

Draft  
**TOWN OF RED HOOK**  
**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting  
May 8, 2013

Members present: Chairwoman Laurie Husted, Susan Ellis, Mike Zelig, Anne Rubin, Dr. Jane Ferguson, Sarah Imboden, Denis Collet (7:14 P.M.), Ross Gould (7:37 P.M.)

Absent: Karen Schneller-McDonald

Guest: Councilwoman Brenda Cagle (7:25 P.M.)

**CALL TO ORDER / QUORUM:** Chairwoman Laurie Husted called the meeting to order at 7:07 P.M. A quorum was present.

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 10 MEETING:** The minutes of the April meeting were approved with a motion made by Sarah Imboden and seconded by Jane Ferguson.

**APPLE BLOSSOM DAY, MAY 11, 2013:** Laurie Husted suggested that the CAC should think about having a table, as last year the CAC only presented the scavenger hunt and clothes line drying display. CAC members discussed possibilities for handing out information. Laurie said that she did not see that any current CAC projects were at a point to be presented. Sarah Imboden agreed with Laurie that scavenger hunt forms could be put at different places, such as the library and Anne Rubin's yard sale. Sarah said that she could help distribute the forms and any other information.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

*Public Hearing on Hydrofracking:* Laurie Husted announced that a public hearing and vote would be held at the Town Board meeting on Tuesday, May 14. She hoped that CAC members could attend.

*DEC Summer Camp Scholarship Awards:* Laurie noted that the DEC Summer Camp scholarship awards would be presented at the same Town Board meeting. Mike Zelig will join VFW Commander Bill Moore in handing a certificate to the selected campers, Hanlon Johnson and Helena O'Shea.

*Denis Collet joined the meeting.*

**RESILIENCE AND RENEWAL: COLLABORATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE REGION** – Laurie Husted passed around information about the full day conference to be presented by Sustainable Hudson Valley on May 20, 2013. She encouraged CAC members to attend, adding that the CAC would pay the \$35 registration.

**RUTH OJA ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP:** Laurie Husted announced that LeeAnn Reynolds is the recipient of the Ruth Oja Environmental Scholarship. Ruth Oja will present the award at the June awards night.

**PLANNING BOARD MINUTES REVIEW:** Mike Zelig reported on the April 15 meeting of the Planning Board, which he attended. There was discussion of the Todd and Maribeth Catlin proposal to create 3 lots on 11 acres off Manor Road. There has been a lot of discussion about drainage issues. Though it is a minor subdivision and below the required threshold, the engineer Mark Graminski stated that he would submit a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan. Anne Rubin said that with the steep slopes and rocky character of the terrain, she is not surprised that there would be drainage issues. Mike added that currently the drainage goes through a culvert, by another lot and eventually into the Sawkill Creek. The engineer is talking about improving the situation with some retention areas and rain gardens. Anne asked if they had talked about Low Impact Development (LID), infiltrating water on the parcels. Mike said that they had. Laurie Husted asked what threshold required the plan; Anne thought that if the development was disturbing more than ½ acre. Laurie said that she attended two stormwater conferences that did not mention it.

*Hoffman Old Farm Road Subdivision Proposal:* Anne was asking Brenda Cagle, with regard to the Hoffman subdivision proposal, what the Town could require; Brenda replied not much. Laurie said that at the conferences she attended indicated that for new developments the Low Impact Development (LID) and BSP practices could be cheaper, which she hadn't heard before. Anne added that they still require maintenance. [Anne had been speaking with Brenda about Town Board discussions of having biking and pedestrian trails along Route 199. Anne sent Brenda, Town Supervisor Sue Crane and the Town Engineer information about supported turf as an option. She said that they did not approve it as an option. She thinks that in the areas where this has been done, it has been because there has been community support. She mentioned some projects that have been done in East Fishkill with great awareness of water issues, due to experience with water contamination.]

*Brenda Cagle joined the meeting.*

Brenda wrote Planning Consultant Michele Greig about the Hoffman Subdivision proposal. She read Michele's reply which said that applicants now are required to

document how they have considered green infrastructure, including LID's. The project is only in the preliminary design stages, and the applicant is considering applying for LEED certification and is exploring many innovative applications for stormwater treatment. The applicant initially proposed a porous highway treatment for on street parking stalls, but the Highway Department does not have the rather expensive equipment to maintain it. She thinks that Planning is open to ways that the CAC can help, and Chris Kane has suggested that the CAC take a global perspective and encourage the applicant to apply for LEED. Laurie noted that the “expensive equipment” to maintain porous pavement at Bard College is 3 or 4 vacuums per year at \$200 or so each, and they use 25% less salt. Brenda thought that was a good recommendation.

**STORMWATER MANAGEMENT EVALUATION:** Laurie Husted noted that at the Beacon stormwater conference she was looking at how to evaluate how well the current regulations in Red Hook address stormwater issues. There is a matrix for evaluating, and a scoring system from less than 60 to 100. She asked if Anne and Karen Schneller-McDonald would be interested in making that evaluation. Anne will work on it with Karen Schneller-McDonald and then go see Sam Phelan of the Zoning Review Committee. Anne suggested that it would be important to have the villages involved, and that it might be a good sub-project for the Intermunicipal Task Force. Susan Ellis asked for a summary of what the project would review. Anne replied a code and ordinance worksheet, a review of standards, local laws, ordinances and codes that shape how development occurs, specifically looking at stormwater. Laurie noted that the review project came from the Hudson River Estuary Conference that she attended. Anne had a question about whether or not there was a model ordinance that the review is based on. Laurie said that the conference discussed Towns of Clinton and Wappingers. There was discussion about disturbance of 1 acre, but Anne and Brenda remembered a conference that discussed disturbance of ½ acre.

**CENTERS AND GREENSPACES PLAN:** Denis Collet expressed concern about the Centers and Greenspaces Plan. He asked if the intent of the Plan is to cluster development in designated areas, should it not facilitate proposals that fit that intent. He finds Zoning Laws in the Village of Tivoli, to be restrictive. Denis asked if there is an alignment in vision and strategy to be able to facilitate the stated goals. The spirit of the notion that we want to concentrate development in centers and not gobble up open space doesn't seem to be applying there.

*Ross Gould joined the meeting.*

Brenda Cagle noted that Tivoli did not participate in the Centers and Greenspaces, and their code was not changed. Denis did not realize that.

**PLANNING BOARD MINUTES REVIEW CONTINUATION:** Laurie asked Mike to continue with the Planning Review. Mike mentioned discussion of Bard College removing trees. The College has found old photos and photos of original vistas of the river and would like to remove other trees to recreate them. They seem to have taken bat habitat and historic trees into consideration for the proposal.

Mike added that another proposal that might be of interest to the CAC is that Devereux is proposing to add a 10 room residential building to their facility.

Mike noted that at the end of the meeting the Planning Board introduced the CAC letter of comment on the Preserve at Lakes Kill proposal that Karen Schneller-McDonald drafted. They will consider the comments and reply. Susan Ellis noted that she thought that sending the letter was the quickest way to get a response, as the CAC would have had to wait to get on the agenda, but the comments have now been read into the record.

**STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW (SEQR) ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FORMS:** Laurie Husted asked Mike Zelig to report on the new State Environmental Assessment Forms (EAF). Mike attended a workshop at Columbia-Greene Community College last month. He noted that the State has revised the EAF and the workshop focused on the shortened form. It will be a bit longer with more questions, and will not be adopted until this Fall - October or November. They emphasized that this is a tool for the Towns to evaluate a project, and the Part 2 is the part where the Town really makes their comments and decides what needs to be done for compliance. Laurie asked if they spoke about what the big differences are. Mike said that they referred to a website that goes through the explanation of details and steps to work through the process.

Brenda Cagle noted that the Planning Board is interested in doing a combined Biodiversity/SEQR workshop that would include every one, but hasn't responded with a date. Laurie said that would be convenient and local.

