

Draft

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting
May 9, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairwoman Laurie Husted, Susan Ellis, Steve Appenzeller, Mike Zelig, Lori Urbin, Julia Solomon, Dennis Collet, Jen Cavanaugh

Guests: Michelle Gluck, Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (CCDEC) Climate Smart Communities (CSC) certification coordinator
Supervisor Robert McKeon and Councilwoman Sarah Imboden (7:28 P.M.)

MINUTES OF THE CAC ON APRIL 11, 2018: The minutes of the April 11 meeting were approved with a motion made by Julia Solomon, seconded by Mike Zelig and agreed to by all.

CALL TO ORDER / QUORUM: Chairwoman Laurie Husted called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. All current CAC members were present.

COMMUNITY COMPOST COMPANY (CCC) PROPOSAL OPTIONS UPDATE: On April 7, Lori Urbin and Steve Appenzeller had met with Eileen Banya, founder and partner in the CCC to learn about their offers for composting service and details of their discussions with Rhinebeck and Tivoli. As a next step recommended by CCC, Lori and Steve met with Rhinebeck Mayor Gary Basset to discuss their vision and ideas about potential Intermunicipal collaboration. Any proposal for compost collection will need more study.

EXTRACTION WORKING GROUP DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE PRESENTED TO THE TOWN BOARD: Julia Solomon explained the decisions for choices of Zoning Code changes. For water resources, the Working Group was making recommendations for a regulatory approach, vs. a ban. That would allow existing operations that comply with previous conditions, and special permitting for any new proposals.

Soil and mineral extractions are regulated by New York State. The Working Group is recommending addition of a Zoning Code section for "Tree and Topsoil Removal" to address both excavation below the current defined mining threshold and current tree removal below the defined timber harvesting threshold.

Timber Harvesting, Commercial Forestry and Commercial Logging under the current Zoning Code need better definition of the actions. Mike Zelic asked how the 10 acre threshold for area of disturbance requiring a special permit for tree removal was determined; Julia replied that the Working Group compared legislation of other Towns in the area.

Julia would like CAC members to attend the Town Board meeting at which the draft will be presented. She will notify the CAC of the date.

MATERIALS RECOVERY WITH COMPOSTING, REPAIR AND RECYCLING:

Composting proposals – A follow up meeting is planned for May 22, 2018 as a joint discussion by the Town and Village of Red Hook, Town and Village of Rhinebeck and Village of Tivoli to explore the option of jointly applying for a grant from the Municipal Waste reduction and Recycling Program.

Repair Cafe proposal – Steve Appenzeller and Laurie Husted plan to meet with the Red Hook Community Center to discuss a hosting agreement.

Recycling Bins at the Recreational Park – Mike Zelic investigated the issue of contamination of recycling bins at the Park and took photos. He will set a meeting with Recreation Director John Kuhn to discuss options for improvements.

“BIG BOX” STORES, FRANCHISE OPERATIONS AND FOOD TRUCKS: The Town Board held a public hearing on April 8 for discussion of proposed Local Law 3 to define and regulate them. Many residents had questions and comments. Denis Collet and Stephen Appenzeller attended and reported. The Town Board voted to hold the public hearing open until the May 30, 2018 Town Board meeting.

Michelle Gluck, CCDEC Climate Smart Communities certification coordinator joined the meeting.

CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES CERTIFICATION: Laurie Husted introduced Michelle to the CAC. Michelle explained that Red Hook had previously signed the Climate Smart Communities pledge, which now needs to be certified. The CSC certification program and portal were just released to provide support for municipalities in completing their certifications and updating their Climate Action Plans. Michelle reached out to work with Red Hook as a pilot project to document what actions the Town has completed and what actions it needs to take. The Town is further along in the process than many in the County.

Supervisor Robert McKeon and Councilwoman Sarah Imboden joined the meeting.

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Michelle Gluck continued with a power point detailing the steps in the process:

- ◆ Pass a resolution: The Town must pass the CSC pledge as a municipal resolution to join the program and become a Registered CSC. All ten points of the CSC Pledge must be adopted verbatim.
- ◆ Register: A primary contact must be designated to sign up for the portal account. Then complete the online registration form and upload the adopted municipal resolution. Then the the community will be designated a Registered CSC.
- ◆ Review and select actions: Log in to the municipal account to review and select actions. The community can implement actions at its own pace. A suggested starting point is with mandatory and priority actions. Assistance is available from a NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Coordinator.
- ◆ Collect Documentation: Once the Town has identified selected actions, it should review the requirements for each and begin to organize and upload documentation. Next is to develop a timeline for meeting the requirements and set an application deadline.
- ◆ Submit Application: Using the web portal, upload the required documents for each CSC certification action. Staff will review and notify the Town of details on anything missing .

Denis Collet noted that he and Laurie Husted had attended a training session at Vassar College, at which discussion seemed to indicate that the Town might not get full credit for previously done work. He asked Michelle to address that point.

Michelle Gluck reviewed the point system for completed actions, and based on actions that the CAC and Supervisor McKeon mentioned she thought that the Town could qualify for bronze level. There will need to be more review, and Michelle stressed that the Town must find the right person to coordinate the project.

All present thanked Michelle for her presentation and assistance.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday June 13, 2018 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary