

Clarence Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2024 @ the Clarence Nature Center 7PM

Meeting called to order by Cheryl Cantion.

In attendance: Cheryl Cantion, Lori Sauls, Joel Radder, Bob Geiger, Casey Diederich, Barbara Maisch, Ron Walkowiak, Bob Altieri and Paul Shear.

Absent: Steve Diver, Chick Bieger, Dennis Londos. No visitors today.

Minutes from July: Motion to accept by Ron Walkowiak, seconded by Bob Geiger, minutes accepted by all.

Financial Report

Lori Sauls will take over as treasurer from this point on.

Update from Cheryl;

\$2,075 total spend projected for full year 2024.

\$1,278.02 expenses to date (2nd logo, stickers, tree survey posters need to be added).

Updates;

- Councilman Bob Altieri;

Ground Grid has been received. Box is here at this meeting.

- Councilman Paul Shear;

Provided the council with the property map of Tonawanda Creek. Possibility that we run a trail along the creek. Joe Beaser is the current owner. Land is not for sale, town does not want to buy it, would be a possible easement by the town where Joe Beaser will maintain ownership. Property is 40' deep x 100' in length. This is high ground along the creek and the low and high water marks would need to be gauged. There is a State Launch about 1 mile away. We are years away from completing this project. We should consider this to be a future project.

- Website updates – Cheryl let us know that there are no updates.
- Tree Survey Program updates (Ron and Barb);

Ron – No new responses received from townspeople. Ron measured a number of trees at the following locations; Brothers of Mercy, Salt Road, Main Street Town Park, Herr Road and Greiner Road.

Barb – Copy of the new flyer was provided to the council, these will be placed throughout town. Barb will provide the PDF copy to Bob A. to get 100 copies made by the town (***Action**). Barb will write future articles for the Bee about perennials. Joel then provided Barb with articles that he wrote and were in previous editions of the Bee. Barb will have these articles placed in future editions of the Bee under Joel's name.

All – expressed concerns about wildlife in the area (ie. Bears, deer, etc.)

Old Business

Bob A. mentioned his concerns to the council that we have too many items that we are working on. We should identify one or two key items. Take care of each one then move onto the next most important item on our list. Suggested key items;

1. Placement of Ground Grid
2. Place tubes on newly planted trees and check on tubes that are on our first planted trees.
3. Work on Raptor platforms.

Cheryl – Review of Old Business

- Facebook name. Council agreed to change the name to “Clarence Conservation Advisory Council”.
- Deer Crossing Signs – Paul told the council that each sign will cost us \$150 that we will need to pay for. No decision was made at this time.
- Tree List for the Planning Board – Ron is working with the town.
- Town Park Mill Pond – Paul told the council that the town is not going to pay for this work on the pond. Bob Geiger and Paul provided history to the council on how contaminants found their way into the pond from the sandblasting performed by Gerry Edbauers company. Casey let us know that he is working with the River Keeper group. River Keeper wants to spend a small amount of funds (\$3,000 to \$5,000) to put together an exploratory plan to lay out what will need to be done on the pond. Casey will work with River Keeper to generate a grant proposal due by 20 September to obtain these initial funds.
***Action:** Paul will talk with the Town Board to make sure that they are aware and are ok with what River keeper wants to do.

New Business

- Desk removal from the Nature Center. ***Action** for Bob A. to check with the town to determine if the 3 desks can be removed.
- Clare Sweeney reach out. Runs the Birds of Prey educational program with her Earth Spirit Group. Cost is \$200 for this event. Can we combine with Evan Vahratian’s events?
- Evan Vahratian upcoming activities at the Nature Center
Cheryl – September / October haunted hike?
Ron – Told council about the Beaver meadows Fall Hike with 5 or 6 educational stations. Can we do something like this with Evan?
Bob Geiger – Told the council about the dates of the upcoming movie shoot that will be taking place at the Nature Center on September 21st, 22nd and October 2nd thru the 21st.
Evan may be interested in a Fall Haunted Hike, a Clean-Up Trail hike, an event with music and performing arts and a event to promote Beeman Creek.
- New stickers – Barb received two new price quotes for \$1.01 each for 200 pieces. Samples were shown at this meeting. Joel made motion to approve this purchase and seconded by Lori. ***Action** – Barb will send details to Bob A. for stickers to be ordered by Kimberly.

- Mulch spread at the Senior Center planting site on Thomann Road. Boy Scout Troop 27 to spread the mulch on the new plantings. ***Action** – Bob A. to contact Jamie Dussing to have 4-5 yards of mulch delivered.
- Boy Scout Troop 27 will set benches and owl boxes at Beeman Park on Sunday August 11th as part of Grant Langlotz's Eagle Project.
- ***Action** - Bob A. to set up meeting with Cheryl and Jason Holden to discuss date for placement of the ground grids.
- Raptor Platforms – Decision still needs to be made if platform is to be placed on poles or trees? Paul mentioned that this project will most likely take place in 2025 due to the availability of the Parks and Highway departments.

For our next meeting, Paul told the group that council needs to come up with one budget number that needs to be provided to the town.

Next meeting will be on 12 September at 7:00 pm at the Nature Center.

Ron made motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Barb. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.