

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting
January 13, 2010

Members present: Chairwoman Brenda Cagle, Laurie Husted, Zoie Riel, Mike Ignatowski,
Denise Barton, Susan Ellis

Guests: Councilman Bill O'Neill, Robert McKeon

Chairwoman Brenda Cagle called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M. Denise Barton reported that the PV meters in the Town Hall read 5001kw downstairs and 5024kw in the front hall. As yet, there is no explanation for the difference.

2010 BUDGET: Brenda Cagle reported that at the budget review, the CAC budget for 2010 was set at \$2075, slightly less than last year. The DEC Summer Environmental Camp scholarships are now a separate line item, as the VFW has contributed the cost for many years.

ICLEI -CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION: The CAC hopes to hire another intern and Brenda noted that the CAC needs to decide what to offer. Brenda asked Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy to draw up a purchase order for \$600.

Zoie Riel asked what the CAC would require from the intern to account for the stipend. CAC members discussed continuing the Greenhouse Gas Inventory done by Lindsay Chapman, updating the inventory for 2010 and creating a Climate Change Action Plan for reduction of emissions, incorporating Lindsay's recommendations. The CAC also discussed the time frame for the internship and decided that the June to December six month span worked well.

Brenda Cagle reported that she gave a copy of the slides from intern Lindsay Chapman's Greenhouse Gas Inventory presentation to the Village and to the School District. Denise Barton said that she would go over Lindsay's work to determine what the CAC needs to do next.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS: Denise Barton reported that only one application had been received, from a male student, Bennet Brooks. As the DEC won't take applications until February 9, 2010, she proposed to extend the application deadline until February 2, 2010. The CAC remains puzzled that at a time when money is tight, there isn't more interest in the scholarships. Denise suggested an announcement in the PTA/PSTA newsletter. Supervisor Sue Crane announced the extension of the deadline at the Tuesday Town Board meeting. Mike Ignatowski noted that the Boy Scouts meet every Monday, and he would give handouts about the camp scholarships.

RECYCLING BROCHURE: Zoie Riel displayed a 1/3 sheet short description of the Recycling Center to be handed out with permit stickers as a reminder of the items accepted and the Recycling Center hours. Zoie noted that with increased use of the internet, people want to look up information on websites, so more detailed information should be included there. The CAC discussed compiling a list of other locations to recycle in the Red Hook area. Brenda asked Zoie if she would make a flyer if Brenda put together the information. Zoie agreed.

The CAC discussed thrift stores and consignment shops and locations for recycling electronics. Brenda said that she had agreement from most of the antique stores to be listed as places to take household goods. Susan Ellis noted that many people are looking to sell household items, and that they need to understand that antique stores are not looking for just used goods.

VERNAL POOL SURVEY: The CAC has expressed interest in working with Neil Curri, GIS Resource Educator at Cornell Cooperative Extension and Dr. Michael Klemens of Cary Institute to do a survey of the vernal pools in the Town. Brenda Cagle noted that the survey project would need 20 – 30 volunteers to commit to a total of 20 – 30 hours, with two people working on a team. Laurie suggested that Bard students need to do community service work and might be interested in the project, but it might take until next year to arrange. Denise Barton added that perhaps honor students at the High School would use it for their community service qualification. Training requires one 2–3 hour session and one 4-6 hour session.

NEW YORK STATE ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NYSERDA) GRANTS: Robert McKeon reported that he had no update from Denis Collet on the NYSERDA grant application (RFP1613 Project Implementation Funding for State Energy Program American Recovery and Reinvestment Act). The Town resubmitted the application for \$150,000 to assist with solar roof installation on the Town Hall; the awards for the second round of grants will be announced on March 15, 2010. Robert added that there also has been no reply on whether or not any municipal loan from the federal Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program would be available.

The CAC discussed other potential projects that might be considered for grant funding under the NYSERDA RFP 10 program (Implementation Funding for Small Municipalities ARRA). Brenda Cagle noted that in the Greenhouse Gas Inventory, one of the highest emissions percentages was for the municipal vehicle fleet. Currently there are no suggested projects for funding reductions in vehicle emissions

Robert McKeon said that it would be interesting to consider a solar application on the Recreation Park building and on the Willowbrook pumping station. Perhaps a joint application for the Town Highway salt shed and the Village pumping station could be worked out. Robert noted that under grant regulations, the largest photovoltaic system would be 50 kilowatts. He added that there is a funding category for personnel, such as an energy administrator attached to a project.

Brenda Cagle brought up the consideration of using LED lighting for street lights and Recreation Park lighting, if Central Hudson would support the project. She will ask.

Village Trustee Ed Blundell had spoken with Zoie Riel about garbage reduction. Brenda Cagle noted that Ed has said that he didn't think that the Village could commit to picking up compostable wastes. Zoie noted that it had been very significant having students learn composting during the time that there was a project at the school. Laurie Husted added that presently no one from the school is embracing it. Zoie hoped that the school would revisit composting. Zoie added that Mary Ann Johnson has been helpful with arranging composting opportunities with the farmers.

Brenda Cagle reported that Paula Schoonmaker, Chairwoman of St. Margaret's Committee has asked advice for energy efficiency measures at the building. Brenda said that the Committee needs to have an energy audit done and investigate energy efficiency options.

Brenda Cagle concluded that the next step for the RFP 10 grant cycle is to gather all the possible sites for renewable energy projects and then have Hudson Valley Clean Energy review and assist the grant writers to prioritize them.

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM

FUNDING: Brenda Cagle reported that the funding for the CCEEP was cut, but not eliminated as had been planned in County Executive Steinhaus' budget proposal.

"GREEN SPOT:" Town Board meetings have been set at the second Tuesday and fourth Wednesday of the month. Councilman Bill O'Neill noted that Fred Cartier will film for PANDA on the second Tuesday, if the CAC plans to do "Green Spots."

EARTH DAY: Denise Barton asked CAC members to consider plans for Earth Day. She always does an event at IBM for that day.

CAC members discussed the news that the Town of Hyde Park is considering repeal of its Wetlands Law and how the CAC might support the efforts of the Hyde Park CAC to retain the law.

An article in the current edition of "About Town" describes the waste water treatment system at Omega Institute and notes that they will give tours.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary