

Minutes of Conservation Advisory Council

12 February 2026 Meeting in the Clarence Town Hall

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

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

Visitors: None

Absent: Cheryl Cantlon

Updates

Financial Report:

- \$162.33 spent as of the first of the year, approximately \$3,300 left for the year. Potential upcoming expense would be a kiosk for the trails, but there is some budget flexibility now due to Town covering headlamp hike expenses. There could now be some extra budget for tri-fold brochures and the Eagle Scout project.

Bob Altieri updates:

- Headlamp hike was a success. Approximately 75 kids, which was a lot in the cold weather. Lights worked well, and there was a torpedo heater which was helpful.
- Evan of the Family Support Center is planning a bike rodeo in May at the Town Park on Main Street.

Paul Shear Updates:

- The golf cart and the lighting for the headlamp hike was paid for by the Town, next year it might be in the Council's budget so the Council should plan for it next year.
- A professor at RIT in film studies has a junior student that contacted Paul about doing a horror movie at the Nature Center. Paul has asked for more information and is waiting to hear back.

Bob Geiger Updates:

- Bob spoke to Jamie Dussing who said there are over 100 green metal stakes that he has that aren't being used. They used to be used for signage but aren't anymore; Bob Altieri noted that they would be used for the Green Print properties, but the Council would be happy to take any left over stakes.

Green Print Committee (Joel):

- The Council asked for an update on potential property acquisitions, especially the property adjacent to the Nature Center. Paul mentioned that the Green Print identifies potential properties and presents them to the Town; there have been conversations about several properties near the Nature Center.

- The Green Print Committee does not have the large monetary bond that they did the first time around, and there is less available land in Clarence. The Committee did send out notices to any landowner with over 25 properties and there has been some interested and analysis of the properties, and they have been presented to the Town.
- There has been interest in adding signage to Green Print properties to encourage their use by the public, but there are significant barriers based on the location of each property.

Clarence High School Environmental Club

- Steve gave an updated on a potential recycling event on May 2nd – the club wants to do electronics recycling, still in discussion.

Osman and Zeb Tree Planting:

- Still in discussions with them about tree planting, seedlings, and bare root trees, or tree maintenance.

Eagle Scout Project:

- Projects (bat box and benches on circular trail) will be done by April.
- If he needs budget to help with the benches, the Council can help as there is budget freed up from the Town covering items in the headlamp hike.

Webpage and Facebook:

- Council webpage has been recently updated with meeting minutes and with the new Nature Center map.
- Facebook now has 543 followers and is updated regularly, there is a Screech Owl camera that has drawn a lot of interest.
- Joel noted that there is a lot of content being posted, potentially too much and followers might be overwhelmed, perhaps we could post a bit less.

Trail Marking at Nature Center:

- Postponed due to weather, will work to get the trails marked when it warms up a bit. To be done with Mary Cerasa's Clarence Citizenship Club.

Old Business

Trifold brochure update

- Barb got a quote from two printing companies (Gallagher and Print King) and the quotes were very similar. Print King quote was a \$75 graphics fee then just over \$250 for 500 trifold brochures.
- There was a discussion on content for the trifold, including the Council name and logo, the Council's mission statement, pictures, website information, QR codes, history of Nature Center, small picture of trail map, information about open house, completed projects (owl boxes, raptor platform, etc.), Town assets, etc.
- There was a general consensus that we shouldn't put too much verbiage, but rather lean towards pictures with captions.
- If any Council member has pictures of Town assets, they will send to Barb for potential inclusion in the brochure.

New Family Orientation Information Sheet

- The family support center has a new family orientation group, Steve suggested that we should have an informational sheet that could be handed out to new families with information on Town nature assets for new families to explore.

Open House 2026

- April 25, 2026, 10am – 1pm.
- Confirmed programming includes:
 - o 10:15-11:15 Hawk Creek; 11:30-12:30 Kathy Cotrino; 12:30-1PM short hike.
 - o Hawk Creek: raptors;
 - o Kathy Cotrino of CW Native Plant Farm - Historical Use of Indigenous Plants
 - o Tables: DEC, Wildcare of WNY, WNY Land Conservancy, Youth Bureau, Clarence Rotary (Other possible: WNY Prism, Erie Co Parks, Waterkeeper).
 - o Giveaway project: Nature journals and stamps.
 - o There was a discussion of purchasing a pop up tent to be kept at the Nature Center for outdoor tabling or welcoming. It was agreed that we should keep track, and if the Council will use a pop tent a lot this year one might be purchased in the future.
 - o Also a discussion of purchasing nature stamps and inkpads for giveaways.

New Sticker Slogans

- There was a discussion about replacing the Clarence Conservation Advisory Council verbiage on our logo stickers with one or several new slogans.
- The Council voted on several slogans; Lori will tally results and Barb will mock up a new sticker and share with the Council.
- There is a desire to include "Clarence, NY" somewhere on the sticker
- The tally results showed that Protect Today, Preserve Tomorrow was the overwhelming winner.

New Business

Town Code Recommendation

- Steve read from the current Town Code and suggested that the Council might provide some input on changes to the Town Code that affect the Council.
- There needs to be language in the Code to have Tree City designation; consensus from the Council that we should put this in the Code.
- Paul suggested that Council decide on actual changes that we'd like to the Code, and Bob could take suggestions to the Town Board.
- It was agreed that Council members would review the Code sections pertinent to the Code and offer suggestions to Steve.

Next Meeting:

- March 12, 2026 at the Town Hall on Goodrich in the Kathy Hallock Room.

Motion to adjourn made at 8:10 PM