

Minutes of Conservation Advisory Council

11 December 2025 Meeting in the Clarence Town Park Clubhouse

Cheryl Cantlon called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM

Present: Steve Diver, Ron Walkowiak, Barbara Maisch, Paul Shear, Bob Altieri, Casey Diederich, Cheryl Cantlon, Dennis Londos, Bob Geiger

Visitor: Owen Shifflet, Anna from CHS Environmental Club

Absent: Chick Biegner, Lori Sauls, Joel Radder

Updates

Financial Report:

- After fee for Mark (Library Presentation) there's approximately \$300 remaining in 2025 budget.

Bob Altieri updates:

- Talked to Jason Holden about cleaning up Nature Center trails, which he will do in January.
- Sunday will be pancake breakfast to benefit the Lions Club.

Paul Shear Updates:

- No updates.

Bob Geiger Updates:

- Bob found a letter from a citizen in 2016 that were looking to take over the Nature Center, and she had many ideas for what she wanted to do. He distributed the letter for the Council to review potential ideas.

Dennis Londos Deer Control Updates:

- Very busy and active time of year as the control season runs from October to March. Dennis noted that over the weekend someone came in and opened the deer trailer at the old youth center. Nothing seemed to be taken, but it was noted with the Perimeter Trail at the Nature Center now being marked, there might be more foot traffic in this area. All the deer meat is being given to the Food Bank.

Clarence High School Environmental Club

- Cheryl participated in a planting with the Student Environmental Club. There was a very good turnout. Owen gave an update that in the spring they'd like to partner to do an electronics recycling event. Today was open house for eight graders and they are hoping to get more membership.

Safety Presentation

- Cheryl participated in a presentation regarding safety, and there was a discussion around green spaces and how we can keep them safe. Very well attended event (approximately 50 people).

Old Business

Lot Improvement Ideas

- After some research it was determined that the property to the south of Big Sings is actually owned by Bocce's not the Town. The parcel to the north side of Big Signs is owned by the Town. There was discussion of connecting with the owner of Bocce's to suggest making improvements to the parcel, but also potentially improving the lot to the north of Big Sings as well.

Trail Marking

- Trails will be marked in advance of the headlamp hike. Casey will mark some trails, and Mary's youth group will also mark some trails.
- Mapping underway – Steve brought a trail from AllTrails app that was much more detailed than the old Nature Center trail map.

Library Presentation

- Set for December 29th at 1pm.

Winterfest

- Saturday, January 24th 12-3pm. We need about 4 people to come and help volunteer. Several council members volunteered to man a table.

Trifold Brochure

- It was discussed that we should have some sort of material to hand out, in particular when we are tabling at events. It would show our mission and projects, but also solicit public ideas for new projects. Barb to take the lead, several others to contribute. Discussion of also including some history in the brochure of the green spaces in the Council's purview in Clarence. Trifold should also include information on getting involved in the Friends of Clarence Conservation group, and also information on our meetings.

New Business

Headlamp Hike

- January 31st. Date selected as not to conflict with WinterFest. Evan estimated approximately 1/3 of the attendance from the Halloween headlamp hike. There was discussion of parking and lighting, and also potentially a camp fire. In the fall it did not

seem like a good idea for many safety ideas (leaves, drought, etc.), but in the winter we could potentially do a fire; someone would have to be tending it the entire time.

- Regarding lighting, Cheryl suggested adding a light on the pole near the auxiliary parking area. Paul noted that that pole is high voltage, and the Town is already looking at putting lighting on the poles along the driveway to the Nature Center, but it won't happen for at least a year. So, for the headlamp hike they can get a portable light. Paul suggested lighting the trails with cut up gallon milk jugs with sand and candles in the bottom.

New Family Orientation Information Sheet

- Evan V. gives out information to new families to Clarence. Steve suggested adding to this and giving out a primer on things to do in Clarence that include our recreational / conservation activities (Nature Center, Beeman Creek, Tillman, Bike Paths, etc.)

Library Bat house

- Being donated to CCAC to be put up in the Nature Center for educational purposes. Were hoping to put it close to the trail, but not right on it – somewhere where it could be pointed out during hikes.

CCAC Stickers

- With the remaining budget we could potentially buy additional stickers with remaining budget. Discussion around whether we should change the stickers or offer new / others with different logo or phrases to pass out. Barb to order new stickers now with the remaining budget, and then will do additional sticker designs in 2026.

Parcel of Land Across from the Library

- Cheryl looked at the property and said it has good bones from an ecological perspective, but we'd have to decide what would be a good use for it – either mowing to keep it a meadow, or letting it grow to go successional. To be discussed again at next meeting. Discussion of potentially creating a short trail, brush hogged by the Town in the coming months.

Upcoming meetings:

8 January 2026 – Clarence Town Hall on Goodrich

Motion to adjourn made at 8:00 PM