

Minutes of Conservation Advisory Council

14 August 2025 Meeting in the Clarence Nature Center

Steve Diver called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Pledge to the Flag

Present: Steve Diver, Chick Biegner, Ron Walkowiak, Barbara Maisch, Paul Shear, Bob Altieri, Casey Diederich, Lori Sauls, Joel Radder, Dennis Londos, Bob Geiger

Visitor: Owen Shifflet

Absent: Cheryl Cantlon

Updates

Financial Report:

- Lori provided the committee with updated budget numbers for 2025.
 - o Total 2025 Budget: \$2,750.00
 - o Expenses for the Month: \$27.88 on orange trail markers
 - o Fee will be coming next month for Michael Klepp
 - o Remaining balance: \$1,858.82

Bob Altieri updates:

- Update on the Town working to make e-bikes and small motor bikes more safe on the bike paths and in the Town in general. A new law was just enacted aimed at safety and gives law enforcement the ability to regulate e-bikes in a way to promote safe use.

Paul Shear Updates:

- The Town has started their annual budget process, so the Conservation Council should start to think about budget for next year.

Deer Control:

- Dennis Londos noted that the deer control team is looking to make a change for the future, in terms of deer processing after they are taken. While they will continue to use the current vendor for meat processing, but as that vendor is very busy they will also engage a second vendor. These vendors receive \$20 per deer from the town, plus \$3.50 per pound of meat from the food bank. The new vendor will be able to bring a refrigerated trailer to Clarence and pick it up periodically after multiple deer have been added to it.

Bee articles update from Barb and Cheryl;

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

Old Business

Mill Pond Survey update:

- Casey discussed the siltation, snapping turtles, and algal growth with Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper and they noted that from what they could tell the algae looked normal, and the abundance of snapping turtles is actually a good sign since there is enough food in / around the pond to support those populations. However, they agreed the siltation was a problem for fish.
- There was a discussion about the Town's goal for the pond (e.g., fishing, beauty, other recreation etc.) being the main driver of our next steps for possible dredging or other activity. Casey agreed to attempt to discuss with the Town their goals so that next steps could be confirmed.

Raptor Platforms at Beeman Creek:

- A team went out to Beeman creek and selected two sites for the raptor platforms, and found an easy and cost-effective way to build the platforms. Joel costed out materials and estimates that two platforms can be built for under \$200. Poles to mount the platforms need to be between 13 and 69 feet to attract the right types of birds to these platforms. The Town noted that they have 20 foot poles, so they would sit approximately 16 feet when buried which is within the range needed. Team needs to discuss an installation date with the site, which should be after Labor Day but before leaf cleanup season.

Owl Presentation:

- Set for September 27th at the Nature Center from 5:30 - 7pm and will be advertised via the schools. In addition to the presentation the Council will look for advice about where to put Owl (and bat) boxes at the Nature Center grounds. It was noted that the boy scouts can contribute to the owl / bat box construction, and it might be a Eagle Scout project for a local resident as well.

Lot Improvement Ideas (Town Site between Big Sings and Bocce Pizza)

- Steve noted that Cheryl (not present) has come up with some ideas for the site, and this discussion should be tabled until the next meeting when she is able to join / present.

Trail Marking at the Nature Center

- One set of orange acrylic trail markers were purchased to mark the perimeter trail. Most will just be nailed to trees at about 6 feet high, others will need a second nail and will have arrows on them to show the direction of the trail. Once we get these up we will need to order additional colors, mark the other trails, and correspond them to a new map of the area. Targeting September to mark the trails.
- There was a discussion of then having a "Community Trail Walk" open to anyone that would want to join after all trails are marked to get the community using the trails more often. Targeting October 4 or 5 for the Walk.

New Business

Fall Tree Tube Maintenance

- The Clarence Youth Bureau and CHS Environmental Club will help install tree tubes at the Town Highway Department tree planting site, a date just needs to be selected.
- Steve reached out to Zeb and Osmund who donated the trees to also see if their group would like to volunteer in this activity, but has not heard back yet.

Halloween Headlamp Hike

- This event is scheduled for October 25th. At the next meeting, the Council will need to decide who can attend, what should be displayed, and what funds should be allocated to purchasing candy or other giveaways / items for attendees to interact with.

Tree Giveaway for 2026

- Steve noted that there was not much interest in the tree giveaway at the Nature Center Open House event this year, but that when he was giving extra trees away at his local church there was a lot of enthusiasm. So, he'd like the Council to think about alternatives to the current process – perhaps giving the trees away at a separate event / location to garner more interest and get our Council's name / cause in front of new people, rather than limiting it to the Nature Center Open House event.

Community Needs Assessment

- Steve raised the idea of creating some sort of community needs assessment / survey to get the community more involved and understand what the community feels are conservation priorities in Clarence. This could be done via some sort of online survey through website, Facebook, or published in the Clarence Bee. The Council general agreed this was a good idea, and it will remain an agenda item to discuss specifics.

Upcoming meetings:

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

Motion to adjourn made at 8:15 PM

Next meeting is scheduled for September 10 July at 7:00 PM in the Nature Center.