

**TOWN OF RED HOOK  
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting  
April 10, 2013

Members present: Chairwoman Laurie Husted, Susan Ellis, Mike Zelig, Anne Rubin, Karen Schneller-McDonald, Ross Gould (7:07 P.M.), Dr. Jane Ferguson (7:07 P.M.), Denis Collet (7:08 P.M.)      Absent: Sarah Imboden

guest: Mary Ann Johnson (7:33 P.M.)

**CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:** Chairwoman Laurie Husted called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. A quorum was present.

**PRESERVE AT LAKES KILL PROJECT REVIEW:** Laurie Husted put the review discussion at the head of the agenda,(as both Anne Rubin and Karen Schneller-McDonald needed to leave the meeting early). Anne and Karen met to review the project for concerns that the CAC would have about environmental impacts, particularly management of stormwater run-off, and stream and wetland protection. Karen drafted their comments for CAC review.

CAC members looked at the Preliminary Subdivision Plat for the project. Karen Schneller-McDonald noted that the CAC review has not been a part of a conversation with the Planning Board, so some of the comments that she drafted, such as a recommendation for a double row of silt fence, may have been discussed, even though it does not show on the drawing. Anne Rubin suggested that notation be made that the comments are based on the information on the Preliminary Subdivision Plat. Anne and Karen were looking at the information to see how the Planning Board has addressed their concerns.

*Ross Gould and Jane Ferguson joined the meeting.*

CAC discussion continued with the 8 points of the draft comments:

1. *Silt fence* – a recommendation that a double row of silt fence be used along areas of disturbance that drain towards wetland or stream areas. Laurie Husted asked about the effectiveness of silt fences. Karen replied that double row is pretty standard protocol for stormwater management when the development is that close to a stream or wetland.

*Denis Collet joined the meeting.*

2. *Lighting* – a recommendation that a comment by Planning Board biological

consultant Michael Klemens regarding lighting be followed up. He noted in his habitat report that the Plan did not require low spillage lights in areas proximate to wetlands. Mike Zelig asked if that meant street lights or floodlights on houses. Anne Rubin replied that both would impact wetlands.

Ross Gould asked about how the wetland boundaries were determined. Karen Schneller-McDonald said that there would have been an engineering delineation, but that she felt that it would require a walk of the site to make a comment. Laurie Husted asked who did the wetland delineation; Anne Rubin thought that Brenda Cagle might know. Laurie asked if the CAC should request verification of the wetland delineation; Karen said that it should have been done earlier in the process. Anne added that in her discussion with Karen about the comments, both agreed that there is still no water resource protection in the Zoning Code. Karen said also that builders need a consistent standard. She and Anne looked at what things would be considered if you were looking at water resources, and the first one would be water quality.

3. *Water quality* - Karen asked if water from infiltration basins discharges into wetland buffers, and recommended that if so, the discharge should be spread out across at least 100' of buffer vegetation before entering a wetland or stream to provide protection from contaminants in stormwater. Anne added that it is also important to have requirements that the buffers be maintained to serve their hydrologic function. Denis added that he would be more concerned about impacts that would contaminate the aquifer.

4. *Road salt* – Karen noted that she did not see anything in the plan that addressed the use of road salts and deicers, including snow stockpiling, which would concentrate salts and other contaminants. Mike Zelig said that snow would probably be pushed into the infiltration basin at the end of the cul-de-sac.

5. *Stormwater and streams* – Karen noted that if “excess” stormwater is diverted from the developed areas of the site into the stream, there is a potential for stream bank and channel erosion, especially during storms. Also, the diversion would remove water that could recharge the groundwater and potentially add to downstream flooding. She asked how the project would manage stormwater on site to avoid these impacts. There also should be consideration of how to keep the properties from flooding. Denis Collet said that there are mathematical calculations to make that determination, and that should be done by the developer.

6. *Low Impact Design* – Karen Schneller-McDonald said that she and Anne had a question about whether or not Low Impact Design had been discussed on a parcel level across the site, so that instead of having larger infiltration basins, there would be smaller practices on individual parcels, which would avoid concentrating stormwater contaminants in the basins and protect groundwater recharge on site. Jane Ferguson asked Anne what she would suggest. Anne replied rain gardens, roof water collection systems and similar ways to manage the water flowing off impervious surfaces, noting that new technologies are coming online to reduce impervious surfaces.

