

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 – August 12, 2026 – 5:00pm

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM.

Attendees: CAC Members: Michael Hurd, Barbara Mansell, Jean McAvoy, Lynne Morrell, Joe Phelan, Margaret Pierpont, Nick Sacerdote, Deborah Valchar. **Town Board Liaison:** Katherine Mustello.

Review and Approve Minutes – July 8, 2026 Minutes were taken by Barbara Mansell. A motion to approve them was made by Joe Phelan. Margaret Pierpont seconded the motion. All were in favor. The minutes were approved.

CAC A8090.4	Amount	Spent	Remaining
2026 Budget	\$3,400	\$1171.60	\$ 2228.40

2027 Budget – Due September 1st

The group discussed plans for 2027. They included native plantings at the entrance to the Norene Collier Nature Trail and plans to sponsor possible public educational events from the IES and CCEDC. The domain name for the clintoncac.com costs \$25 and the annual subscription is \$228. The CAC&CSC postcard will be mailed to residents before the next CCD in June 2027. The postcard is mailed biennially.

Planning Board - Michael reported that the CAC received Six Senses Environmental Scoping Document that describes which major environmental concerns listed by the Planning Board will be covered.

Comprehensive Plan Committee Update – Michael stated that the committee has received 359 responses to the survey so far. The survey postcards will be mailed to residents soon. The deadline for receiving responses is October 3rd.

Regional Resilience Grants by The Understory – Applications are due November 18th.

The invasive Spotted Lanternfly population has greatly increased in our town. The host plant for this insect is the invasive Tree of Heaven (Ailanthus). The group thought it would be useful to map the population of these trees in the town, with a focus on town parks, in order to educate residents and initiate an eradication program. Deborah, Jean, Michael, and Nick have formed a subcommittee to work on a grant proposal for this project.

Also, Brytanie Killebrew, Programming & Outreach Coordinator, and Carol Bancroft, Director of the Clinton Community Library, also have ideas for a grant that would include the CAC&CSC TF help. Margaret and Barbara plan to meet with them to discuss.

The link to the Regional Resilience Grants website is: [Informational Website](#)

The link to a recent webinar is that describes the various grants is: [Informational Webinar 1: Regional Resilience Grants](#).

What's Bugging You? First Fridays by Cornell Integrated Pest Management – These are virtual presentations given on the first Friday of the month on practical solutions to pest problems. Katherine

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thought the group would be interested in a presentation on the Spotted Lanternfly. The link to presentation: [Managing Spotted Lanternfly in Homes & Landscape 8/7/2026](#) Barbara shared the link to the presentation on Clinton Community Bulletin FB.

Clinton Community Library (CCL)&CAC Partnership for Educational Events on the Norene Collier Nature Trail – There were six attendees, including Margaret and Barbara, on Nick's Invasive Plant Walk on Saturday, July 18th. Barbara will lead a Butterfly Walk on Saturday, August 15th. Margaret will lead a Meditative Nature Walk on Saturday, September 19th. Nick suggested an additional walk about Fungi be held in early October. Also, Nick would like to offer a Fall Clean-Up talk. For this, Margaret will contact the library.

CAC/CSC Website (www.clintoncac.com) – Ray and Barbara Mansell

Barbara is enlisting Fred Shequine, Business Technology Consultant who maintains the town's website, to help her work with Squarespace. A future update to the clintoncac website could be "Supporting Pollinators". Michael asked if the CAC is still allowed to have a .com website considering the town website is a .gov. Barbara will ask Mike Whitton and Fred Shequine.

Town Website - CAC and CSC Agendas and Minutes updated as well as on the Laserfiche.

Dutchess County Materials Management Information with Recycle Coach – The email was sent to members of the CAC. The Recycle Coach seemed like a good means by which to help residents learn what is recyclable but the application itself would be very confusing to use.

Clinton Summer Camp at Fran Mark Park – Barbara and Jean brought programs to share with the Summer Campers one day of each week of camp. The campers were very attentive and seemed to enjoy the sessions.

Climate Smart Communities Task Force – Joe

The RIT Grant was not approved for our town. The Climate Vulnerability Assessment survey deadline is August 31st. A Climate Vulnerability Assessment Workshop will be held on September 29th. More details to follow. Barbara attached the 2026-06-23-CSC-Minutes and 2026-07-28-CSC-Agenda to the CAC email meeting notice.

Revisit Town of Clinton Conservation Advisory Council Postcards in 2027 – Deborah will review the postcards and will share her thoughts of any updating at the October meeting. There is money in the CAC 2026 budget to cover the cost to print the postcards this year.

Clinton Community Day – Lynne will find out if Dutchess Soil and Water would be able to attend with their water table exhibit.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, August 15, 2026 - CCL&CAC Partnership - Summer Walk Series: Butterfly Walk with Barbara

Saturday, September 19, 2026 - CCL&CAC Partnership - Summer Walk Series: Meditative Nature Walk with Margaret

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Next CAC Meeting: September 9, 2026 @ 5:00pm

2026 Meetings: October 14; November 11 (Veteran's Day?); December 9.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Mansell