

Town of Clinton Conservation Advisory Council
Meeting Location: Top floor of the Masonic Hall at the Town Complex
1215 Centre Rd, Rhinebeck, NY
July 12, 2023 Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:37pm by Margaret Pierpont, CAC member, in the absence of Barbara Mansell, chair.

CAC Members: Mady Goldstein, Jean McAvoy, Lynne Morrell, Joe Phelan, Margaret Pierpont

Town Board Liaison: Katherine Mustello

CAC A8090.4	Amount	Spent	Remaining
A8090.411 / TRAVEL	\$100		
A8090.481 / SUPPLIES	\$400		
A8090.490 / OTHER (website, programs for residents)	\$1,200		
A8090.498 / COMMUNITY EVENTS (Green Fair)	\$1,000		
2023 Budget	\$2,700	\$0	\$2,700

Minutes: A motion to accept the May 10, 2023 minutes was made by Mady and seconded by Joe. The minutes were approved by the group.

Spongy Moths

Many thanks to Barbara Mansell for researching spongy moth information and disseminating it to the committee before today's meeting. We discussed ways to inform the public about the current infestation of spongy moths, its implications for next year, and suggestions on how homeowners can respond. Katherine suggested that the Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) sponsor an informational program, perhaps through the library, regarding spongy moths. We concluded that September might be a good time to offer such a program. Margaret noted that Cary Institute has a resident scientist who has devoted his career to moth research. She offered to contact Cary Institute or Cornell University's Forest Health Team to see about a speaker for a public presentation. Jean remarked that it would be very helpful to offer such a presentation on Zoom as well as in person and to archive it as well, for airing on the town's TV station or as a link on the town's website.

Mady and Margaret reported that the NYS DEC, Cornell University and Cary Institute websites contain good information about spongy moths. The committee discussed the possibility of asking Barbara to post informational pdfs or a public service video, if one can be found, on the town's website, once she has recovered from Covid.

The committee also discussed a recent email received by Carol Mackin and forwarded to the CAC which suggested spraying town of Clinton trees for spongy moths next year. It is not clear how practical or effective such action would be to control spongy moths.

Clinton Community Day

Lynne has placed an order for a 2' by 4' canvas CAC banner with Minute Man Press and is assured that it will be ready for use at Community Day on September 2nd. Jean asked Lynne to confirm that the banner will allow some method of stringing up or attaching to a table, such as grommets or ties. Lynne will call Minute Man Press and ask.

Jack Persely, a member of the CSC, is planning a "mini Green Fair" with about 5 vendors. Lynne will confirm that two tables – for the CAC and CSC – have been reserved in the vicinity of the environmental displays and will talk to Jack about his expectations. She will also attend the Community Day meeting on July 27.

The following topics for the CAC and Climate Smart Community Task Force (CSC) tables were suggested:

- Pollinator Pathway: Lynne offered to gather handout materials and repeat the plant giveaway, which was very popular last year. She also welcomes any new materials.
- National Resource Inventory (NRI): the NRI Task Force will have detailed maps of Clinton on hand, highlighting important environmental features of the town, to help educate the public about Clinton's natural resources and the NRI in progress.
- Mady offered to research the effect of night-time lighting on insects and other wildlife and prepare a handout.
- additional ideas are welcomed.

The Community Day Planning Committee is still looking for volunteers to solicit sponsors. If anyone wants to help find sponsorship or pick up lawn signs, they can call Todd Martin at 845-266-3204.

Climate Smart Community Task Force

Joe reported that Anna Braw Harrod-McGrew, from Cornell Cooperative Extension, has attended the last three CSC meetings and been very helpful in assessing readiness to apply for Bronze status as a Climate Smart Community. She estimates that the CSC will exceed the 120 points needed once all actions currently underway are completed. Key is the completion of the NRI, scheduled for January, 2024. Richard Marshall and Joe also hope to complete the Climate Action Plan by then.

Jean and Margaret confirmed that the NRI is on schedule for completion and solicited ideas from the committee on ways to generate interest in the report, both among town residents and the Clinton Town Board and Planning Board. Katherine remarked that the new NRI will be helpful in undertaking an update of the Comprehensive Plan. Jean remarked that once we achieve CSC Bronze status, we might be able to qualify for grant money to help develop a new Comprehensive Plan.

Public education and outreach are necessary components of receiving CSC credit for the NRI. Jean and Margaret reported that the NRI Task Force will request time on the Town Board and Planning Board agendas in the fall to report on the NRI and solicit input.

Summer Camp

Liz Tompkins, Director of the Town of Clinton Summer Camp, requested a Monarch program during the week of August 14th. None of the committee members are available at that time, but Jean volunteered to contact Liz and offer to provide a nature program, titled "Once Upon a Time" in the days prior to August 10.

Welcome to the Town of Clinton Folders

Since Barbara has been in communication with the Town Assessor, Teresa Stegner, on this topic, we will wait for Barbara's return from Covid isolation to pursue next steps: 1) meeting of interested committee members to acquaint themselves with the folder's contents, 2) getting volunteers to assemble new folders when needed, 3) assigning someone to contact Teresa Stegner, Town Assessor, each month for names and addresses of any new Town of Clinton residents, and 4) delivering a welcome folder to any such identified new residents. We will also make some folders available in the Assessor's Office. Lynne proposed that CAC members take turns with the monthly task.

Clinton Nature Trail:

No additional news about the 5 new benches which have been ordered.

Planning Board Applications:

No additional news about the result of the CAC's recent Letter of Recommendations.

ClintonCAC.com;

No additional news about development of the new CAC webpage(s).

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35. The next meeting is scheduled on August 9, 2023 at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean McAvoy

Upcoming Events: Saturday, September 2, 2023 – Clinton Community Day

2023 Meetings: August 9; September 13; October 11; November 8; December 13, 2023