7. *Driveway/entrance road* – Karen said that there are continuing issues about the safety of the driveway/entrance road, with proposals for regrading. She suggested that any regrading for road safety should be evaluated for impacts on stormwater and hydrology changes.

8. *Area of Disturbance* – Karen said that construction equipment, machinery and vehicles should be kept out of the 100' buffer zones, so that they can perform their function of protecting water quality, habitat and groundwater recharge.

*Mary Anne Johnson joined the meeting.*

Karen Schneller-McDonald asked the CAC members what they want to do with the recommendations. Laurie Husted said that the CAC was asking Karen and Anne to put them on the record, and the comments seem to be a good approach. They would be reviewed by Planning Consultant Michele Greig, who would give her recommendations to the Planning Board. Susan Ellis said that the comments seem pretty comprehensive. Denis Collet wanted emphasis on diversion of stormwater in underground systems; Karen and Anne spoke of the infrastructure used for stormwater management and septic systems requiring maintenance that should be defined at the start of the project and followed through before problems are seen.

Ross Gould asked if there has been any consideration of how the project fits into the goals of the Energy and Climate Action Plan (ECAP). Mary Anne Johnson said that she had attended Planning Board discussions, and the issue had not come up. CAC members discussed ways of reducing the carbon footprint and concerns about the energy consumption of the homes, and agreed that the question should be added as comment #9.

Laurie Husted said that she just received notice from Sarah Imboden that CAC members should join the meeting of Fortis and Central Hudson speaking about their proposed merger, and asked that the comments on the Preserve at Lakes Kill be concluded. She asked if Secretary Susan Ellis would send the comments in a letter to the Planning Board. Karen said that she would add comment #9 and e-mail the comment letter to Susan.

*Karen Schneller-McDonald and Anne Rubin left the meeting at 7:50 P.M.*

**SCENIC ROADS DISCUSSION:** Laurie Husted asked if CAC members had reviewed the map and proposed scenic roads descriptions and had comments; the Town Board want input on any additions or subtractions to be considered. Mary Ann Johnson came to the meeting as she had worked on the original proposed designations of scenic roads. She said that in the original designations, committee members were focusing on the scenic qualities and views. In reviewing designations, she began to find that many areas were no longer particularly scenic, and the designations should be changed to Rural and Scenic Roads.

CAC members discussed road sections and how they would qualify. Laurie suggested that some parts of Route 9G could be removed. Denis Collet suggested that the small section of Budd Corners Road between Rockefeller and Pitcher Lane should be added. CAC members also agreed that Middle Road should be added, as well as Feller Newmark Road to Hapeman Hill Road.

Laurie asked about Cruger Island Road, Lasher Road and Starbarrack Road. She asked for volunteers to drive them and report in the next few days. Laurie will do Cruger Island Road, Jane Ferguson will do Starbarrack Road, and Mike Zelig will do Lasher Road. Susan Ellis suggested that the Scenic Roads Overlay should have means of encouraging developers to work to fit in with the landscape and not be just restrictive. Mary Ann said that it would be hard to make a legislation that would suit every situation, and there needs to be the flexibility for the Planning Board to say that a feature of a site is important enough that the developer should design around it.

**ARBOR DAY/EARTH DAY APRIL 27, 2014:** Laurie Husted announced that for Arbor Day/Earth Day, the CAC will have compost bins for sale at the Town Hall parking lot. She and Sarah Imboden will staff the display, and would welcome assistance. Mike Zelig has a septic maintenance kit, but only one, so not for distribution.

**BUS SHELTER:** Ross Gould has information about the bus shelter from Cynthia Ruiz, Dutchess County Transit Administrator, which he will e-mail to CAC members. She has not received a contract from the Town, though Laurie noted that the Town Board had approved it. Laurie added that the Transportation Committee is still trying to choose a site.

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 13, 2013 CAC MEETING:** The minutes were approved with a motion made by Jane Ferguson and seconded by Denis Collet.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, May 8, 2013 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary