

## **Minutes of Conservation Advisory Council**

**13 November 2025 Meeting in the Clarence Nature Center**

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

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

**Visitor:** None

**Absent:** Chick Biegner, Bob Geiger

### **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 include trail markers and headlamp hike
  - o Budget remaining is approximately \$400. ~\$100 to be spent on owl presentation at the library.

#### **Bob Altieri updates:**

- Gave an update on how great the Halloween hike was, everyone he talked to had a great time. No other updates. Lori suggested that the Council send thank you notes to the heads of Parks Department and Highway Department for their help in preparing for the event.

#### **Paul Shear Updates:**

- For the headlamp hike next year, it should be considered to have additional parking possibly at the senior center where people could be shuttled to the event, since parking was difficult because there were so many.

#### **Dennis Londos Deer Control Updates:**

- Everything is going well on deer control for now. They will continue deer control, they do not stop during hunting season. There are areas that the town owns that supposedly are not open for hunting, and Dennis believes if these areas were opened to hunting it would help control the deer population.

### **Old Business**

#### **Mill Pond Survey update**

- No update.

#### **Halloween Hike recap:**

- Over 400 people attended, approximately 85% were Clarence residents. Evan sent out survey results, and overall the event was a success.
- Ron noted that many people asked him at the CCAC table what we do, and he didn't have material to hand out. Steve noted that we should have a tri-fold handout or something like it to be able to distribute to those that are interested. Perhaps take content from the web page for a handout.
- Many people were taking stickers, so we will need to order more.
- There was a discussion around the event being at capacity, so next year a system might have to be implemented to control attendance to the event.

### **Trail Marking at the Nature Center**

- More markers have been purchased and trails have been electronically traced for Andrew Shaffer to complete the trail maps.
- Different colors have been ordered for the different marked trails, they just have to be installed on the trails.
- Will work on trail head signage / maps as well to be installed when we have them produced.

### **Tree Id Signs**

- They have been ordered, if the weather cooperates we need to select dates for installation. Ron needs to be present to ID trees. Twenty-one (21) signs have been ordered.

### **Eagle Scout Project Proposal Update:**

- The Eagle Scout put his project forward for bat boxes and benches on the circular trail for approval but there was no update on when the project would be started / completed, but he did say he'd like to have it completed this fall.

### **Tree Sleeving:**

- Hardly any of the pine trees planted this year survived due to the hot and dry summer. Many of the trees planted in years' past have been de-sleeved.
- Next year it was suggested that instead of planting so many new trees next year, the team go back to some of the original tree planting areas and do some maintenance to help the possibility that they survive. Steve and Cheryl will talk to Zeb and Osmand about possibilities for next year.

## **New Business**

### **Mark Cara Presentation:**

- December 29<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at the library there will be a live animal demo with ~a dozen animals including tortoises and a presentation about diversity. The cost of the event for the Council is \$100.
- Cheryl also noted that Mark does additional types of presentations that we might think about doing in the future.

**Winterfest 2026:**

- Saturday January 24<sup>th</sup> from 12pm to 3pm. Volunteers are needed to man a table for the Council. The Council will likely have 2 tables.

**Environmental Club Projects (2025–2026):**

- GFC purchased 200 bulbs and have a planting date of Nov 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:45pm at the children's reading garden at the library. There are 12 student volunteers.
- The club helped with the de-sleeving and those sleeves are in the shed at the Nature Center. However, we do need to get the larger sleeves from the Highway Department and bring those over to the Nature Center shed.

**Nature Center Open House 2026:**

- We need to set a date for the event. April 25<sup>th</sup> was suggested. Arbor Day is the 26<sup>th</sup> and also the Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper pollution sweep is typically that day, which draws a lot of volunteers.
- There was a discussion of which organizations should be invited for a table, since we should reach out to them before the end of the year. BNW will be busy with their sweep, the Bluebird society will not be able to attend due to a conference. Hawk Creek could be a possible invitee – Barb offered to reach out to them. PRISM, DEC, WNY Land Conservancy were all suggested.

**Signage for Nature Center:**

- Discussion if additional signage should be added regarding dogs being on leashes as there have been issues with dogs off leashes that have not been under control.
- Intersection signs are also needed at certain cross sections delineating trails going in different directions. The Town would need to install posts, but the thought was some of the people at the senior center that are handy with woodworking might make the actual signs.

**Educational Presentations for 2026:**

- Cheryl distributed information on several possible educational programs (Reinstein Woods, Native Landscaping & Invasive Species, Living Sustainability, Birding 101, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, etc.) as possibilities for continued educational events as recent events have been well-attended.
- While on the discussion of our educational events and tabling Cheryl suggested purchasing of a collapsable wheeled cart for moving material around.

**Invasive Species Grant:**

- There was discussion of a New York State grant that the Council might apply to for funds related to control of invasive species.

**Purpose of Advisory Council:**

- Joel noted that previously the Council would be called upon to look at properties that were going up for development to make sure there were no ecological concerns with particular development projects. Should we be utilized in this

capacity? Paul noted that 9:30am on Monday mornings there are Zoom meetings where we could understand what new developments were being planned. If there were concerns, we could raise them with Paul Sheer.

Upcoming meetings:

11 December – Clarence Town Park on Main Street

**Motion to adjourn made at 8:15 PM**

**Next meeting is scheduled for December 11 at 7:00 PM at the Town Park Club House.**