

Draft

## CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting

December 14, 2011

Members present: Chairwoman Brenda Cagle, Susan Ellis, Laurie Husted, Anne Rubin, Sarah Imboden, Zoie Riel (7:16 PM), Denis Collet (7:20 PM) Absent: Karen Schneller-McDonald, Dr. Jane Ferguson

Guest: Energy Manager Anne Marie Hirschberger

**CALL TO ORDER/ QUORUM:** Chairwoman Brenda Cagle called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M. A quorum was present. Brenda noted that so far, no CAC member has stepped up to take over the position of Chairman, as she starts her position as Town Board member on January 1, 2012. Brenda announced that Karen Schneller-McDonald would be attending a watershed conference on Thursday as a representative of the CAC and her consulting business, for which she does wetland delineations.

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 9, 2011 MEETING:** Brenda Cagle said that on page 2 of the minutes under *Emissions Reductions*, she actually was for the 20% by 2020 goal agreed to by the CAC. Sarah Imboden noted that she wished to add that her decision to support the 20% by 2020 was based on understanding that one reason Denis Collet was so positive for the higher goal was because it would be a better marketing slogan.

*Zoie Riel joined the meeting.*

The minutes were approved as amended with a motion made by Sarah Imboden and seconded by Zoie Riel.

*Denis Collet joined the meeting.*

**CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (CAP) UPDATE:** Energy Manager Anne Marie Hirschberger said that there is not much to report at this time. Sarah Imboden asked if any comments had been received since the Community Forum sessions. Anne Marie said that the CAP is posted on the Town website, but there have been no additional comments. She would like to make sure that the word gets out that the CAP is on the website, and that people know that they can comment.

Anne Rubin suggested that the same website form could be sent through the school e-mail (Kid mail). Anne Marie said that she did e-mail to Mary Pat Budd and Superintendent Paul Finch; Anne Rubin said that it still would need to go through the PTA. Laurie Husted suggested that it needed to go to Paul Finch's administrative assistant. Anne Rubin asked about outreach to the Bard College community; Laurie Husted said that she had sent a first round of the draft CAP everyone, and then specifically to a small faculty group who had agreed to read it. They had pretty limited comments. Anne Marie said that she had reviewed them, and many were general and similar to other comments.

Anne Rubin suggested having a flyer for the Winter Market on Saturday, December 17- a card size notice probably would be best. Anne also suggested having a similar card size notice to be handed out at the free movie held on the weekend. Zoie Riel asked about doing a sign – a sandwich board, instead of a handout. Sarah Imboden said a take home would be a reminder. Anne Marie Hirschberger will e-mail a draft to CAC members. Sarah offered to distribute flyers at the Winter Market; Anne Rubin offered to do them at the free movie. Zoie stressed that the notice should let people know that they should not miss out on the opportunity to comment.

Sarah Imboden noted that she has looked at the latest draft of the CAP and was impressed with the new table in it, but suggested that a 60 page document is probably more than many residents will deal with. She added that the CAC should ask at least that residents review the table summary and focus on sectors that interest them and consider commenting. She asked what the CAC really wants comments on, and suggested that ideas about any actions or items missed in the CAP would be helpful. Anne Marie agreed that if, for example, a resident was interested in energy conservation issues, that person could read just that section and focus comments on it.

There was further discussion about how to reach out for more comments on the CAP. Anne Marie agreed that perhaps the CAP needs to be hand delivered, with instructions to focus on the first six pages and find what relates to the party's interest and business. Laurie Husted noted that when she and Anne Marie tried to get faculty at Bard College to review the CAP, there was response until they were asked to be on a faculty review committee.

Anne Marie was asked about a deadline for the comments, which she replied had been set for December 20, 2011. However, in consideration of the holidays, Anne Marie said that she could continue public comment into mid January. The Town Board would be asked to approve the CAP at the end of January 2012. Sarah Imboden asked about putting together implementation teams, and suggested that the CAC should identify leaders of the teams before the CAP is approved. Denis Collet said that identifying who is has the ability to lead is important. Sarah noted that at least it is important to have someone willing to try.

Brenda Cagle asked Anne Marie if she had received any feedback from the Town of Bedford about how their 10 subcommittees were working. Anne Marie checked on their website and noted that there was not a lot of action for some subcommittees.

**Task forces:** Sarah Imboden continued discussion of forming task forces and said that the CAC needs to approach potential leaders, ask for their comments and if they would work on a task force. Brenda Cagle added that it would be better to prepare a person for the task force work. Anne Marie asked if it would be better to wait until the new year to reach out to people because activities would settle down a bit, or what would be the best way to identify and reach out to people. Laurie Husted said that the first contact should go out now, so that the CAC would know if it did not get an answer that someone else would need to be contacted. Brenda Cagle will contact Todd Baright and Mondello Realty. Anne Rubin will contact Sam Phelan. Laurie Husted will contact Robert McKeon and Denis Collet will contact Richard Brezinski. Sarah said that the task forces could start out with two or three people, but she would expect them to grow over the year.

**Interns:** Brenda Cagle reported that the CAC has received resumes from 5 Bard College students interested in serving as interns for the CAC. The CAC discussed having them work as members of CAP teams. CAC members agreed to respond to the program people that the CAC would like to have all of them, regardless of the time commitment they can offer. Anne Marie said that she would e-mail suggested task force people and reach out to the interns.

**PLANNING BOARD MINUTES REVIEW:** Brenda Cagle reported that there are two projects coming up. She said that Anne Rubin agreed to follow what is happening with The Oaks on Feller-Newmark Road. Brenda noted that Dr. Michael Klemens has notified the Planning Board that he is now satisfied with the report from the developer. The developer has decreased lot size and now nothing is located in the wetland buffer.

The Anderson Commons proposal has generated debate about the Lead Agency, whether the Village or the Town Planning Board will be designated. Brenda noted that there was a previous negative declaration for the SEQR review, but there is a question of whether or not that has expired.

Laurie Husted asked about the airport property being under review for a hotel. Brenda replied that Ted Saad and Ed Guski had proposed an idea for a high end inn and spa that is a “green project,” and that they had the property under contract while they worked out the approvals.

Sarah Imboden suggested that one CAC person be designated to do Planning Board minutes review. She felt that it would take less time and be more efficient if one person did the review, and volunteered to do it.

**CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE CAC:** CAC members discussed the position of Chairman of the CAC, as Brenda Cagle leaves to serve on the Town Board. No member has volunteered to be chairman. Anne Rubin asked if Ruth Oja might consider the position. Brenda said that she would ask. Micki Strawinski was also suggested as a candidate.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary