

**October 12, 2023**  
**Clarence Conservation Advisory Council Minutes**

Present: Linda Jenkin Costanzo, Cheryl Cantlon, Peg Walker, Barbara Maisch, Dennis Londos, Bob Geiger, Ron Walkowiak, Chick Biegner, Joel Radder, Steve Diver, Paul Shear

Meeting called to order at: 7:00 P.M. Kathleen Hallock Conference Room, Town Place.

Zoom meeting with Evan Vahratian from the Clarence Family Support Center. Evan spoke about using the Nature Center as an Open House throughout the year to bring in the community and youth from the schools for greater use of the Nature Center and greater awareness of conservation and natural resources in the Town of Clarence. The Conservation Advisory Committee expressed willingness to partner with Evan and the family support center to promote this mission, with some ideas being mental health awareness, opioid epidemic and Narcan training, nighttime hikes, snowshoeing and ranger led nature programs. Evan has also reached out to Kate Hillman in Erie County Parks who would be happy to assist in ranger programs, which are free to municipalities in Erie County. Mostly, Evan would need some support from the Conservation Advisory Council in planning these activities.

Treasurer report: \$330.13 for remaining year. This remainder will be used for the Birding for Beginners program and for some lumber for bird houses. The proposed budget is similar to last year's budget of \$1000, with some additional speaker fees and materials. The individual costs are broken down by line items. Steve motioned for next year's proposed budget of \$1,100 to be adopted. Second by Chick. Unanimously approved.

Old business:

Tree platforms: Joel is designing platforms for Cooper Hawks, Red Tail and owls in Beeman Creek. There was some discussion about finding donated telephone poles to attach the platforms and who would auger the holes. Two poles would be good in Beeman creek, and cannot be too close due to territorial nature of birds of prey. There are additional locations in Clarence to construct bird nesting platforms, but no wetland habitat known to Committee members, that would be suitable for osprey. This program could be scalable to other locations in Clarence. We will seek donated poles and help from the Highway department.

New business:

- Nature Center: Birding for Beginners with Tom Kerr at the Nature Center Saturday October 21, 10-11:30 A.M. There'll be a presentation on identification and a walk at Nature center later to identify birds. All welcome.
- Troop 27 will set up tubes for trees planted (last spring) on October 28, 10 A.M.
- Discussion on possible events for next year, speakers and ideas welcome for next April spring planting and events at Nature Center.
- Possible outdoor area for learning, lectures in future.
- Lecture series on trees and forests could be run in late summer early Fall to help residents in planning fall planting. Ideas include three parts: Old growth forests, Trees to plant in

our Town, and where do trees come from? Ron offered to give the latter talk based on his extensive experience.

- Tree of Distinction Program to mirror other towns that recognize older trees. Need two members to form a subcommittee to create brochure.
- Three main areas to focus on for Conservation Committee programs: spring, summer and fall. The long term goal is to get lectures and activities going on monthly at the Nature Center.
- Erie county Rangers are available for resources and presentations.

Paul Shear indicated that fall tree planting is already going on in Clarence Hollow (north side of Main St.). Lavocats will be planting trees this year. This is part of the ongoing planting of street trees in the Town of Clarence, with trees already planted in Clarence Center and the Harris Hill areas. Trees are selected for the site, so some are small, medium or large trees. Tree planting is following recommendations of the Davey tree inventory and survey.

Next meeting: Thursday November 9, 2023 7 P.M. in the Kathleen Hallock Conference Room at the Town Hall.

Meeting adjourned at: 8:30

Submitted by Linda Jenkin Costanzo and Steve Diver