

Moreau Conservation Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mary Meade at 6:36pm. Present were MCAC members Reed Antis, Ramona Bearor, Shellie Englert, and Pat Walters. Gina LeClair, Town Council Liaison was also present. Emily Debolt, Director of Education for the Lake George Association, was a guest.

Emily Debolt was introduced to the group.

Mona Bearor requested permission that the "Dirty Dozen" invasive species handout be printed in the June issue of the Southern Adirondack Audubon newsletter, "The Fledgling." All present were in favor of this as it serves to spread the message to a group with over 500 members in three counties.

The group discussed the plan to plant a native species display garden on the west side of the Town Hall building. Gina will ask the town board for a dollar amount which can be used for this purpose.

Reed Antis advised the group that the Moreau Town Planning Board would like some reference materials to use when discussing specifics of plant material with developers. Discussion followed. The group decided that we would supply the Planning Board with a list of acceptable plant species. Mona will continue to work on this.

Emily Debolt then discussed her background, and told us about her native plant nursery in Hartford, NY. She talked at length about how we can develop a plant list specific to our area. She advised us of many sources available, including websites and books readily available, and supplied several handouts for our use. A long and lively discussion followed about planting natives, how to engage residents of the town, etc.

Reed Antis then raised the subject of MCAC members who are very sporadic in attendance. The group's concern for the absent members was expressed, possible ways to encourage them to return, and the possibility of recruiting new members. Gina LeClair mentioned that she had previously asked for students to participate in the group with no response.

Gina LeClair told the group about her conversation with Bob Vittengil on the Recreation Committee about Community Gardening. She has also talked to Linda Gifford (active in the local Farmers' Markets) about having a Farmers' Market at the Betar Recreation Park off RT32. Gina will keep us advised as talks go forward.

Gina also passed out schedules for the "Reflections of Moreau" photography and painting classes to be held this summer under a grant by New York State Council on the Arts as administered by the Saratoga Arts Council. The presenters are the artist/photographer team of Ann and Gary Larson who will teach a series of classes in photographic composition and drawing, followed by field work. Several MCAC members offered to help with flyer preparation and distribution, etc. The first class is to be held June 5, and discussion followed as to the short time span allowed for advertising the workshop, etc. Gina will talk to the Larson's about pushing the schedule out a week or so.

The Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) Local Waterfront Revitalization Program grant for the Hudson River park may be delayed by several months. We need input from the DEC representative and he is very backed up at this point. He has requested that we send him some information by email and he will review it.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 9, 6:30pm, at Town Hall.

Chair Mary Meade adjourned the meeting at 8:42pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ramona Bearor, Recording Secretary
Moreau Conservation Advisory Council