

**TOWN OF RED HOOK  
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting  
December 8, 2010

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

Absent: Anne Rubin

Guest: Councilwoman Micki Strawinski

Chairwoman Brenda Cagle called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M. The minutes of the November 10 meeting were approved with a motion made by Jane Ferguson and seconded by Denis Collet. Brenda noted that Councilwoman Micki Strawinski had completed the My Energy Plan, which other CAC members were planning to do following the meeting.

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION (DEC) SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS:** Brenda Cagle reported that she has spoken with Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Commander Bill Moore about funding the Summer Camp Scholarships. Bill said that the VFW will probably approve funding the scholarships if the CAC gets the information to them by their December 13 meeting. He added that the VFW members have asked about sending the funds directly to DEC, as it would help keep their accounting correct as a non-profit organization. The VFW also feels that it should receive public acknowledgement of the funding.

CAC members discussed the transfer of funding and sponsorship, and agreed that it is more reasonable for the VFW to send the funds directly. Susan Ellis suggested that Brenda Cagle, Commander Bill Moore and Town Bookkeeper Debbie Marks speak together and work it out. The CAC and the VFW also should work who takes what responsibility. The CAC would consider having the VFW assume the whole process, or sharing sponsorship of the project, with the CAC helping with the application and selection part.

Molly Williams offered to make flyers, post cards or a newsletter announcement of the scholarships. Laurie Husted suggested a notice in the Middle School newsletter and noted that they have asked for information on the 10% Challenge. Micki Strawinski suggested getting a notice on the morning newscast for the Middle School, and doing the same at the High School to announce the Ruth Oja Scholarship.

**COUNTY SOLID WASTE PLAN:** Brenda Cagle reported that a letter was sent to County Legislator Ben Traudt regarding concerns about the proposed County Solid Waste Plan. Ben has not replied as yet.

**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY PROGRAM:** Brenda Cagle reported that the proposed County Budget has restored funding for the Cooperative Extension Environment and Energy Program to 50% of its 2009 budget. She noted that County Executive William Steinhaus can still make a line item veto.

**IBM SMARTER COMMUNITIES GRANT:** Brenda Cagle announced that she had received an e-mail from Pat Kelly about an IBM Smarter Communities Grant. The grants range from \$250,000 - \$500,000. Some ideas range from intermunicipal water protection to intermunicipal planning for the Highway Garage. Currently there is no agreement among the municipalities. Another idea is transportation design, applying for money for a study and designer for walking and biking systems. Denis Collet noted that IBM is looking at “green computer centers.” Laurie Husted added that it looks like only 100 grants around the world will be made, so chances of receiving one are very small.

**ENERGY MANAGER THROUGH NEW YORK STATE ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT (NYSERDA):** Brenda Cagle reported that Sarah Brown informed her that a recent webinar on energy managers would be archived, so that CAC members could review it. Molly Williams suggested that perhaps the CAC should consider asking less hours for the \$52,000 salary offered under the grant in order to attract applicants with more expertise. Brenda Cagle said that it is too late to change the stipulations of the current application offering. Denis Collet added that it is only the beginning stage of working with an energy manager.

Molly spoke with Blue Springs Energy and noted that they are pretty clear about what they would do about a website and other promotional work. Councilwoman Micki Strawinskini asked where the Town should advertise. Brenda said that Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy contacts the press. She added that the target start date for the Energy Manager is February 1, 2011, and asked if the CAC thought that the notice should say that the manager would be responsible for coordinating the 10% Challenge. Denis asked if the CAC has a list of expectations of an energy manager for when it conducts interviews.

**2010 REVIEW:** Brenda gave a review of the work of the past year. The CAC still has not moved forward on water protection issues. Brenda noted that Anne Rubin will check on a Greenway grant and work with Red Hook Village Trustee Dave Seymour. Brenda added that an Aquifer Ordinance should not take too long, but that a Wetlands Protection Ordinance would require a lot of work.

Scenic Roads and Historic Resources have not been completed to date. There is a Hamlet Committee, but Councilwoman Micki Strawinski recommended that Historic Resources should be a separate committee or task force.

The CAC worked on a Vernal Pool Survey, and Brenda Cagle note that she has spoken with Neil Curri at Cooperative Extension and Michael Klemens at Ecosystems Studies Institute about results. They have not been completely verified, and they will notify the CAC when they are. Brenda added that recently the Planning Board told the architect for a developer with a proposal on Feller-Newmark Road that they had to hire a Biodiversity expert, and they have hired Michael Klemens.

**NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCILS (NYSACC) ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE AT WEST POINT:** Molly Williams and Brenda Cagle attended the conference at West Point on November 19 and 20. Brenda noted that the State Association of Environmental Management Councils funded her attendance. She added that the Dutchess County Environmental Management Council received an award for work on the updated Natural Resources Inventory.

Another program item was Green Jobs, Green New York Initiative for homeowners to receive free energy audits. There is some income eligibility requirement and some availability of 3.9% interest on unsecured loans.

Molly discussed regional approaches to conservation as the point of the conference. She added that Scenic Hudson spoke about "Smart Growth," and the Greenway presentation used the Town of Red Hook as an example of commitment to energy/carbon footprint reduction.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, January 12, 2011 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Have very happy holidays!

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary