

Clarence Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Agenda

09 January 2025 - Kathy Hallock Room Town Hall

7.00PM Call to order and Introduction (Cheryl)

Present: Cheryl Cantion, Steve Diver, Casey Diederich, Chick Biegner, Ron Walkowski, Barbaras Maisch, Dennis Londos, Bob Geiger and Councilman Paul Shear and Bob Altieri
Visitor - Owen Shifflet from the Clarence High School Environmental Club
The Conservation Advisory Council approved our 09 December 2024 meeting minutes

Updates

- Councilman Bob Altieri – Parks agreed to meet with us at Beeman Park to determine best location for the Raptor Stands. Date for this meeting needs to be determined.
- Councilman Paul Shear – no updates
- Deer control (Dennis) – Reviewed article relating to West Seneca. Much deer damage to crops and trees. Sterilization of the deer is very expensive and needs to be done each year. Over \$1B per year in deer / car accidents. Deer hunting licenses are down to 3%.
Action – Paul will work on getting Dennis another hut.
- 2025 Budget Update (Lori) – The town has increased the budget for year 2025 to \$2,500.
- Grant for Mill Pond survey update (at Main Street Town Park) (Casey)
Action - Casey will work with Bob to set up a meeting with Jonathan Bleuer
- Winterfest Tabling @Town Park, 11-1pm Jan 25 Volunteer status updates (Cheryl)

Upcoming Events

- Headlamp Hike (Steve)
 - Evan Vahratian (FSC) plans 2 headlamp hikes
 - **Saturday January 25th 5:00pm-7:00pm**
 - (Theme – “Winter Wonderland” --- traditional snow/winter themes --- hot cocoa, snowflakes, etc.). Tabling only; possible camp fire. Coordinate with Parks for plowing. Glowsticks.
 - **Saturday, March 8th 5:30pm-7:30pm**
 - (Theme – “Flora, Fauna, and Flannel” --- flannel attire and “woody vibes” with informational tables on animals and plants)
 - Preset up of new educational items
 - Need volunteers to man CCAC table, Parking (cones and vests from Highway dept). Parking areas?
- Transcendental writing at Nature Center May 17th
- Tree series in the Bee continue series
 - Upcoming: native plants and perennials (Cheryl and Barbara)
 - Upcoming: wildlife (Joel and Barbara)
 - Upcoming: value of trees (Steve, Arbor Day preparation)

Old Business

- Arbor Day Open House Planning (Steve, Barbara)
 - Saturday April 26th, 2025
 - Morning speaker: Dave O'Donnell (Eastern Monarch Butterfly Farm)

- Exhibitor: Wild Spirit Education (Thanks Barbara for suggesting and contacting)
- Guided hike and tree identification by DEC Forester. **DEC has confirmed (Steve)**
- Tree giveaway (50 seedlings this year, not 100) (Cheryl)
- **Contact educational vendors asap to book for the Arbor day event**
- **NYSBBA** Angela Bron will table
- **Clarence Youth Bureau** will not be available
- Possible project ideas
- Sign-up sheet: "Friends of Clarence Conservation"
 - "Go-to group" for volunteer service projects
 - A group of active volunteers interested in conservation
 - Possible group of people to supplement our committee's expertise areas and possible future committee members.
 - **Need a written policy around limits of work and approved by town board**
- Trail markers and trail marking
 - Custom markers –
Action – Casey is looking into options for the committee to vote on.
 - Trails to mark. May need posts on some sections – Committee decided to use t-posts that the town gets from Mosher Lumber
Action – Paul can help to obtain these posts
 - Improved quality map of the Nature Center. Mapping-Andrew Shaffer in Planning Dept. (Cheryl)
 - Order the pre printer tree id signs from Voss signs. Need input from Ron and Barb as location of trees to ID. (public trees and Nature Center).
The committee decided that 20 signs should be ordered.
- Tree maintenance (2024 and 2023 plantings)
 - Future could involve Clarence HS Environmental Club.
 - Need additional stakes to raise tubes.
 - The highway department has been trained on tree pruning.
 - Steve Leising should be included in this effort.
 - We should also get Owen Shifflet and the Clarence Environmental Club involved.
- Tree Planting site for 2025
 - Reach out to Jamie Dussing to determine best planting location at the Highway Department for a Probable date: Saturday April 26, 2025?
 - Zeb and Osman have agreed to again be involved. Will plan to plant 500 trees. Our committee should work with Zeb and Osman to help them select the tree species that they will plant.
 - Cheryl will also order and pick up additional trees from Livingston County. Paul instructed Cheryl to include her mileage at 70 cents per mile.
 - **Action** - We need to determine how many tubes we still have, how many need to be ordered and what stakes need to be used?

New Business:

- CHS environment club introductions, at CHS. Work with Owen to complete this task.
- Spring "Clean Up" event with Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper. (Casey)
Casey agreed to captain this event.
Action - A number of possible locations were discussed. Casey will provide additional information on the date and location selected.
- Bob Geiger informed the committee that the producer of the movie made in the Nature Center this past fall will be donating \$250 to our committee. Bob and Paul will secure the check from Keith Likowski (sp?).

- Cheryl wants to frame the posters that are at the Nature Center. Cheryl will send Bob the pricing and quantity details to be forwarded to Kimberly. (completed 10 February)
 - Steve suggested “A Value to the Community Event” where items can be dropped off at the Highway Department (eg. Batteries, Light Bulbs, Styrofoam). More to be discussed on this issue.
- Propose continued trail buildup along Thompson Rd Trail by Parks dept, when feasible. This is a very helpful trail improvement, but only over a short area. Possible to continue this over the winter when time permits? Also, many dead trees behind senior center are beginning to fall and pose a hazard. Possible winter project—discuss with Parks. Need a hike with Jason.
 - Events Calendar for our website
 - Events each month that we are present for or co-sponsoring
 - Generally 1-2 events per months; some months nothing. Will help with program planning. These will be limited in 2025 since they were not all budgeted. Some require no expenditures.
 - Memo to track council actions and recommendations
 - Electronic record keeping instead of informal word of mouth
 - Paper trail; easy to follow up and track; facilitate project ideas coming to fruition instead of getting stalled.
 - Field trip to Beeman Creek
 - **Meeting was delayed due to illness**
 - View Scout trail, possible future tree planting site
 - Survey trail out to pipeline, going west from Parker Rd. Preliminary work on perimeter trail. **Ongoing**
 - Tree City and Code Recommendations **discussion moved**
 - Tree city shows that we, as a community, have an active, conservation mindset and make tree planting a priority. Shows who we are and shows what this committee does. **Need to meet with Jon Bleuer and discuss next steps.**
 - Tree city has four requirements (annual deadline Dec. 1)
 - an active tree board and/or department. Could be Conservation Council or subcommittee. They are looking for a tree maintenance plan too.
 - a tree care ordinance. Do not have
 - a community forestry program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita. Need to document. This level of spending is likely.
 - an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.
 - Code changes:
 - Borrow language from adjacent towns that have Tree City designation
 - Conservation Committee should advise on Conservation Easements
 - Conservation should not do environmental impact for planning board, but conservation impact makes perfect sense.
 - Public access to greenspaces.
 - Boxes at Nature Center
 - Learning value
 - Owl and Bat; Need to select sites
 - Could identify partner organization to build and maintain (not one and done)

Motion to adjourn made by Dennis and seconded by Joel. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

Next meeting date will be at 7:00 pm on 13 February 2025 in the Kathy Hallock Room

