

Minutes of Conservation Advisory Council

9 July 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, Casey Diederich, Cheryl Cantlon, Chick Bernier, Lori Sauls, Bob Altieri

Visitors: None

Absent: Bob Geiger, Joel Radder, Dennis Londos, Paul Shear

Updates

Financial Report:

- Vinyl graphic decals cost \$325.00; year to date expenses are at \$1,608.55 leaving \$1,891.45 in the budget for the year.
- The Eagle Scout bench project cost the CCAC approximately \$400 which will come out of the remaining budget.
- There are two large expenses that we had planned for – Halloween Hike and kiosk at Thompson Road that need to be discussed going forward to ensure we stay on budget.

Bob Altieri Updates:

- No updates

Old Business

Trail Marking update and trail rehab at CNC (Steve / Casey)

- Trail marking event was cancelled in June due to bad weather. Steve to reconnect with Mary's group to set a date to finish trail marking and to re-set the plastic sheaths around many of the trees and perform some maintenance. The Town dropped off some larger sheaths and bamboo stakes to help some of the trees grow.
- The trail at the CNC from Thompson Road for a small stretch from the "bridge" to where the trail turns is very mucky and overgrown. It was requested that pea gravel be put down in this stretch and also the hedges should be trimmed back. Bob noted that a meeting should be held with the Parks Department (Jason Holden) and said he'd try to set a meeting.

Community Education (Cheryl)

- There had been previous discussions of bringing in speakers to either the Town Library or the CNC. It was agreed that it would be good to use the CNC during the summer months, and then potentially have a speaker at the Library when it gets colder. Cheryl offered to reach out to several speakers to check on availability.

New Business

Tree Planting Challenge (Chick)

- Chick discussed an idea of having a tree planting contest / challenge. With the amount of people we are able to reach through various channels, he thought it'd be a good idea to hold a contest to encourage tree planting. Ron mentioned that it should be clear that the trees should not be planted as street trees, but they should be planted in lawns.
- The Council thought it'd be a good idea to have an incentive, like a gift card to a local nursery.
- It was agreed that the Council would brainstorm further on how to roll something like this out and it would be discussed further at the next meeting.

Tree Planting at Highway – Update / Maintenance (Cheryl)

- Of the ~12 large trees that were planted, only one of them have died.
- Many of the trees have leafed out and look very nice, but there needs to be some maintenance in the entire area.
- The property to the north of Big Sings is unused, and could be potentially be a project for the Council in the future, as a micro-park site.

Beeman Creek Trail Rehab (Cheryl)

- Cheryl mentioned that the area is looking very good.
- There is a boy scout that was looking to do a project at Beeman Creek for trail clearing and maintenance. He also wanted to recondition blue bird boxes, as long as there are no birds in them.

Town of Clarence Passive Recreation (Cheryl)

- As part of the Town code update, Cheryl noted that it was mentioned that Beeman Creek and ~~Muchow Nucheren~~ Preserve were mentioned as part of the Town of Clarence Passive Recreation, and Cheryl thought that we should be involved in this in some way.
- As it pertains to the Town code, Ron talked to Jonathan Bluer and he said that the current section of the code related to the Council will remain the same. However, we might be able to add some items to the code.
- The Council agreed to review the code before the next meeting and suggest edits.

2027 Open House (Cheryl)

- Discussion around moving the event away from the spring and potentially to the summer, perhaps the first week of June.

Bob Geiger Bench Dedication (Steve)

- At the next Council meeting we can have a dedication / celebration of Bob's championing of the CNC and conservation matters, with a dedication of the new bench to him that was built as the Eagle Scout project. The Council will not have an

official August meeting but instead will have the dedication and any informal discussions on Council matters, as needed.

- Pat Casilio, Judge Powers, someone from the Chamber of Commerce and/or the Rotary, potentially others should be invited and potentially speak for a few minutes.
- Next steps would be to put together a draft program; Steve will draft this and send to the Council for review.

Council Procedure / Meeting Structure (Ron)

- Ron suggested that the Council adopt "Robert's Rules" and that the Council should have a dedicated Secretary and more strict rules.
- Steve noted that he does think that some of the procedural items can get in the way, and that he and Cheryl very much value the input of all Council members.

Deer Issue from Concerned Citizen

- A concerned citizen raised an issue to the Council via email regarding having too many deer in his yard, and the Council had not yet responded to the citizen. It was agreed that Steve and Casey would discuss separately and draft a response that is in the Council's remit.

Motion to adjourn made at 8:20 PM

Next Meeting:

- August 13, 2026 at the Clarence Nature Center.