

**Minutes of Conservation Advisory Council,
09 December 2024 Meeting at the Town Park Clubhouse**

Call to order at 6:40 PM

Present: Cheryl Cantion, Steve Diver, Casey Diederich, Chick Biegner, Ron Walkowiak, Barbara Maisch, Dennis Londos, Paul Shear, Bob Altieri

Absent: Joel Radder, Bob Geiger, Lori Sauls

Financial Report: In Lori's absence, Cheryl informed the committee that all dollars from our 2024 budget has been spent. Bob informed the committee that the new \$2500 budget for 2025 is in place.

Updates:

Bob Altieri - Raptor Stands will be worked on with Parks and Highway departments in early 2025.

Paul Shear - no updates

Dennis - Deer Abatement program is going smooth so far this hunting season with 30 deer taken. Jamie Dussing has worked to get the Deer Abatement group into the Boncrest area.

Casey - Will work with Tim Lavocat and Jon Bleuer after the first of the year to discuss the Town Pond issue. The proposal for the grant request has already been written by Water Keepers. Water Keepers just needs a letter of support from the Town of Clarence to move forward with their submission. The grant will be for the feasibility study only, the pond will not be touched, will be for the estimate of dredging, evaluation of the pond, etc. Paul mentioned that the pond is stocked each spring for the fishing derby. Dennis asked if the stocking and the derby can be moved closer together to have more fish available during the derby?

Cheryl - The Family Support Center (FSC) has schedule two hikes at the Nature Center for 2025.

1. Winter Wonderland Hike on 25 January from 5:00 to 7:00 PM

2.) Flora and Fauna Hike on 08 March from 5:30 to 7:30 PM

- Volunteers are required for Winterfest the morning of 25 January. Chick offered to staff the table.

- Cheryl thanked Barb and Ron for their great Bee articles. Barb and Cheryl will be working on more articles for 2025 with articles on wildlife and native plants and flowers. Ron and Barb will be working together to record information collected from the Tree Survey. All submissions will be recorded for historical purposes for the town.

Ron - Told us that biggest tree he found south of Clarence Center Road was a Honey Locust at the home of Judith Light. They estimate that the tree was planted around 1835

and was cut down last year due to age and disease. Ron told us that Mrs. Light would like to build a memorial to this tree using wood from the tree. Does anyone have a contact that could help with this project?

Steve told us that the biggest tree in Clarence is at the Orchid Ledge Farm on Thompson Road. The tree is a Silver Maple that measures 21 feet across!

Old Business

- Arbor Day - Steve and Barb are working on getting speakers from the DEC, Erie County Foresters. Cheryl is working with Western New York Bluebirds. Paul mentioned the Arborist from Draves Arboreum in Darien.

- Cheryl let us know that the pick-up of seedlings falls on Good Friday this year. Is this going to happen on this date? She will find out the exact date after the first of the year. Cheryl is now a Master Gardener!

- Cheryl provided a summary of all that the commission accomplished in 2024;

Open House, FSC Hikes, 6 educational table events, Tree Survey, Bee articles, 2 Tree Planting days, Blue Bird boxes with the Boy Scouts, Tree Tubes, Plantings on Thompson, added display cabinets at the Nature Center, more use of the Nature Center, worked with Parks Department to improve the trails, working on new trail markers, shirts, logos, sweatshirts, boot brush station and many more things!

New Business

- Steve and Cheryl suggested getting the Science and Environmental and Garden clubs from the High School involved with our commission. For the environmental club, Brooke Murdoch is the faculty counselor and she has a student who is interested in attending the January 2025 council meeting. Jim Marshall is the retired teacher that worked with students at the Nature Center. Involvement by high school clubs could stimulate future conservation projects and provide volunteers that would help with them.

- Dennis suggested that we get the bowling pins removed that were dumped at the Nature Center. The area is thick with buckthorn and hard to get into. Might be a good February project for Parks or Highway with heavy machinery.

- Paul suggested having a project for our original 500 trees that were planted in 2023. Move the tubes, trimming as required, ongoing maintenance, etc. It was also suggested that Mr. Draves be brought in to teach a class on pruning, to a volunteer group, or possibly opening it up for interested citizens. A lot of people have no idea how to prune a tree and this could serve our interests also in caring for the 500-seedlings a year as they grow. This will be ongoing maintenance.

Motion to adjourn made at 7:30 PM

Next meeting is scheduled for 09 January at 7:00 PM in the Kathy Hallock Room.