

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting
November 10, 2010

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

Chairwoman Brenda Cagle called the meeting to order at 6:15 P.M. The minutes of the October 13, 2010 meeting were approved with a motion made by Denis Collet and seconded by Jane Ferguson.

10% CHALLENGE: The CAC discussed ideas for continuing the promotion of the 10% Challenge to encourage residents to do their own energy plan, and to work towards a goal of reducing energy use 10% by October 2011. Brenda Cagle noted that Melissa Everett of Sustainable Hudson Valley is working with the Red Hook Chamber of Commerce to promote the program. Brenda and Laurie Husted spoke of the idea of having neighborhood energy awareness parties. They would like to apply for a Clean Air, Cool Planet grant to purchase host/hostess kits so that there would be no cost to the person who would host a party. In addition, they would like to promote the first 10 days of December as 10 days of commitment. They would like to have access to the My Energy Plan website from sites with wireless internet.

WINTERFEST DECEMBER 3, 2010: The Red Hook Winterfest is on Friday, December 3, with a tree lighting and other events. Brenda Cagle reported that Rusty's Farm Fresh Market would have a chili stand. CAC members discussed asking Flatiron and Taste Budds to offer 10% off on that night in support of the 10 % Challenge. The CAC discussed other promotions, such as selling LED Christmas lights.

NEW YORK ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NYSERDA) GRANT FOR SOLAR PANELS: Denis Collet reported that he met with Hudson Valley Clean Energy, who won the bid for installation of the solar panels on the Town Hall under the NYSERDA 1613 grant. He noted that the solar panels will not be visible on the roofs. This means that the Town will need a way of promoting the visibility of the program, such as having a free standing sign noting the solar production of energy. Denis projected a January to February time frame for installation, as there is a shortage of American made solar panels currently.

The new solar installation on the Town Hall, when combined with the existing solar panels, will produce about 50% of the electric needs. Denis added that the installation of solar panels on the Firehouse through a separate grant would produce about 95% of their electric usage. That would mean a savings of \$6,800 per year at current electric rates.

Brenda Cagle reported that the Request For Proposals (RFP) for the Energy Manager will come out in a week or two. The money for the Manager comes from the federal Recovery Act.

RECYCLING: The CAC discussed current proposals in the County Solid Waste Plan. The CAC is opposed to a user fee, and to flow control. Solid waste should be handled in the most efficient mode, i.e. with the least transportation practicable. The CAC would like to find better ways to manage and reduce waste in the local setting.

2011 CAC BUDGET: Brenda Cagle reported that the CAC budget line for 2011 has been reduced from \$2075 to \$1475. All areas have been cut, reflecting current economic conditions.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION (DEC) SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS: Brenda Cagle asked if any CAC member would be willing to take on the application process for the scholarships. The process needs to be started by January 2011.

AQUIFER RESOURCE PROTECTION: Brenda Cagle spoke with Village Trustee David Seymour to ask if now would be the time to pursue an Aquifer Protection Ordinance. He saw no problem with it. Brenda spoke with Anne Rubin, who will work on seeking grants for the proposal.

OUTDOOR WOOD BURNERS: No new information on the issue has come up.

COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY: Brenda Cagle and Susan Ellis attended a conference on the County Natural Resources Inventory sponsored by the Cornell Cooperative Extension Environment and Energy Program, Dutchess County Planning Department, Vassar College and Cary Institute. The presentation introduced the mapping information included in the NRI, which has been produced as an online document. Brenda noted that a copy of some of the information should be printed for use at the Town level. There were discussions of climate change impacts, air quality resources, geology and topography, soils, water resources, biological resources and habitats, and the implications of government policies on these resources.

RUTH OJA ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP: Brenda Cagle reported that the information for the Ruth Oja Environmental Scholarship just came. The balance is \$1803.14.

HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION: The CAC discussed whether or not the CAC could propose our own Hazardous Waste Collection Day for Red Hook. Zoie Riel noted that the State required paperwork would have to be done two months in advance. She suggested looking for grants to fund the project. Zoie added that a Waste Stream Plan needs to be developed for the Energy Manager from the NYSERDA grants.

ADJOURNMENT TO ATTEND THE HUDSON VALLEY GREEN DRINKS

NETWORKING EVENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 P.M. for the CAC members to attend the Green Drinks networking at Loggerheads. Molly Williams is one of the speakers for the event. She will speak about the work of the CAC, including Energy Star, the 10% Challenge, the NYSERDA grants, and was asked to note that the CAC is looking for interest in its membership vacancy.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, December 8, 2010 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary