

Minutes of Conservation Advisory Council

10 July 2025 Meeting in the Clarence Nature Center

Cheryl Cantlon called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Pledge to the Flag

Present: Cheryl Cantlon, Chick Biegner, Ron Walkowiak, Barbara Maisch, Paul Shear, Bob Altieri, Casey Diederich, Lori Sauls, Joel Radder

Visitor: No visitors.

Absent: Steve Diver, Bob Geiger, Dennis Londos

Financial Report: Lori provided the committee with updated budget numbers for 2025.

Total 2025 Budget: \$2,750.00

Expenses for the Month: \$863.30

Trail markers still to be purchased. Fee will be coming later in the year for Michael Klepp

Bob Altieri updates:

- No updates.

Paul Shear Updates:

- Paul asked the group when we will add the sleeves for the new tree plantings. Cheryl noted that Zeb & Osmund want to organize another event for the fall, so their group, as well as the Clarence Youth Group might be utilized to stake / sleeve the trees that have been planted over the last 3 years at both the Nature Center and the Highway Department.

Mill Pond Survey update:

- Casey still in discussions with Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper about assessing the health of the pond before having another meeting with the Town.
- Joel noted that the town appears to be inundated with snapping turtles, which could also be an indicator of poor pond health, as they might be eating many of the smaller fish in the pond.

Tree Survey update:

- Ron recently got one tree survey call and measured a large fruit tree in Clarence. Since the close out of the articles in the Clarence Bee, there has been very little activity so the Tree Survey appears to be complete for now.

Bee articles update from Barb and Cheryl;

- Upcoming articles will appear in the July, August and September editions on the last Thursday of the month.

Old Business

- Cheryl noted some of the low-hanging brush on the Nature Center trails, and that she has engaged the Friends of the Council club as well as Mary C. and her group to go out to the trails and trim back some of the brush.
- The trail markers were discussed at the Nature Center. Casey raised the question as to why they were so high up on the trees. They were originally put up so high so they could not be taken or vandalized. Cheryl noted also that she spoke to an arborist who said the best way to fasten them to trees is to use 3 inch drywall screws. They will not rust and the screws can be backed out periodically as the tree grows.
- Noted that the Tree City designation and updates to the Town Code in this regard are still ongoing.
- Potential owl and bat boxes at the Nature Center were discussed. Cheryl noted that we ought to first talk to Michael Klepp, the owl expert that is set to give a session on owls later in the year before any are installed. Lori noted that we have \$300 budgeted for the owl / bat boxes.

New Business

- Cheryl received a donation from a Clarence resident with various nests and other nature-related items that she will display in the Nature Center.
- It was raised whether or not gutters can be added to the Nature Center as a Town expense or as part of next year's budget. Paul noted that this was a good idea, but as part of the Town's process it would have to go out to competitive bid. Additionally, it was discussed whether the town can add more stone to the Nature Center trails in wet areas. In the one area the stone was added last year the trail is in excellent condition. Paul and Bob said they could discuss this with the Town to see if more can be added this year. Paul said to stake out the area that we wanted filled with stone to speed up the process.
- Since there is a bit of budget remaining for the year, the Council was encouraged to think about how to use it, particularly on the Halloween event to potentially purchase new items to look at, stickers, candy, etc.
- There was a discussion about the raptor platforms for Beeman Creek that were formerly discussed at previous meetings. This is something that can still be done, Paul noted that the Council first needs to go out to Beeman Creek and pick appropriate trees / areas for the raptor platforms, and then we can identify the best way to put them up.
- Casey raised a potential opportunity with a property on Goodrich Road between Big Sings and Bocce's Pizza. This is owned by the town, and Town Supervisor Pat Casilio remarked to Casey that he thought the Council should think about ways to clean up the property. Cheryl noted that that property is used in the winter by snowmobilers and so any use of the property would have to consider them. Casey suggested that before the next meeting everyone try to take a look at the property and think about what could be done (re-grading, regular mowing, gravel paths, native flower plantings, etc.) to make the property more useful, and potentially mitigate some of the pedestrian traffic issues with the two adjacent popular businesses.

- Bob noted that we should set a time to go up the Highway Department property to remove the popsicle sticks from the tree planting and make a final count of how many trees were planted.

Upcoming meetings:

13 August - Nature Center
10 September – Nature Center
08 October – Kathy Hallock room
12 November – Kathy Hallock room
10 December – Kathy Hallock room

Motion to adjourn made at 8:00 PM

Next meeting is scheduled for August 13 July at 7:00 PM in the Nature Center.