

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting
March 10, 2010

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

Chairwoman Brenda Cagle called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. Brenda noted a correction to the minutes of the February 10 meeting under the NYSERDA RFP 10 Grant application that she and the other CAC grant writers went to the Town Board to request approval to move forward with the application, but were not prepared to request funding. Also under section 4 of the NYSERDA Grant application, Brenda noted that for Energy Management personnel, the Town qualified for \$130,000, but asked for \$52,000. The minutes were approved as amended with a motion made by Jane Ferguson and seconded by Denise Barton.

Denise Barton reported that the PV meter readings were 5455 kW downstairs and 5477 kW upstairs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Brenda Cagle announced the following programs:

1. Saturday, March 13 - An Energy Forum at New Paltz has been rescheduled to that date, and she will try to attend.
2. Wednesday, March 17 – the Northern Dutchess Alliance is holding a program on Trends in Agriculture at Norrie Point
3. Wednesday, March 23 – Conservation Easement Workshop at Norrie Point Environmental Center; also at the Elmendorph Inn on April 6.

FOIL REQUEST FOR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM INFORMATION: Brenda Cagle asked Denise Barton to report on a FOIL request sent to the CAC. Denise said that Bookkeeper Debbie Marks forwarded a FOIL request for energy usage for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009, including the kilowatts produced by the photovoltaic system. Denise will contact John Maserjian at Central Hudson for more information. She has the figure for savings in 2009, but needs 2008 and 2007. Jane Ferguson asked Denise if she is redoing some of Lindsay Chapman's Greenhouse Gas Inventory calculations. Denise said that she is separating delivery charges and demand charges.

TOWN HALL ROOF: The Town Hall will need a new roof. Zoie Riel suggested that there be more use of skylights and passive solar. Laurie Husted will check other grants and investigate options for green vehicles.

NEW YORK RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NYSERDA)

GRANTS: CAC members congratulated all the grant workers, Molly Williams, Brenda Cagle, Laurie Husted, Denis Collet and Robert McKeon, for completing the NYSERDA grant application before the deadline in February. They turned in 4 applications and asked for a match on the St. Margaret's Home portion. A member of the Red Hook Electric Company was supposed to speak with Recreation Park Director John Kuhn about options for lighting changes at the Recreation Park.

Supervisor Sue Crane spoke with Brenda Cagle about making sure that the CAC has clear plans for the implementation of the NYSERDA RFP 1613 grant. Laurie Husted reported that Dan Smith had called. He and Lindsay Chapman had attended a lecture at Bard College and wanted to follow up on the grant.

VERNAL POOL SURVEY: Katherine O'Reilly from Bard with 8 Bard students, the Village Board of Tivoli, 2 Tree Committee members and possibly some high school students are interested in helping; Susan Ellis will if available.

CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL ROUNDTABLE AT THE DUTCHESS COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM:

Brenda Cagle reported that the CAC Roundtable was well attended. The DCC Environmental Program will put model ordinances on the website. They would like an update from Red Hook, including the Energy Star Ordinance. Brenda noted that the Town's Comprehensive Plan is older, but that no work on it is planned at this time.

Brenda also reported that the Town of Rhinebeck is considering applying to become a Conservation Board. They are also trying to have the Village combine work with the Town CAC. Wetlands ordinances have been completed for the Towns of Pleasant Valley and Clinton. The Town of Washington is working on one. Brenda spoke with Tivoli Mayor Tom Cordier about brush composting as a part of the Material Conservation section of the NYSERDA grant. Tivoli would accept some brush from Red Hook.

SCENIC ROADS: Planning Consultant Michele Greig made suggestions to the CAC last September about proceeding with the Scenic Roads Ordinance. Currently, the Intermunicipal Task Force wants Michele to concentrate on the Centers and Greenspaces Plan. Last July the Task Force had expressed concerns that there were too many roads designated as Scenic Roads and asked that there be consideration of portions of roads, rather than the complete road. The CAC needs to compile its recommendations.

Molly Williams noted that there seems to be some conflict with conservation planning. She added that Town Attorney Christine Chale said that it is not clear how far back a Scenic Road extends. Molly feels that scenic and conservation values should have equal weight.

There was discussion of a defined set back or a determination of case by case. Brenda Cagle noted that current regulations require a double set back on Scenic Roads. CAC members thought that they should be changed to give the Planning Board discretion to determine the set back based on the site, in order to preserve existing scenic values. The CAC also agreed that Michele should look at approval for rural road standards.

CAC members considered that the definition of scenic viewsheds is too vague, though some have been identified on an overlay map. The CAC also discussed the addition of requirements that plans for the demolition of structures, such as barns or stone walls, be presented to the Planning Board. It was suggested that there be a rotation of CAC members to read and report on the Planning Board issues.

HISTORIC RESOURCES: Brenda Cagle, Town Attorney Chris Chale and Town Clerk Sue McCann looked for more information on the decisions for inclusion of properties on the Historic Resources Map.

EARTH DAY: Laurie Husted, Molly Williams and others suggested that the CAC participate in a booth at the “Green Fair” at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds on Saturday, April 24, 2010. St. Margaret’s Committee has decided not to participate. Brenda Cagle has suggested sharing a booth with the Towns of Hyde Park and Rhinebeck. Rhinebeck would present their Habitat Map done by Hudsonia. Anne Rubin suggested that Red Hook CAC do a biodiversity display. Molly Williams added that there should be information from the Vernal Pool study by that time, and to ask high school students to help with the displays. Laurie Husted, Brenda Cagle and Zoie Riel will do shifts; Denise Barton and Molly Williams will work on fact sheets.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary