

**TOWN OF RED HOOK  
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting  
September 8, 2010

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

Guest: Councilwoman Micki Strawinski

Chairwoman Brenda Cagle called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M. She noted that for the Hardscrabble Day section in the minutes of the August 11 meeting, Anne Rubin did not recall mentioning work on organizing a kids walk for 10/10/10. Brenda added that Andrew Kerr was planning to do that. The minutes of the August 11 meeting were approved as amended with a motion made by Denis Collet and seconded by Jane Ferguson.

**OUTDOOR WOODBURNING FURNACES:** Councilwoman Micki Strawinski reported that the State has been proposing new regulations for outdoor wood-burning furnaces. She e-mailed Zoning Enforcement Officer Steve Cole about them. He replied that only those outdoor furnaces which were properly permitted could continue to operate, and he only found one permit. It was understood at the time that the Town of Red Hook passed an ordinance banning outdoor wood-burning furnaces in 2006, that there were 3 existing wood-burning furnaces that were grandfathered.

The CAC discussed the provisions of the 2006 ordinance. CAC members noted the stipulation of a no burn period from May 1 – October 1, which has not been followed. The State regulations of 2009 listed a no burn period from May 1 – October 31. Micki will investigate the issues before the Town Board meeting on September 15, 2010, at which outdoor wood-burning furnaces will be discussed.

**SOLAR PANEL GRANT PROJECT:** Denis Collet noted that the CAC has been “out of the loop” about the solar panel contract and the relationship with Crawford Associates. He asked who put it together. Crawford Associates was supposed to address the roof load added by the panels.

Molly Willams asked to whom questions should be addressed. Brenda Cagle noted that there had been no final decision. Denis Collet said that there is a draft Request For Proposal, and that members of the Town Board who have oversight should be questioned. Molly added that it could be possible that the Town would get a bill for \$5,000 - \$10,000 for a RFP, but that once a grant is received, there should be a standard operating procedure. Denis said that he had told Supervisor Sue Crane that when the grant was put together, the intent was for it to be a turn-key operation for the contractor. Jane Ferguson suggested that it is a compelling argument to question the procedure, as the CAC would not want the Town to spend extra money.

**BUDGET 2011:** Brenda Cagle noted that the CAC has spent \$1,839 of the \$2075 included in the 2010 CAC budget, leaving a balance of \$236.00. She proposed a similar budget for 2011, which includes funding for an intern. Molly Williams suggested that the CAC needs to increase the amount for an intern to \$1,000, in order to be able to get one. Molly also thought that the figure for conferences should be raised to \$300. CAC members agreed.

**SPRING WATER COLLECTION:** Brenda Cagle reported that the Intermunicipal Task Force at its Friday, September 3, 2010 meeting discussed permitted uses in the Agricultural Business District. As currently proposed, the District does not have permitting for withdrawal of spring water or for bottling facilities. Larry Thetford of the Agriculture and Open Space Committee has a problem with water resource restrictions. He noted that to the farmers, it is taking something away, as the current A3 District that applies to most of their properties allows bottling facilities by special permit.

The CAC discussed the issue of permitting collection and bottling of spring water. Laurie Husted said that the current zoning doesn't address the protection of water resources. Brenda Cagle noted that there is discussion of "water budgeting." Denis Collet said that the only way to control permitting is to manage the quantity of the water permitted. Susan Ellis added that the only previous permitting request for a bottling facility had not been approved. Molly Williams mentioned that seeps and springs are also important habitat. Jane Ferguson made a motion to recommend approval of allowing permitting for water collection and bottling facilities by special permit to continue in the Agricultural Business District, provided that quantity and habitat are addressed, with a strong recommendation that a report of a hydrogeologist be required. Molly Williams seconded the motion and it was passed by a vote of 5 yeas and 1 abstention. Denis Collet said that the motion needed to set a cap on quantity.

**BIODIVERSITY STUDY UPDATE:** Molly Williams reported that she is still working on the report.

**HARDSCRABBLE DAY:** Brenda asked who was available to work at the Hardscrabble Day table. The shifts will be for two hours, 10 A.M. – 12 P.M., 12 P.M. – 2 P.M. and 2 P.M. – 4 P.M. Brenda will do set-up and the 10 – 12 slot; Jane Ferguson will do 12 – 2 and Susan Ellis will check to see if she can do 2 – 4.

Molly Williams, Laurie Husted and Brenda have been meeting about the 10% Challenge project. They are working to make it bipartisan and have asked both political parties to be supportive. The CAC table will be at the Village parking lot, and will have energy saving products available from local stores on display. Molly suggested taking a list of products to students and letting them calculate the energy savings that would be realized by using them. Hudsonia has wanted the Biodiversity Study map to be displayed, but it won't be ready by then

**STUDENT MEMBER:** Brenda Cagle asked the CAC members if they would agree to have a student member. Those present agreed that it would be okay, though they recognized that the term of service would be short, as students would graduate and move on.

**10% CHALLENGE:** The 10-10-10 Committee has met about 10 times to make plans for events on October 10, 2010 that promote the 10% Challenge for the Town of Red Hook to reach a goal of 10% reduction in energy usage over the coming year. The Committee also aims to have a 10% leadership support. Brenda Cagle reported that there are four people on two subcommittees. Already completed was weatherization of 4 houses. On August 20, 2010, Councilman Harry Colgan, John Kuhn, Doug Strawinski and Ed Blundell took a team of Americorps students to do the work. The 10-10-10 Committee has set 10 themes of energy reduction to be carried out through the year.

Brenda added activities that are planned for October 10, 2010. Lisa Glickenhause is interested in having her music students do a marathon. Les Cagle will demonstrate making a solar oven. The Committee is looking for a middle school focus and for scouts to take leadership roles. Laurie

Husted is putting together a clothing swap and needs a coordinator for the project. Brenda has discussed with Denis a tour of his house to show the residential use of solar power. Molly said that a group of students is needed to canvas businesses and ask about products that they sell relating to energy use.

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

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, October 13, 2010 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary