

Town of Red Hook

Agriculture and Open Space Committee

Minutes of June 28, 2016

APPROVED: 10-25-16

Attendance: Mike Robertson (Sawkill Coalition), Marina Michahelles (Website), Rich Biezynski, Hannah Beal, Talea Hekman-Taylor and Linda Keeling, secretary

Absent: Co-chairman Pete Hubbell, Co-chairman Norman Greig, Ken Migliorelli (ZRC & EDC), John Hardeman and Town Board Councilman William O'Neill (liaison)

Guests: None

Meeting Opened: *Secretary Linda Keeling* opened the meeting at 7:35 pm.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Minutes:** There was a quorum (5 of 9). There were no meetings for April and May.

MOTION: *Mike Robertson* motioned to accept the March 29, 2016, *Hannah Beal* seconded, all agreed.

2. **Farm List and Website:** Marina Michahelles emailed the farms and got back 16 responses. John Hardeman talked to her personally the other day so she will add his information. She also contacted Dick Wambach. She started to update the list. It's an easy access shared file.

The cloud could be utilized for storage and back-up. Farm related events could be posted. The Red Hook Hudson Valley website will need a liaison to enter data and monitor the information which Marina volunteered to do.

3. **Intermunicipal Task Force (ITF):** *Rich Biezynski* noted that the ITF wants to pass a law banning formula franchises. He gave the example of McDonald's. *Linda Keeling* indicated that they probably would not consider Red Hook because they need a demographic population over 25,000. Rich said it use to be 10,000 so it must have been upped. Presently, we have Dunkin' Donuts and Subway. Pizza Hut left years ago. Rich felt it would affect present businesses like Agway, CVS, AutoZone and the six banks, etc. The proposed law would exempt grocery stores. Rich would like to be able to buy a motor locally rather than go to Kingston. *Linda Keeling* suggested they be more concerned with the site plan and questioned how they can keep a business out. It would seem this issue came to be over concerns of a Dollar General Store locating in the Village. It could provide a shopping experience for the locals and occupy a presently empty store. They suggested that Whole Foods or Trader Joes would be a competitive impact for the farmers.

4. Spite Fences: *Rich Biezynski* recalled his picture taking of spite fences. He referenced the 10 ft. wall in the village and a white fence which he considered spite fences. He asked if the law passed and *Linda Keeling* responded she thought it did. Rich mentioned the town is revising the sign law which is illegal as you can not mention the wording on the sign but rather only the dimensions. *Talea Hekman-Taylor* asked Linda about the negative declaration on the fence law information sent in her May 12th email. Linda explained that they had to do the SEQRA Law for the public hearing.

5. Community Preservation Fund (CPF): Rich Biezynski said Stickle and Vosburgh were approved by the town. They still need NYS to approve the purchase of the 15 acres.

5. Purchase of Development Rights (PDR): The Hapeman Hill properties are not going to happen as the property proposed is still divided due to a divorce. Scenic Hudson will not get involved unless it is all one piece.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Town Water Regulations: This might be an issue for farmers.

2. CPF: Rich Biezynski reported that properties around well sites now require 200 ft. separation. 500 ft. might be suggested in the future. Properties around the Stony Kill, White Clay Creek and Saw Kill were listed on a map composed of about 2000 parcels. Linda Keeling inquired if her land was listed as she is part of the White Clay Creek. He indicated it was not.

3. Hofmann Tradition Neighborhood Development (TND): There were some concerns about the amount of sewage generated by this new neighborhood. The Village has tested the water and it has already degraded somewhat.

4. Reminder Solar Installation: The last date for the sign up is June 30th. *Rich Biezynski* said solar farms cannot go on agricultural property as they would have to pay back taxes for the past 5 years. Scenic Hudson disallows solar as it covers the land. *Linda Keeling* noted that in Massachusetts there are wind apparatus all over. They are inefficient, ugly and kill migrating birds.

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION: *Marina Michahelles* motioned to adjourn the meeting, *Hannah Beal* seconded, all agreed.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting will be **Tuesday, July 26, 2016.**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, AOSC Secretary