

Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Feb 13, 2025 – 7:00pm at the Kathy Hallock Conference Room

Call to order and Introduction

No correction to Jan 2025 meeting minutes

Finance Report: Lori Sauls gave an update that some budget was spent on posters, frames, and a shadow box for the Clarence Nature Center. The Council also received a \$250 donation from Microcosm Productions.

Updates

- Councilman Bob Altieri noted that he and Paul Shear met with the head of the Clarence Highway Department, Jamie Dussing, about the spring tree planting area to be done at the town highway garage on Goodrich Road. There is a need to review the site because of snowmobiling trails that run through there – the Council would not want to plant trees in the areas where snowmobiles regularly run. For the tree planting event, the planting area is quite far from where people will meet, so there was a discussion of having some small vehicles (e.g. golf carts) to shuttle people to the site.
- Councilman Paul Shear noted that he talked to Jamie Dussing about going through the nature center trails with a brush hog to clear particular areas. Additionally, he will cut down the ~20 trees that are dead and marked for cutting since they are close to the trails and could be dangerous.
- Steve noted no updates to the website except that minutes will be posted there.
- Dennis noted that the deer abatement program was going well this year, there were no updates other than that this month they had to deal with 4 separate occasions where deer were caught on fences in the Town.
- For the Trees of Distinction Program, Ron noted for what they are putting together for the Clarence Bee, they will use common names for the trees instead of scientific names, and also will refer to the trees' circumference rather than diameter, as it is easier for the public to understand / use if they are measuring their own trees. They are shooting for around Arbor Day to have their article published.
- Steve and Cheryl had a meeting with the CHS Environmental Club. It had about 5-7 high school students that want to get involved in some way. Several projects were discussed including planting projects along the Gunville Road bike path and potentially a community recycling event. They will be gathering ideas and will meet with Steve and Cheryl again in about a month.

Old Business

- Cheryl gave an overview of Winterfest and the recent Headlamp Hike at the nature center trails. Both were a great success with 2 tables, a lot of foot traffic, many giveaways including the CCAC stickers, which people seemed to love.
- Cheryl gave an updated on the nature center educational display case / posters. A bird display with posters has been installed, and an additional nest display will be installed prior to the open house. Mammal display will be installed at a future date.
- There will be a 2nd headlamp hike this year March 8th from 5:30-7:30. Some council members noted they will attend and could man a table.
- Casey distributed some options for potential trail markers to be put on trails at the Clarence nature center. The Council viewed them and gave feedback. Casey and Barbara will mock up some new options and bring them back to the Council at the next meeting for a vote.
- Regarding working with Zeb and Osman on selection of material and locations to plant, Ron gave input and recommended species of tree to purchase. The tentative date for planting is Saturday April 26th, a meeting is still needed with Zeb and Osman to confirm; it looks like they

will donate 600 trees to plant. Cheryl costed out bamboo stakes at either 4 feet or 5 feet from several vendors and will purchase them before the tree planting event.

▪ **Spring Arbor Day/ Earth Day event April 26th Time 10AM-1PM**

- David O'Donnell from Eastern Monarch has been confirmed as a speaker. Barbara (did not attend meeting) will need to confirm speaker from Wild Spirit.
- Tables confirmed for the event are:
 - Youth bureau (pinecone feeders)
 - CCAC
 - NYS DEC
 - NYSBS (NYS Bluebird society)
 - RotaryLions Environmental Club is not confirmed but Casey will check in with them to see if they would like to have a table.
- 100 tree seedlings - Sugar Maple and Scarlet Oak (\$40 for bundle of 50 Livingston County SWCD) order has been placed as giveaways at the event.

- Cheryl is working with Andrew Schaffer for trail mapping at Clarence trails with the goal of being able to get the trails to be uploaded into various apps (e.g., AllTrails) to increase usage of trails in Clarence.

New Business

- Barbara Maisch has asked for help with the 2025 open house flyer – anyone that would like to help can let her know at the next meeting or via email.
- Cheryl discussed putting together a requirements / tasks list for a potential volunteer group that would support the Council. In addition to these, there would be a waiver (standard Town waiver) to be signed and also a code of conduct. Cheryl read an example code of conduct and will distribute for approval.
- WNY PRISM would like to do a trail survey training & invasive ID at the Clarence nature center, the conservation Council would host. This would be on Saturday, May 31, 2025 from 9:30am-12:00pm. They would give a presentation on invasive species and how to use the imap invasives map, and then there would be time set aside to hike the trails and use the app. The use of the nature center at this time was tentatively approved, the nature center just has to be reserved for that date.
- Cheryl asked the Council if we wanted to apply for another boot brush (same as the Boot Brush Program done for the Clarence nature center) for Beeman Creek, and the Council supported Cheryl applying for this.
- May 17th Transcendentalism on the Trails event - We have the nature center booked from 8:30am-2pm with the event running from 10am-1pm. There was a discussion of a nature journal giveaway with rubber stamps for kids to embellish journals, but this additional small expense will need approval.
- Steve and Cheryl took a field trip to Beeman Creek to look for potential areas for new trails. There was a discussion about the land in general and how to proceed to make new trails and make the area more usable for the public. Steve mentioned the need for better mapping to understand where low-lying areas would impede trails. The Council agreed that further

mapping and developing these trails should be a priority and we will continue to work on this throughout the year (and many years to come), with the help of the Town.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

- Next meeting will be March 12th at the Kathy Hallock Conference Room