

Minutes
Clarence Conservation Advisory Council Meeting
April 11, 2024
@Clarence Nature Center

7PM Meeting called to order by Cheryl Cantlon

In attendance: Cheryl Cantlon, Chick Biegner, Barbara Maish, Steve Diver, Dennis Londos, Joel Radder, Ron Walkowiak, Casey Diederich, Lori Sauls, Bob Geiger, Paul Shear and Bob Altieri.

No visitors today.

Welcome to Lori Sauls, a new council member.

Minutes from March: no corrections, were adopted.

Financial Report

Cheryl is willing to serve as Treasurer unless anyone else would like to do it. No one offered, and Cheryl was unanimously voted to be Treasurer.

The tables for the Nature Center will cost \$229 for 3 x 8 foot folding tables. The logo design for rasterizing cost \$225. The design by Barbara Maish was done for free as a service to the Council. Cheryl will purchase a recycling bin for placement in the Nature Center building.

Town Councilman Bob Altieri informed the committee that the Conservation budget was raised from \$1100 to \$2000 for 2024-2025, an increase of \$900. This was approved by the Town Board as they recognized increasing activities and expenditures exceeding the committee's prediction based on 2023 spending level.

Upcoming costs will be \$160 for tree seedlings purchased for the Arbor Day Open House from Livingston County Conservation District and ca. \$50 for open house snacks and incidentals.

Bob Altieri:

Arranged to have grass mowed before Monday's tree marking at the Thompsen Road planting site. He has been coordinating with the Parks Department.

The tree marking will be Monday April 15th at 9am. Meet at the senior Center parking lot.

For the Open house, Bob arranged to have handicapped parking signs, no parking and arranged for the fencing materials to be removed.

Paul Shear:

The canoe launch site is not certain. This area has varying water levels and there were some questions about county restrictions and funding. Another possible launch site is being explored; detail will be forthcoming.

Website

The Arbor day open house is posted and linked to the flyer. Website is a work in progress and needs updated trail maps, as they become available.

Tree Survey/Champion Tree Program

Barb and Ron described the tree survey with plans to advertise in the Clarence Bee with plans to publish informational content twice a month. They also suggest connection with historical information, such as historical homes in Clarence could be interesting. Approximately 10 trees will be recognized over 6 months. Residents can send in their nominations with

parameters. The council member will need to verify size by measuring appropriately to double check the information supplied by the nominator.

T-Shirts

20 shirts were ordered for \$11 per shirt. These are for Conservation Council members to wear at public functions such as the open house. Thanks to Barbara for doing all of this.

Events coming up: April 20th tree planting at the Clarence Senior Center.

Osman Farooq is taking the lead on this and purchased 500 tree seedlings for planting on site. The basic sites have been approved by Parks and the town councilmen. The tree sites need to be carefully marked out, 8 feet apart. We want to allow mowing between rows so the area doesn't look too scruffy. We also want to give the trees plenty of room since we had good survival rate last year and don't want to move some later. Talked with Paul Engler about ditching and trail work. Cheryl wants to bundle shrubs near the front and mulch around them. Waivers will be provided on site, and electronic copies of waivers will be send to Osman by Steve. The tree marking will be Monday April 15th at 9am. Concil members should meet at the senior Center parking lot.

Deer Control

Dennis explained that 123 deer were taken to help control the deer population. There are some areas that are hard to hunt in, and deer are being pushed out of new development areas such as the one at Harris Hill and Greiner. Oiling geese eggs works. Deer ticks are a big problem and getting worse due to milder winters.

Open House April 27th at the Nature Center

This is our big kick off event for the tree planting projects that take place throughout the Town in the right-of-way. We have Angela Baron, the bluebird Ambassador of Western New York to speak and guide the field work where we will install 4 Eastern bluebird boxes. These will be continuously monitored throughout the year by the Len Anderson memorial birding group. Nate Morey, the DEC forester will give a guided tree identification hike in the second half of the program. There will be tables by the Youth Bureau leading kids' crafts, Conservation Council (seed packets and informational material, maps, etc.), the DEC with Arbor Day information, the Erie County Rangers, the NYS Bluebird society and the Lions Club. Boy scouts from troop 27 will lead a flag ceremony, help with parking, and build and install the birdhouses during the open house. Boy scout troop 27 will bring 4 bird houses to donate and install or give away; Steve Diver will build 4 pre-cut blue bird houses. Four will be installed on site and four will be given away at the end of the day.

On Friday April 26th, we need to meet to package the seedlings. 6PM at CNC.

Casey will get two carafes of coffee from Goodrich Coffee.

Cheryl will bring granola bars and jugs of water with paper cups.

If the boot brush station is available in time, we will also have that assembled during the open house.

Next meeting will be May 16th at the Nature Center at 7PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11PM.