

Clarence Conservation Council Minutes
May 16th 2024

Present: Cheryl Cantlon, Bob Geiger, Dennis Londos, Barb Maisch, Paul Shear, Steve Diver, Ron Walkowiak, Bob Altieri, Casey Dieterich

Guest: Emily Root, Director Ecological Programs Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper

Meeting called to order at: 6:59 P.M. by Steve Diver

Treasury Report: Presented May Report, total expenses for the month \$255.81 unreported \$57.80 remaining balance of \$1132.56 (shirt expense not included, will be reported in June budget). Paul and Bob asked to be kept in loop regarding expenses.

UPDATES:

Bob Altieri: Payment for shirts is in process and coming shortly

Dennis Londos: Working on different sites and geese population controls

New business: Arbor Day Open House debrief

Held on April 27 2024 discussion followed

- We can change up the giveaway, doesn't always have to be trees
- Date can be changed; we did have a good turnout in spite of the rain and competition from kids sports
- Thank you letter to be sent to the Bee thanking volunteers make event for everyone perhaps n more kids programming
- Were approached by Girl Scout troop to update the interpretive circular trail, they were given the old material and we will reach out and work together.
- Link more Clarence citizens with projects, i.e., the bluebird giveaway went well
- The guided wood hike was well received, even with the rain
- Looking for new ideas for educational programming, more interactive programming
- Paul suggested that we pare down the number of trees that were given way due to about 30 % being left over, we distributed them at the library. Let the public know via Facebook

Deer issues along Goodrich:

- It was brought to the attention of the committee about oak trees being an attractant of deer near Goodrich road (town hall) discussion followed around how to discourage the deer. This will have to be handled by the county since it's a county road. Will reach out to the county (Chris Greene's office) about deer control tactics.

- **Boot Brush Station:**

Supplies are on order and coming soon. Will work with Parks on installation, Committee decided that the Thompson trail head entrance is the best location for the station.

Thompson Road trail:

We continue to work with parks to establish the perimeter trail. We would like to add a Kiosk near the Senior Center and revamp trail map

Senior Center Hike:

We offered to lead a hike; committee is working on an email to reach out to the Senior Center. We are awaiting a response and hope to learn more from seniors about what conservation-themed programming would be of interest.

June 1st 11-2 the FSC will have an Open House at the Nature Center:

We were invited to do a tabling at the Nature Center. Steve and Cheryl will be out of town on that date. No one was available to run a table currently.

Emily Root Presentation

- Emily passed out handouts about the organization and previous work projects
- Gave a description of what the organization does
 - Local environmental non-for-profit org. for 35 year, 50 grants and 20 people, that works with municipalities and other partners
 - Restoration work and public access to water ways
 - Educational outreach
 - Waterway clean up
 - Water sampling
 - Grant funding

Several committee members asked questions:

Does BNW deal with flood mitigation? Yes, Cayuga creek project is an example. Yes, they can work with Clarence to help address this issue. Funding for project can come from various resources including local, state and federal sources.

How do we setup a local waterway clean up? BNW can provide site captain training

Joel discussed the pond at the Town Park. This pond needs some work i.e. drenching and bank stabilization. Can BNW assist with that? Maybe, will need to research and bring the BNW experts.

Water quality test? Yes, the BNW has a citizen scientist group called river watch that is trained and performs local waterway testing. Several members of the committee expressed an interest in participating in future testing, possibly with high school groups.

Steve D. asked if they do habitat restoration projects.

Emily R. spoke about the current and past restoration project in the WNY area.

How do the Projects come about? Municipalities usually reach out to BNW for assistance
Steve D. ask about contamination of swamps from old quarries and gypsum mines. More research needed.

Will set up a meeting with Casey Joel Steve and Cheryl to take a look at Town Park pond and do some preliminary evaluations.

Tree Survey:

Ron W. / Barb M. the 1st article will be coming out in the May 22nd Bee all other articles are prepared and highlighted each month

Reponses from public on initial kickoff: good response and will wait to have a sufficient size list to then go out and do a certification. Positive response so far.

Project List:

- To be posted on website
- To utilized by general public, scouts/girl scouts and other organizations

Bird nesting platforms:

- Looking to secure two utility poles, ideally 25 feel above ground
- Cheryl will contact FINR about placement
- Joel will contact people from the driving range which has two poles on the ground
- Steve will contact NYSEG

Next Meeting June 13th will contact Parks and Highway to see if Dept heads can attend and work on a collaboration

Meeting adjourned at 8:15PM