

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting
February 10, 2010

Members present: Chairwoman Brenda Cagle, Laurie Husted, Susan Ellis,
Denis Collet, Dr. Jane Ferguson,
Denise Barton, Molly Williams

Guests: Councilwoman Micki Strawinski, Robert McKeon

Chairwoman Brenda Cagle called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M.
Brenda announced that the Town Board appointed Molly Williams as a
new CAC member; she was welcomed the CAC. Denise Barton reported
that the
PV meter readings were 5223 kW downstairs and 5245 kW in the hall.

MINUTES: Brenda Cagle noted corrections to the minutes of the
November 18, 2009 meeting. In the last paragraph of the second page, the
Town has a 4 kW photovoltaic installation, not a 30 k+W one. In the
Biodiversity discussion, it was not Supervisor Sue Crane who suggested
that the biodiversity work be continued from the NE corner south to Route
9; the Biodiversity committee is working on it. The minutes of the
November 18, 2009 meeting were approved as amended with a motion
made by Denise Barton and seconded by Laurie Husted.

For the minutes of the January 13, 2010 meeting, Brenda Cagle noted that
she has not given the copy of the slides from Lindsay Chapman's
Greenhouse Gas Inventory to the School District. The minutes of the
January 13, 2010 meeting were approved as amended with a motion made
by Jane Ferguson and seconded by Denise Barton.

**NYS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS:** Denise Barton reported that the
one student selected for a DEC Summer Camp Scholarship is Bennet
Brooks. Brenda Cagle asked if Bennet would appear at a Town Board
meeting; Denise said that she would ask if a date could be arranged.

VERNAL POOL SURVEY: Brenda Cagle reported that Red Hook was
chosen as one of the Towns to participate in the Vernal Pool survey to be
directed by Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Institute for Ecosystem
Studies. Brenda would like to get on the Town Board agenda for a
resolution of support for the project. As previously noted, the Town needs
a commitment of approximately 20 volunteers, including a core group of 4

– 6. Brenda has agreement from Debbie Beam from the High School, who may be joined by some colleagues or students. Katherine O’Reilly at Bard College has expressed interest, but has not indicated if she will have other helpers. Brenda has had no reply from Karen Schneller-McDonald and will also ask members of the Biodiversity Group.

From the CAC, Molly Williams is interested, and Denise Barton, Susan Ellis and Jane Ferguson may be able to help. Brenda noted that the training meeting will be on March 6, 2010 at the Institute for Ecosystem Studies. The core group will meet on February 18, 2010.

GREEN SPOT: The next time slot for a “Green Spot” is Tuesday, March 9. CAC members discussed doing a promotion for Earth Day.

NEW YORK ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NYSERDA) RFP10 GRANT APPLICATION: The main focus of the meeting was to work on the grant proposals due February 17, 2010. Brenda Cagle reported that on Tuesday, Denis Collet, Molly Williams, Laurie Husted and she went to the Town Board for approval for submitting the grant application and to request matching funding. The Town Board approved moving forward with the application, but did not commit to cost sharing. Robert McKeon noted that it will be important for the Town to do at least a 10% cost share match to be competitive. The NYSERDA grant application will have 4 proposals for qualifying energy conservation projects.

1.) **Renewable Energy Improvement Project:** The proposal will include a solar power installation on the Red Hook Firehouse, not to exceed 50 kW. Brenda noted that the Red Hook Fire Company has agreed to fund a share of the cost. There was discussion of asking if that could be increased; Robert McKeon will ask. There will need to be another meeting with the Town Board to request approval of a cost share for the St. Margaret’s proposal, and amend the resolution if the Fire Company agrees to an increase.

2.) **Energy Efficiency Improvements Project:** Laurie Husted and St. Margaret’s Committee Chairwoman Paula Schoonmaker are working on proposal to develop energy efficient measures consistent with the restoration of the building. St. Margaret’s does not have cost share funding, but the energy efficiency project should give points towards the grant. Suggestions for St. Margaret’s include using the existing baseboard, putting in a new boiler, and insulating the attic. Paula is trying to get bids for a new ceiling. There was discussion of increasing the “R” value to R38, and which insulation product to use. There is consideration of insulating the walls with built-in insulation, but the Committee needs to know how that would affect the historic standing. Susan Ellis asked if the

energy advisors prioritized cost saving measures. Laurie Husted answered that they looked at 9 energy measures, but did not really address the basement.

Another proposal that may be included in the energy efficiency improvements is a project to convert municipal street and Recreation Park lighting to LED bulbs. Brenda Cagle noted that cost numbers are needed for the Recreation Park. She has given information on the grant to Recreation Park Director John Kuhn so that he can ask Red Hook Electric for cost estimates.

3.) **Material Conservation Project:** Brenda Cagle and Molly Williams are working with Shabazz Jackson to develop a project for composting of brush and/or food waste. Molly noted that information would be coming on Thursday with Shabazz's answers to her specific questions about the cost of the proposal. There was discussion of yard waste and food waste being two separate projects. Molly reported that seeing the system managed by Shabazz at Vassar College, that it is not smelly and it has a wastewater/stormwater collection system- an impermeable surface system with catch basins. Molly added that grant support would run out in two years; by then she hopes that the system would be self sustainable.

Denis Collet asked whether the grant is for design or for implementation of the project. Robert McKeon replied the it is neither for design nor implementation, rather the grant is for expansion of the existing Recycling Center to become a Zero Waste Facility.

Jane Ferguson noted that it is more complicated to add food waste rather than just brush and mulch. She expressed concern that the project might not happen if it is too complicated. Denis Collet added that it just might not get the waste stream. Brenda Cagle noted that in discussions with the Village of Red Hook, they are asking for compost bins for ½ the number of households in the Village.

4.) **Energy Management Personnel:** The grant workers decided to ask for \$40,000 for a part time energy management employee for two years. Robert McKeon noted that based on the Town population the Town could qualify for \$52,000 for one year based on an allowance of \$10 per capita.

Further discussion included details of formatting the application and burning a compact disc as required by NYSERDA, and a suggestion that the history of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Survey be included. Brenda Cagle said that the Town and two Villages all should be considered beneficiaries, and therefore the Tivoli Trustees need to sign on the proposal.

The grant writing group summarized what needs to be done to complete the application.

- 1.) A request to the Town Board for approval of a 12% cost share.
Laurie Husted noted that the Town spent \$4,500 in the last year for Recreation Park lighting; LED installation would save 25% or more.
- 2.) The energy efficiency measures for St. Margaret's need to be detailed. Laurie Husted suggested that perhaps the lighting project should not be combined with the St. Margaret's proposal. Denis Collet said that the committee needs to know what the cost of the LED lights would be above the costs of energy saving measures at St. Margaret's.
- 3.) Robert McKeon is writing the project description for the photovoltaic proposal.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary