

Town of Clinton Conservation Advisory Council
Meeting Location: Town Hall
1215 Centre Rd, Rhinebeck, NY
January 10, 2024, Minutes

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

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

Town Board Liaison: Katherine Mustello

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

Minutes A motion to accept the November 8, 2023 minutes was made by Joe and was seconded by Deborah. The minutes were approved by the group.

Barbara welcomed new member Jenn Brown, who was appointed to the CAC earlier in the month.

Priority Goal for 2024

Barbara will be retiring from the CAC at the end of the year. A new chairperson needs to be appointed by then. Barbara has created a list of responsibilities to help the group understand what her role has been as chairperson.

Planning Board

There is a need for members to attend Planning Board meetings on a regular basis. It is helpful that Katherine Mustello is also Town Board liaison to the PB. Margaret and Mady volunteered to attend the January 16th Planning Meeting, which was to be a Cornerstone workshop. A date for the Six Senses workshop has not been set.

Wetlands Protection

On November 9, 2023, some members attended a DEC Webinar - "Protecting Wetlands and Streams in Your Community". It was recorded and would be helpful for others in the group to view. Deborah brought up her concerns about wetlands along Mountain View Road being unnecessarily disturbed. She also shared a DEC "Seeking Input to Further Protect Freshwater Wetlands" email that she had received. The DEC wants to further protect wetlands, especially those that are smaller and are not currently regulated. These wetlands tend to be of unusual importance. Barbara will share the email with the group after the meeting. The town already has some protection in this watercourse law – "Article V. Supplementary Regulations § 250-78. Freshwater wetlands, watercourses, lakes, ponds and floodplains" from 11/2008.

Education Outreach

The above raised the question of how the CAC can share important environmental information. Lynne suggested that there needs to be a plan put in place to share information. Katherine suggested, for example, that a newsletter could be sent out by the CAC four times a year. Lynne has been collecting email addresses at recent educational events, and Jenn suggested that the new CAC/CSC website be set up so that residents can subscribe to emails. Jenn asked who she should contact to find out the guidelines for sending emails to the public. The group started thinking about ideas for educational programs. Margaret suggested holding an event

in the Town Hall to view and discuss maps of the town from the completed Natural Resource Inventory. Another idea is holding a discussion on the importance of wetlands.

CAC Task Force

The Task Force did not meet in December. There is still concern that two of the requirements for the Bronze application will not be completed in time for submission in April. The requirements are the completion of a new CAC/CSC website and an Emergency Preparedness Plan. Jack Persely of the Task Force, Deborah, and Barbara attended a DEC Webinar on “Using Natural Resource Inventories in Designating Critical Environmental Areas”.

CAC/CSC Website

Barbara met with Al to look at the website’s progress. Al is awaiting recommendations and comments from the group before it goes live. Barbara has suggested some changes. Jack, of the CSC Task Force, also sent his recommendations.

Welcome to the Town Folders

Mady was given a list of 53 new residents from the past 2 years by the Assessor’s Office. She only had 8 folders available to be delivered. Barbara showed Mady the CAC room in the Town Hall where the supplies and instructions for creating of the folders are kept and where to make copies in the Town Supervisor’s office.

Wappinger Creek Intermunicipal Council (WIC)

Katherine attended the Dutchess County Watershed Roundtable held at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County (CCEDC) on December 5, 2023. During 2023, WIC had not met. Katherine noted that CCEDC hopes to restart the meetings once a new chairperson has been found. At that time, Barbara said a volunteer will be needed to attend these meetings.

Clinton Nature Trail

No news

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Thursday, January 11, 2024, 7pm to 8pm – “The Spongy Moth in Our Yards and Forests” at Cary Institute Main Campus + Live Stream, 2801 Sharon Turnpike (Rte. 44) Millbrook, NY 12545. To Register: <https://www.caryinstitute.org/events/spongy-moth-our-yards-and-forests>

Saturday, September 7, 2024 – Clinton Community Day

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm. The next meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2024, at 5:30pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Mansell