**ARBOR DAY:** Sarah Imboden reported that Arbor Day was a success. They started with 25 compost bins and have 6 left. They were selling for \$40 and Sarah said that if CAC members knew of anyone interested that they would probably be all sold by the weekend. Brenda reported that Recycling Manager T.J. Hackett said that some had been stolen, so Laurie said that it needed to be checked on.

Laurie asked about working with AGWAY to see if they would do a promotional sale on compost bins, which they already sell. Sarah wants to do a workshop on composting, and would offer any that may be left for sale plus a \$5.00 donation for the workshop.

Laurie also did the line drying display for Arbor Day. Sarah thought that the day was busier than the year before, and suggested partnering with the planning committee next year for ideas of more activities.

**MATERIALS MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE:** Sarah Imboden added that the Materials Management Subcommittee sent around a proposal for expanding e-waste handling options. The Subcommittee discussed the idea of having a committee of volunteers who would be trained to sort the e-waste as it comes in and take out any items that could be reused, so that they could be refurbished or repaired. They would also have to be trained to wipe clean any hard drives for reused computers. She said that there may be some liability questions, so Laurie Husted suggested that they speak to Terry Laibach of DEC to get a better sense of regulations. They will ask DEC about regulations and notices advising Recycling Coordinators how to handle e-waste.

The Subcommittee's goal is to have a trained group of volunteers to help Recycling Manager T. J. Hackett, and do education. Laurie asked if T.J. Hackett only reported to the Town Board, and what the position of volunteers would be. There was discussion of the history of Recycling Center volunteers and management. Sarah said that the Subcommittee wants to know what is the protocol for volunteer positions and to make them official. Susan Ellis suggested that perhaps the Subcommittee should ask the Rhinebeck transfer station about their system. Ross Gould said that he goes there, as it is open to anyone who pays the fee per bag, recycling is free and e-waste is also. Sarah said that the Subcommittee ultimately wants to prepare a proposal that will have T.J.'s and the Town Board's approval.

Sarah added that there was discussion of how to see that the Goods Exchange is fairly managed, as there have previously been complaints of volunteers having first pick of donations, and people taking donated items for resale. There also was discussion of possible ways to receive some monetary return to the Town from items at the Goods Exchange, as New Paltz does at their center. Sarah noted that T.J. thinks that it has been free for so long that there would be resistance. Sarah said that the Subcommittee would review all possible ideas of expanding what might help pay for the collection and reuse of items.

Laurie Husted asked if Sarah had done any further revision of the Recycling Brochure, and Sarah replied that she would do it in the week.

**CENTRAL HUDSON / FORTIS MERGER PUBLIC DISCUSSION:** Sarah Imboden asked what other CAC members knew about the recommended decision on the proposed merger. She didn't know that there is any other advocacy that the CAC can do at this point. She noted that the Town and Village Boards sent a letter of concern, and

Brenda said yes they did. Sarah continued that even though she read that two judges had found that the concerns seem to outweigh the proposed benefits, it is up to the Public Service Commission (PSC) to decide, and they can overrule the findings. Sarah said that she would research whether there is any other action to consider. Susan Ellis said that she had an e-mail comment form and the PSC sent back a notice that they received it. Denis noted that one of the problems with the proposal is that there is only a guarantee of a one year rate freeze. Denis and Ross Gould agreed that given the criticism of the short time, it would be difficult for the PSC to just say that it is fine.

**WATER RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE:** Anne Rubin reported that she and Karen Schneller-McDonald would be looking at the Hoffman Residential Development project. They want to do a site walk. Laurie suggested that the CAC could look at the LEED standards for water.

Laurie asked Mike Zelig about the septic management plan from the County, and he said that he had given it to her to see what the CAC could put in an instructional pamphlet to distribute. Mike suggested that there is a sub-set of instructions that is very succinct and not overwhelming, which describes the features and working of septic systems and leach fields, and how to maintain them. Laurie will look at that and bring it up next month.

**TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE:** Ross Gould reported that he took a LOOP bus ride from Tivoli to Hannaford Supermarket. He spoke met with drivers and spoke about what traffic was like and possible locations for a bus shelter. The drivers suggested that the Town should do a shelter in the Village at the parking lot and/or at Dunkin Donuts, as there seem to be riders who park in the lot and get coffee before boarding the bus. Ross said he wondered if random benches that he noticed along Route 9 were supposed to be designated stops. Brenda Cagle replied that they were purchased by the Village Tree Committee, and the Village placed them where walkers might stop. Laurie asked Ross if he considered on Route 9G near Bard, and Ross said that the drivers said that they don't really pick up many people along Route 9G. Sarah Imboden suggested the corner of Route 9G and Kerley Corners Road.

Ross noted that he had spoken with Cynthia Ruiz, Dutchess County Transit Administrator about the process of getting, locating and maintaining shelters. The maintenance would be a Town responsibility, including shoveling snow. Denis Collet asked what about lighting, but Ross said that they didn't really discuss it. Cynthia suggested that other municipalities plan them near a business, which would help with both shoveling and lighting, because the incentive for them would be customers, such as at Dunkin Donuts. Laurie asked if that is a stop. Ross noted that the bus can be flagged down anywhere on the route, and that there is not a single bus stop sign in the Town. Brenda Cagle said that the Town has signed a contract to maintain any bus shelters, signs and bike racks, and the Highway Department has a concern about damage, as the

Tivoli glass shelter has some breakage. Ross noted that there are other options, such as plastic, but perhaps the Town should start with some bus stop signs. He added that they can be purchased from the LOOP bus, but have old times on them.

CAC members continued discussion of pros and cons to several possible bus stops/shelters, with no definite agreement. Denis Collet suggested that Ross put together some options and bring them back to the CAC for a decision. Ross said that he may need someone to do a daytime LOOP bus run. Laurie asked who might be able to do it. Sarah said that possibly she could, but Ross added that he might try a run to get to work if the schedule is okay.

Laurie asked what Cynthia Ruiz said about locating bike racks. Ross replied that she said that they should be put at specific destination areas.

*Anne Rubin left the meeting at 8:33 P.M.*

*Bike/pedestrian count:* Laurie said that the bike/pedestrian count is almost done, but she needs volunteers for the dates of Thursday May 9 and Saturday May 18. Laurie has planned time for both days, and Mike Zelig and Ross Gould offered to help on May 18.

*Complete Streets Training:* Laurie Husted announced that on May 16, there would be a Complete Streets Training Program at the Farm and Home Center in Millbrook from 6 – 8 P.M. She and Will Labossier are going, and she asked if Ross Gould would attend. He said yes.

*Bicycle / Pedestrian Project Prioritization List:* Laurie Husted reminded CAC members that they had worked on identifying projects. She has been in contact with the County Bicycle / Pedestrian group and has been asked to have the CAC pick 12 projects from Clermont to Rhinebeck. She and Brenda met with the Mayor of Rhinebeck and did his project; she also gave Tivoli theirs and worked on two of Red Hook's. Sarah Imboden asked if that would be part of the Shared Services Grant mentioned at the Town Board. Brenda said she met with Supervisor Sue Crane and Village, Department of Transportation (DOT), Bard College and County representatives about trails. There are several grants coming up from June to August, and Brenda said that they needed to put all their recommendations together. She noted that one of the issues is that the locations considered should not involve private property. Brenda said that the Trails Committee is excited about the grant opportunities and has to work to get their plans together.

**SCENIC ROADS:** Laurie Husted reported that the CAC recommendations on Scenic roads were sent to the Planning Board and Planning Consultant Michele Greig. Brenda Cagle said she delivered them to the Intermunicipal Task Force and they were appreciated. Brenda added that the Greenway grant for work on changes for a Scenic

Roads Overlay has been written and will be sent in.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, June 12, 2013 at 7 P.M. At the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis