

Town of Red Hook

Agriculture and Open Space Committee

Minutes of June 24, 2014

Attendance: Co-chairperson Norman Greig, Richard Biezynski, John Hardeman, Ken Migliorelli, Michael Robertson, Town Board Councilman William O’Neill (liaison) and Linda Keeling, secretary.

Absent: Co-chairperson Pete Hubbell, Marina Michahelles, and Mary Ann Johnson

Guests: Chris Klose

Meeting Opened: *Co-Chairman Norman Greig* entertained general farm related discussion while waiting for a quorum. *Ken Migliorelli* discussed his crop losses from the harsh winter and the agricultural trials underway by the new owners of the Gill Farm across the river. The Buffet and Rockefellers have bought up farms in the Hudson Valley with the intent to be organic. They can afford to lose a large amount of money.

He opened the meeting at 7:19 pm.

Minutes: There was a quorum.

Motion: *John Hardeman* motioned to accept the minutes from April 22, 2014, *Norman Greig* seconded, all agreed.

Motion: *John Hardeman* motioned to accept the minutes from May 27, 2014, *Norman Greig* seconded, all agreed.

Motion: *John Hardeman* motioned to accept the minutes from June 12, 2014, *Norman Greig* seconded, all agreed.

OLD BUSINESS

Co-chairman Norman Greig confirmed that no AOSC committee members or the AOSC secretary received any communication or written information from the ZRC Chairman Susan Simon.

Secretary Linda Keeling noted that at the end of their June 12th meeting ZRC Chairman Simon assured her that two members would definitely attend our next regularly scheduled meeting on June 24th. They were to be Steve Cole and Sam Phelan. No one representing the ZRC was in

attendance. Everyone from AOSC was very disappointed that the verbal agreement between the AOSC and ZRC had been broken.

Ken Migliorelli phoned Steve Cole, ZEO and ZRC member. Steve said he could not make the meeting and indicated that what he had written was in his office and couldn't get to it. He indicated that Sam Phelan sent him written language based on the Ag & Farm Markets but he didn't have access to it nor did he have Sam's phone number. Ken stressed that AOSC would like to see the language prior to their joint meeting on July 10th. Steve assured Ken that the Ag group would have something to look at.

Co-chairman Norman Greig reminded all to attend the ZRC joint meeting on July 10th as previously arranged at their June 12th meeting to assist them in finalizing the wording and moving this issue to the next level.

NEW BUSINESS

Co-chairman Norman Greig asked if there was any new business.

John Hardeman emphasized the wording he supplied regarding the farming issue. All agreed it was simple and direct.

Guest Chris Klose had questions about the term "spite fence". Members gave him an overview.

Councilman Liaison Bill O'Neill inquired about the Red Hook Farmer's Quarterly brochure. He wanted to know if the AOSC "sponsored" the brochure implying it was a Red Hook municipal product. Bill O'Neil felt that the content is self-promoting. He wondered why Mike Robertson was not included.

Co-chairman Norman Greig explained that Rosemarie Zengen made a presentation to the committee and we "endorsed" her efforts to focus on farming in Red Hook. It is a profit making enterprise and farmers need to buy ad space in order to be included. *Chris Klose* added that under the 1st amendment, an editor has the right to promote their opinions.

John Hardeman heard that Marirose Bump purchased the 2.1 acres of Unification Church land along the Hudson River on the west side of the tracks. John noted the town has plenty of sports activities and urged the town to address the needs of sportsmen, kayakers, etc.

Councilman Bill O'Neill mentioned the Unification Church's Father's Trail and wondered if it could be connected and if the Trails Committee might be working on this.

John Hardeman didn't think the Trails Committee has been aware of the property's sale or the possibility of using the land for local townspeople.

Motion to Adjourn: *Ken Migliorelli* motioned to adjourn the meeting and *Mike Roberts* seconded, all agreed.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting will be **Thursday, June 12th with the ZRC.**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, AOSC Secretary

APPROVED Aug. 26, 2014