

Minutes of Conservation Advisory Council

11 September 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, Bob Geiger, Cheryl Cantlon

Visitor: Owen Shifflet

Absent: Dennis Londos

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: \$529.02
 - o \$250 Fee for Michael Klepp

Bob Altieri updates:

- Update given on the Town / Lions Club effort to build an all-inclusive playground at the Town Park on Goodrich Road.

Paul Shear Updates:

- The Nature Center will get both gutters and gutter guards installed.
- Paul also asked about the raptor platforms, which were then discussed by the Council. Joel noted that he can pick up the hardware for assembly of the platforms. A tentative assembly date of September 25th was selected. It was suggested that he get the lumber from Mohser lumber in Clarence, and he can be reimbursed for any expenses.

Tree Survey:

- Ron noted that 9 new trees were added this year and two broke previous records for size.

Old Business

Raptor Platforms at Beeman Creek:

- See above discussion under "Paul Shear Updates"

Owl Presentation:

- Set for September 27th at the Nature Center from 5:30 - 7pm. Advertisements have been going out via social media and there will be an article in an upcoming Clarence Bee. The Council will have a table, and it was decided that \$50 of the Council's funds will go towards purchasing an owl box as a giveaway at the event.

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

- There was a short discussion on the potential to improve this lot and the difficulty of getting the lot on the Town's regular mowing scheduled. Cheryl also said she would reach out to the snowmobilers club to discuss how much space they need on that lot in the winter.

Trail Marking at the Nature Center

- The perimeter trail was fully marked with orange markers last month.
- Steve gave Casey the rest of the larger CCAC markers and he will install them in September.
- Now that the perimeter trail is marked, Cheryl suggested a ribbon cutting / community hike on October 5th.

New Business

Fall Tree Tube Maintenance

- Short discussion on fall maintenance and possibilities to get others involved. Steve said that he has reached out to Zeb and Osman to see if their group would like to be involved in sleeving the trees but he has not yet heard back.

Halloween Headlamp Hike

- This event is scheduled for October 25th.
- There was discussion of adding an additional table for mammals and also handing out maps that show the trail routes.
- Ron noted that at Beaver Meadows they consolidated people in one place and then went out to the trails in groups of about 10, and that worked really well.
- Cheryl said she would like to light the trails using solo cups that have portions cut out (e.g., pumpkin stencil) with battery-charged candles inside. She has tested the idea and found that it works well.
- Volunteers will be needed for the event and several people on the Council responded that they would attend / help.
- It was decided that it would not be a good idea to have a bonfire given the current drought conditions and potential safety hazards.

Clarence Youth Environmental Club

- Owen gave a short update on the club's attendance this year; Steve and Cheryl are set to meet with them on September 26th.

Eagle Scout Project Proposal

- Cheryl was approached by a potential Eagle Scout about doing a project in the Nature Center area. It appears that he will at least build and install a bat box, but Council members also suggested many other possible ideas (building / installing a bench, rebuilding the small bridge near Thompson Road, installing educational placards, etc.).
- Ultimately the idea and work will have to come from him, but the Council was supportive of him doing his project at the Nature Center in some capacity.

2025 and 2026 Budget

- As the Council still has budget remaining there was a discussion on how it should be spent.
- Cheryl mentioned possibly having an event at the library, bringing in Hawk Creek for a presentation.
- Steve will purchase the remaining colored disks to mark the rest of the Nature Center trails.
- For 2026, Cheryl will put together an initial budget and circulate it to the Council for edits before the next meeting.

Upcoming meetings:

- 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 October 8 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Kathy Hallock Room.