

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 – November 12, 2025 – 5:30pm**

Meeting came to order at 5:35pm

Attendees: Barbara Mansell, Michael Hurd, Jenn Brown, Jean McAvoy, Margaret Pierpont, Lynne Morell, Joe Phelan, Katherine Mustello (Town Board Liaison), Nick Sacerdote (Member of the Public)

The group congratulated Katherine for her reelection to the Town Board!

Review and Approve Minutes – October 8, 2025 Minutes were taken by Jenn Brown. Motion to accept the minutes were put forth by Margaret and Michael. All were in favor to accept.

CAC A8090.4	Amount	Spent	Remaining
2026 Budget	\$3,400	0	\$3,400

Comprehensive Plan Committee – Michael sent a letter of interest to Eliot Werner.

Residents' Queries sent to CAC email

- 10/10/25 Inquiry by Clinton resident, Rich Veith, regarding water level at Mud Pond “Mud (now, Crud)” Back in 2008 or so, a culvert was replaced between Mud Pond and Silver Lake on Slate Quarry Road. Rich felt that this work caused Mud Pond to become shallower and “muddy” over the years since. Rich has documentation that may be of interest to the town regarding this issue. There is no follow up action noted to this query.
- 10/16/25 Inquiry by Gregory DeSylva – “Has the Town ever considered a ridge-line ordinance?” Barbara responded an email that had copy of the 250-15 Ridgeline, Scenic and Historic Protection Overlay District regulation along with the link to the Town Zoning eCode 360 found the town’s website. Charlie Canham of the Zoning Board was also on copy for the email. She suggested Greg contact Charlie for more information.
- 10/20/25 Inquiry by Tobias Picker on Schultzville Road regarding trees – “The two years in a row of spongy moths followed by last Spring's massive infestation of inch worms has decimated much of our forest - hundreds if not thousands of oaks have died after three straight years of defoliation. I can't say how many acres are gone but it's substantial.” Barbara asked Charlie Canham and Clive Jones for their help in advising the reasons behind the devastation. Barbara forwarded the email with both Clive and Charles’ responses to Tobias and to the CAC on 10/21/25. Unfortunately, there isn't a clear answer as there are environmental factors that come into play.

CAC/CSC Website (www.clintoncac.com) – Jenn

- New domain name (\$0) - cac.clintondcn.gov
- What is the plan/timeframe for changing over to cac.clintondcn.gov?
- Jenn has submitted her letter of resignation for the end of the year.
- Need to find someone who can manage our website after we lose Jenn. Katherine may know of someone who could takeover taking care of the CAC website in the new year

Norene Collier Nature Trail – Trail Renaming May 2

- The group decided to purchase the sign designed by Fast Signs.

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- Order sign early in 2026 to make sure it is ready in time.
- Margaret, Lynne, Jean and Barbara have volunteered to organize the event.

Education Outreach

- Margaret - Invasives—the Big Picture and Your Backyard for Spring 2026
- Possible walk led by Nick in the Nature Trail to learn about the invasive and native plants that grow there.
- Additional ideas? Spotted Lantern Fly; Tree devastation; iNaturalist Bioblitz
- Barbara shared the CCEDC Spotted Lanternfly Management Workshop being held on 11/17/25 at the Farm and Home Center via MailChimp.
- Possible presentation by Joyce Tomaselli representing Wild Wood Restoration Project on “Hudson Valley’s Woodlands: Past, Present and Future”

Climate Smart Communities Task Force - Joe

- Climate Smart Resiliency Tool for the Town of Clinton with CCEDC is complete. There will be a presentation to the town in December.
- On 4/14/25, NYSERDA completed an energy audit of the Highway Department building. A \$10,000 grant paid for the audit.
- The town received a \$50,000 grant to make recommended improvements to the Highway Department buildings. Joe met with Todd to prioritize a list. Some of the improvements: \$33,000 to insulate the building; retrofit lighting to LEDs; \$10,000 to install double-glazed windows; install airflow reduction weatherstripping. A future option could be hooking up with the town’s geothermal system.

Wetlands Law – The new law will be introduced at the December Town Board Meeting. A public hearing will be scheduled in January.

Fran Mark Park – The highway department received a grant from Brian Scoralick at Dutchess Soil and Water to plant native seeds along the gully that is next to Clinton Hollow Road. Barbara is meeting with Dan Harkenrider, Todd Martin and Brian Scoralick on Friday, 11/14/25 at 11:30 at Fran Mark Park.

Town of Clinton Conservation Advisory Council Postcards 2027 – Deborah

Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 2, 2026 – Norene Collier Nature Trail Event

Saturday, June 6, 2026 – Clinton Community Day

Next CAC Meeting: December 10, 2025 @ 5:30pm

2026 Meetings: January 14; February 11; March 11; April 8; May 13; June 10; July 8; August 12; September 9; October 14; November 11 (Veteran’s Day); December 9.