

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting
June 9, 2010

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

Guest: Councilwoman Micki Strawinski

Chairwoman Brenda Cagle called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. As a correction to the May minutes, Brenda noted that on page 1, paragraph 2, the Zoning Board of Appeals variance request was for an accessory structure for a photovoltaic array, not a free-standing photovoltaic installation. Under the Groundwater Protection section, Brenda said that Anne Rubin noted that the Red Hook Village Trustees are interested in information. Laurie Husted added that for correction to the April 14 minutes, she did not change environmentally constrained lots to areas. The minutes of the May 12, 2010 meeting were approved as amended with a motion made by Jane Ferguson and seconded by Molly Williams.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS VARIANCE ON SOLAR ARRAY SITING: Brenda Cagle reported that she and Denis Collet went to the site visit of the Gonzalez property with the ZBA. The ZBA granted the variance at the end of the visit.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT: Sarah and Peter Sweeney have submitted an application for a conservation easement on 25.92 acres, but there were no accompanying maps, so the CAC could not review for comment.

RUTH OJA ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD: Ruth Oja attended the Awards Ceremony at the High School and presented the \$500 scholarship to Lauren Laibach.

CAC members discussed how to reach more potential applicants and have earlier responses. Molly Williams suggested using Facebook to announce the call for applications. Micki Strawinski suggested announcements on the school morning newscast, or making a presentation at orientations to reach parents.

AQUIFER PROTECTION PRESENTATION: Brenda Cagle reported that Anne Rubin did a good presentation to the Red Hook Village Board about aquifer protection. She noted that the Village Code does not even mention the aquifer.

Brenda noted that Russell Urban-Mead could work on the wording of an Aquifer Protection Law, as he did for the Town of Amenia. Laurie Husted asked if he could put together a package price for the Town and two Villages to share.

CENTERS AND GREENSPACES PUBLIC HEARING: Brenda Cagle announced that there would be a public hearing on the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIC) for the Centers and Greenspaces Plan at the High School gymnasium at 7:30 P.M. on Thursday, June 10, 2010. Micki Strawinski recommended that all read the executive summary beforehand. It is posted on the Town website.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION: Brenda Cagle asked Zoie Riel about the possibility of carpooling materials, as there will be no collection in Red Hook this year. Perhaps a neighborhood leader could work out arrangements.

ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE: Molly Williams, former intern Lindsay Chapman, Laurie Husted and Brenda Cagle have met several times with Melissa Everett, Director of Sustainable Hudson Valley, and with Blue Spring Energy Group LLC. Melissa has indicated that SHV will help direct municipalities to grants. She also has met with Central Hudson to discuss a proposal to get residents to sign up for energy audits. On Tuesday, June 15, Molly and Lindsay Chapman will meet again with Melissa Everett.

Molly reported that Blue Spring Energy Group LLC is taking over the Sustainable Hudson Valley website to do outreach to residents. Blue Spring presented a proposal produce e-newsletters and website information for the Town. Their start-up cost would be \$4,000 for three years. They also will use ad subscriptions for funding. The CAC will track and manage commercial and residential carbon emission reductions. The goal is to achieve at least 10% reduction. Laurie Husted noted that the Energy Subcommittee worked up one page of outreach information about energy savings and rebates (which was mailed with water bills), but a website would be better. Laurie added that it should showcase our efforts as a Town and could showcase green businesses.

Molly is working on a job description for the work of the energy personnel covered under the NYSERDA grant, which the CAC discussed. Items included were:

- To develop a Climate Action Plan and implement it.
- To recommend energy conservation policies
- To develop outreach

Brenda suggested that CAC members add other suggestions by e-mail. Jane Ferguson added that there should be notation that some evening hours are required for meetings.

Brenda Cagle reported that Lindsay Chapman would work as an intern again for 60 hours for the sum of \$600. Lindsay will write a report of work that she has done.

On June 17, ICLEI will hold a New York State Climate Protection Network meeting from 9:30 A.M. to 3 P.M. Molly Williams will attend.

10/10/10 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION: The day will feature programs and actions about reducing air emissions. Laurie Husted and Molly Williams said that they need to put something in the Bard College calendar, if the CAC can suggest a project. Molly noted that a greenhouse gas inventory workshop could be one idea, and that Melissa Everett might have some suggestions.

PARKING LOT REGULATIONS: Brenda Cagle noted that Anne Rubin had wanted to talk about parking lot regulations. The Zoning Review Committee has accepted recommendations that Anne and Sam Phelan had been working on. Sam took them to the Planning Board. Zoning Enforcement Officer Steve Cole has concerns about implementation; Anne will meet with him to discuss them. The CAC would like the proposed new regulations applied to all new driveways. Brenda Cagle noted that she spoke with Barbara Kendall, who is a stormwater specialist who could do training. The CAC would like training sessions for contractors to show how to do new driveways according to the proposed regulations.

DUTCHESS COUNTY PLANNING NEW STREAM CATCHMENT DELINEATION:

Brenda Cagle reported that she attended a watershed workshop at which DC Planning discussed the map created to update watershed delineations, including 5272 subwatersheds in the County. DC Planning is promoting a new concept of neighborhood watershed consideration, including possible “adopt a neighborhood” groups. Brenda noted that the wetlands delineated do not always match the Federal or State delineated wetlands.

Dutchess County planner John Clark spoke about contiguous biodiversity blocks, not including waste land, roads, etc. Michael Klemens of the Institute for Ecosystem Studies, who produced the Vernal Pool Study project, notes that a block of 1,000 or more acres supports the most biodiversity.

WATERSHED AWARENESS PROGRAM: July is Watershed Awareness Month. Brenda Cagle attended the Wappingers Creek Watershed Program given at the Environmental Management Council (EMC) meeting in May. She thought that their program would be good to apply in the Town; the WCW committee suggested getting residents out on the water for walks, clean-ups or other programs to show the importance of the watershed. Brenda noted that landowners unanimously agreed that they did not want Town or government regulation of septic systems.

The CAC will present a film fest on July 22, 2010 at the Village Hall, showing the film “FLOW”, and have a presentation by Anne Rubin on the aquifer. Molly Williams suggested that it be put on Facebook; Councilwoman Micki Strawinski the legal interests of the Town must be checked before using other internet avenues. The CAC could ask what other Towns have done to address the situation.

CAC E-MAIL ADDRESS: Brenda Cagle reported that the CAC could sign up for a free Google or Yahoo address. Webmaster Dick Wambach told her that he would see if there were openings in the current batch of 5, or if he could get approval to add another 5 slots.

PHARMACEUTICAL DROP-OFF: Councilwoman Micki Strawinski reported that Village Police Chief Jim Truitt is trying to arrange a drop-off of unwanted pharmaceuticals at the Village Hall. It would require presence of a police officer for any controlled substances.

Brenda Cagle reported that Hudsonia is going to do mapping verification for completion of the Biodiversity Study work.

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

NEXT MEETING: ****THERE WILL BE NO JULY MEETING**** The next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 11, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary