

Minutes of Conservation Advisory Council

12 March 2026 Meeting in the Clarence Town Hall

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

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

Visitors: None

Absent: Bob Altieri, Joel Radder

Updates

Financial Report:

- \$162.33 spent as of the time of the meeting, approximately \$3,300 left for the year. The potential Eagle Scout doing a project with bat boxes and benches at the nature center has requested approximately \$120 to complete his project, and the Council approved.

Paul Shear Updates:

- The eaves and leaf guards have been installed at the nature center. Once there are leaves on the trees they're going to look around the nature center to see if any trees should be removed.

Deer Control (Dennis):

- Deer control still going on but winding down; very successful year.

Old Business

Educational Programing:

- Mark Carra presented at the library and it was a big success; over 50 kids and adults attended. There was discussion of having him come back for another (Darwin) presentation later this year; his fee is \$100.

Osman and Zeb Tree Planting:

- Steve, Cheryl and Ron looked into seedlings and costs and gave recommendations to Osman and Zeb for trees to order for spring tree planting. Also discussed with them tubing the trees during the planting process, which they were receptive to. They will be planting again at the Town Highway Department property.
- The Council may also purchase some trees (maybe bare root) for planting in particular areas around Town. Cheryl is currently waiting to hear about costs.

Open House 2026

- April 25, 2026, 10am – 1pm.
- Confirmed programming includes:

- CW Native Plant Farm presentation and tabling
- Clarence Youth Bureau pinecone bird feeders and nature journals
- Wild Care WNY Bats table
- WildOnes WNY table
- Clarence Rotary table
- Clarence Conservation Advisory Council table
- 10:15-11:15 Hawk Creek (\$200 speaking fee); 11:30-12:30 Kathy Cotrino; 12:30-1PM short hike with NYSDEC.
- Giveaway: Native plants and seeds, and nature journals.

Trail Marking at Nature Center:

- Will take place during the open house. Mary Cerasa's Clarence Citizenship Club will be at the open house and will work with us after the Hawk Creek presentation to hang the colored disks, do maintenance on the tree tubes, and clean up some of the trails.
- Andrew Schaffer has completed updated maps

Tree Id Signs

- Still need to be verified, so installation is TBD

Beeman Creek Update

- Cheryl noted that there were no birds in the new raptor platforms, but they are so new this is not unexpected, and she did see raptors flying in the area.
- Woolly adelgid infestation is localized to one area, and other spaces where there are large stands of hemlock there seemed to be no adelgid, which is a good sign.

Trifold brochure update

- Cheryl, Barb, Steve, and Casey got together separately a couple weeks ago to discuss the trifold brochure; the meeting was very productive and the brochure will be ready for the open house. Barb asked that anyone with good pictures of the Nature Center to send them to her.

New Business

New Logo / Stickers for 2026

- Barb showed new sticker ideas with our logo using the slogan that the Council voted on "Conserve today, preserve tomorrow." The Council voted to use the new blue logo; Barb will order 300 stickers.

Boot Brush Station

- Cheryl applied for and was awarded a new boot brush station to the CCAC for placement at Beeman Creek. Needs to be installed prior to June 1.

Signage for Nature Center Kiosk near Senior Center parking lot working of obtain design to pass

- Nothing new to report; after open house we'll have more time to put to this to potentially get this constructed and installed.

Electronics Recycling Event

- Steve noted that he's been talking to the Environmental Club at the high school, who wants to do an electronics recycling event. Steve talked to a Sunnking representative that said they already have a recycling event planned with a state senator. The students did not have enough participation to be able to handle the event on their own, but could potentially plug into the event already planned. They are still looking into a site large enough in Clarence that will work for an event of this size. The Council expressed high interest in holding such an event in Clarence, as we have not had one for a long time.

Educational Presentations 2026

- Cheryl discussed interest in educational presentations, which the Council has budgeted for, including: Kathy Contrino (\$100), Mark Carra (\$100), Mike Klepp (\$200), in addition to potentially other presentations, e.g., "How to Prune", Draves (costs unknown).
- Cheryl noted that she'd like to do a summer series for educational programming. Cheryl will send out some options, but is looking for input on a general theme for the series of 3 presentations.

Advisory Function

- Ron noted that we should be doing more advising to the Town, and perhaps we ought to invite someone from the Town Planning Board to an upcoming meeting so he can see what our Council is doing and how we might offer more advise to the Town.

Beeman Creek Trail Refurbishment

- Need to start small on the shorter trails around the creek that would be easier to maintain; Cheryl would like to include a work day with the Clarence Citizenship Club organization and possibly the Environmental Club from Clarence High School.
- Bat boxes there need maintenance; to be scheduled.

Bike Path Pilot Program

- Cheryl has reached out to an organization that does garden plantings at certain sections of bike paths to see if this would be feasible in Clarence but she hasn't yet heard back.

Next Meeting:

- April 9, 2026 at the Town Hall on Goodrich at the Nature Center.

Motion to adjourn made at 8:10 PM