per program or 3 for \$200.

CSC Task Force

Joe Phelan reported that he, along with key members of the CSC, attended a CCEDC zoom discussion on Road-Stream Crossing Inventory and Management Plan. There is no cost to the town and it will elevate the town’s needs status when applying for funding for resizing and replacing town-owned culverts and bridges.

The collaborative effort to develop Repair Cafes with the towns of Pleasant Valley and Hyde Park continues. A Repair Café at the Starr Library in Rhinebeck on Saturday, February 12, 2022. Joe Phelan and Barbara Mansell plan to attend.

Marian Thompson volunteered to help with the Green Fair.

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, February 12, 2022, 10am – 2pm – Rhinebeck Repair Café

Location: Starr Library Community Room, 68 West Market Street, Rhinebeck

February 18-21, 2022 - Great Backyard Bird Count

For four days, the world comes together for the love of birds. People spend time in their favorite places watching and counting as many birds as they can find and reporting them. The observations help scientists better understand global bird populations before one of their annual migrations. For more information:

<https://www.birdcount.org>

Saturday, March 5, 2022 at 10am at Clinton Community Library by Maya Goer-Palenzuela “Pollinators: Who/What Are They & Why Do They Matter?”

As we look at the many pollinators that we are aware of, we also learn about pollinators that contribute enormously to the food web and pollination of flowers in our area. We will learn to identify these animals and learn about their role as a pollinator and crucial food source for other animals.

Saturday, March 19, 2022 at 10am at Clinton Community Library by Maya Goer-Palenzuela “Best Native Plant Choices for Our Eco-Region for Threatened Pollinator Survival”

Plants and pollinators do not understand a sign that says “Welcome to Dutchess County”. By viewing the United States without man-made borders, we zero in on Clinton Corners and surrounding areas. We will learn characteristics of the current biome. We learn what native plants we can nurture or add to our properties, that sustain the greatest amount of wildlife (focusing mainly on pollinators) based on research by Doug Tallamy.

Thursday, March 31, 2022, 6:00pm – 8:00pm - 2022 Annual Dutchess County CAC & EMC Roundtable via Zoom

The Annual Dutchess County CAC (Conservation Advisory Committee) & EMC (Environmental Management Council) Roundtable is an opportunity to hear and learn from the EMC and other CAC/CABs in Dutchess

County on the work they have completed in 2021, challenges each has faced, plans for 2022 and an opportunity to discuss and address common goals and challenges.

Saturday April 2, 2022 at 10am at Clinton Community Library by Maya Goer-Palenzuela
“Property Management: Nurturing Habitat for Non-Humans”

Can we make small or grand gestures where we live, work, and play to cultivate a harmonious relationship with nature? Let’s talk about how old-fashioned techniques of land management are detrimental to our fragile ecosystem, fragmentation, and repairing damage done as we learn more about being responsible land stewards.

Saturday, May 14, 2022, 11:00am – 3:00pm at Fran Mark Park - Green Fair More details will be become available.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm and the next meeting scheduled for March 9, 2022 at 5:30pm.

Meetings for the remainder of 2022 will be April 13, May 11, June 8, July 13, August 10, September 14, October 12, November 9, and December 7.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Mansell