

Town of Clinton Conservation Advisory Council (CAC)

clintoncac.com

**Meeting Location: Top floor of Masonic Hall at the Town Complex,
1215 Centre Road, Rhinebeck, NY
Minutes – December 11, 2024 – 5pm**

CAC members present: Barbara Mansell, Jenn Brown, Michael Hurd, Margaret Pierpont, Jean McAvoy, Lynn Morrell (until 6pm), Joe Phalen

Town Board Liaison: Katherine Mustello (until 5:30)

Guest: Charles Canham, Don Lewis (arrived at 5:40)

Review and Approve Minutes – October 9, 2024 Minutes recorded by Jenn

CAC A8090.4	Amount	Spent	Remaining
2024 Budget	\$2,000	\$1,449.18	\$550.82
2025 Budget Requested	\$2,500	-	-

Discussion with Charles Canham of the ZBA on the failed passing of the Timber Harvesting Local Law (2018) – Jean

- NY DEC protects people's right to do forestry
- Look at NRI Map 15
- To enroll on 480-a you need 50 acres minimum and a DEC forest management plan. The law requires harvesting. The town gets some of the money from each harvest/stump; there hasn't been an active log sale registered with the town in several years.
- There has always been interest statewide in not requiring harvesting and there was a new law that would revise the tax law, but it didn't pass.
- Clearcutting is protected under DEC law. Town laws can't prohibit forest management, whether or not a parcel is under 480-a
- Towns can put in ordinances that limit cutting trees around houses, but nothing that interferes with farming or forestry.
- The cleaner the logging operation, the worse it is for the environment.
- There are a number of properties in town still under the Fisher Act but the state doesn't recognize it any longer.
- **NEXT STEP:** Add a page to the website about foresting on your land in Clinton

Planning Board – Michael

- Lindsey Brown Wetlands Permit
 - **MICHAEL:** The committee reviewed the letter and Michael will revise and circulate to the committee again tomorrow

Education Outreach/Programs – Margaret and Lynne

- DEC December Tip will be added to front page of the town's website – Barbara
- Still looking for a volunteer to provide a monthly newsletter to town
- Garden Talks
 - **JEAN:** Will see where the Friendship Garden Club is getting their speakers

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- To come: Program for celebrating the Bronze certification and NRI maps

CAC/CSC Website - Jenn

- Jenn presented the new invasive species page: <https://www.clintoncac.com/invasive-species>
- Margaret (with Barbara's help) came up with two articles, one on wildlife and another on birds
 - JENN to post

Clinton Community Day - Lynn

- Keep this on the agenda so we don't miss it because the date is so much earlier
- No updates
 - LYNN will follow up to make sure she's on the distribution list

Welcome to the Town of Clinton Postcards – Deborah – (*Discussion for January*)

Climate Smart Community Task Force – Joe

- Climate Smart Resiliency Planning
 - Dutchess and Columbia/Green CCE reached out and said Hudson River Estuary Program was looking for communities interested in doing Climate Smart Resiliency Planning so they could submit a grant for it. We said yes we would be interested.
- We have been approved for a \$10K NYSERDA grant to do the energy audit of the town highway garage. Energy audit will happen mid-January. They will provide us with a list of recommendations to make that facility energy efficient. The company that comes in from NYSERDA is based on the number of employees in that building/facility, and the cost is estimated to be \$4600. Joe has floated the idea of doing the old highway garage too, but is unsure they will do it. We can expect a report about a month after the audit.
- Joe was notified by NYSERDA we were eligible for a \$50K grant. He is working on the application. If we get it, we can use it as additional funds for implementing any recommendations from the energy audit.

Clinton Nature Trail Chair - Barbara

- New Nestboxes installed in the Clinton Nature Trail. The town highway helped install them.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Tuesday, January 7, 2025 – Planning Board Meeting @ 7pm in the Masonic Hall.

Saturday, May 24, 2025 – Community Yard Sale & 3v3 Basketball Tournament at Fran Mark Park – Sponsored by the Recreation Committee

Next CAC Meeting: January 8, 2025 @ 5:30pm

2025 CAC Meetings: February 12; March 12; April 9; May 14; June 11; July 9; August 13; September 10; October 9; November 12; December 12.