

Draft

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting
September 11, 2013

Members present: Chairwoman Laurie Husted, Susan Ellis, Dr. Jane Ferguson, Ross Gould, Karen Schneller-McDonald, Sarah Imboden, Denis Collet (8:50 PM)

Absent: Anne Rubin, Mike Zelig

CALL TO ORDER / QUORUM: Chairwoman Laurie Husted called the meeting to order at 8:40 P.M. (meeting was delayed to 8:30 P.M.) A quorum was present.

MINUTES OF CAC MEETING AUGUST 14, 2013: The minutes of the August meeting were approved with a motion made by Jane Ferguson and seconded by Sarah Imboden.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Laurie Husted announced upcoming conferences and events.

1. *Local and Regional Options for Energy and Climate Change Resiliency* on 9/13/2013 from 8 A.M. - 4 P.M. at Vassar College. Laurie has two tickets for the conference and will attend part of the day. Sarah Imboden expressed interest but thought the day might be too long to plan for. Ross Gould said that he is trying to get an okay from his boss to attend. Ross asked if any businesses would be presenters, or just agencies. The list appeared to be mostly non-profit organizations and agencies.
2. *3rd Annual Volunteer Fair at Bard College Campus Center* on 9/23/2013 from 5-7 P.M. Laurie asked if CAC members thought that there would be any project for the CAC to work on there, noting that Lindsay Chapman had done the Greenhouse Gas Inventory as an intern from the College.
3. *Managing Woodlands Conference on Saturday 10/12/2013* hosted by the Dutchess County Environmental Management Council (DCEMC) at the Farm and Home Center in Millbrook. Laurie forwarded information for the conference to the Tree Commission and Trails Committee, and asked if any CAC member would be interested in gaining expertise for the CAC.
4. *Southeast New York Stormwater Conference on Wednesday, 10/16/2013* in Beacon, NY. Laurie noted that she attended one some months ago and it was really good; she is encouraging Bard College to send someone.

PLANNING BOARD MINUTES REVIEW: Laurie Husted asked Sarah Imboden if she had done the Planning report in the absence of Mike Zelig. Sarah said that the only minutes available were from the August 19 meeting and there was really nothing of concern to the CAC. The Migliorelli minor subdivision application is resolving a buffer issue and will receive final approval.

Sarah noted that for the September 9, 2013 Planning Board meeting she thought that the Anderson Commons Subdivision Proposal was being resubmitted. She reported that it had received prior site plan approval, which has expired. CAC members did not recall seeing the site plans. Sarah thought that the CAC would probably want to look at them and said that she would follow up on that.

Sarah added that she attended the last Town Board meeting where there was a discussion about Traditional Neighborhood Development proposals and how to handle street width and driveway length to accommodate extra parking, but that proposals are in initial stages.

Denis Collet joined the meeting.

PROPOSAL FOR HIGH VOLTAGE LINES BURIED IN THE HUDSON RIVER:

Laurie Husted reported that she has received a notification that West Point Partners has applied to the Public Service Commission (PSC) for approval to install buried high voltage lines in the River for 80 miles, from Athens in Greene County to Buchanan in Westchester County. The PSC is accepting comments until September 16, 2013. The CAC briefly discussed why they would propose that, and Ross Gould said that for many years they were trying to get approval to run lines along the River, and Scenic Hudson had opposed them. Karen Schneller-McDonald asked how they could possibly maintain lines under the River. Ross replied that the lines would be less likely to have any storm or animal damage, and that the only question is whether or not there would be any negative effect on the marine life from the electromagnetic field associated with it. The CAC did not make a determination to comment.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MASTER PLAN FOR RECREATION

PARK EXTENSION: Laurie Husted reported that Councilwoman Brenda Cagle had forwarded to the CAC the Town Board resolution regarding the Recreation Park Extension, noting that conservation of wetlands is specifically mentioned. It authorizes contracts to be let from time to time and that any required wetlands remediation would be part of phase I. Sarah Imboden noted that in order to do an exchange of wetland area, the Town has to get an Army Corps of Engineers permit, and to get the permit the Town has to submit a remediation plan. Sarah added that the CAC had looked at plans previously and that they now have final approval. Karen Schneller-McDonald said that the CAC should still look at the final plan. Sarah said that she thought that the current agreement was that the engineering firm for the Recreation Park Commission would

meet with the field biologist to determine the phasing plan for the Extension. If the Recreation Park Commission is at the point of preparing the phasing plan, she felt that the CAC should go on record with a request to the Town Board that the CAC be included in any wetlands conversation. Sarah added that as the phasing plan would not go through the normal planning and zoning process, this would be the way to be a part of the process. CAC members discussed the process of building remediated wetlands, with differing opinions on the potential. Laurie Husted asked Secretary Susan Ellis to write an official memo to the the Town Board with the request that the CAC be included in wetlands discussions.

TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE: Laurie Husted reported that she did the bicycle / pedestrian count on Tuesday. She asked for help doing the count on Saturday, September 14. Jane Ferguson volunteered to do the count from 12 P.M. - 1 P.M., and Sarah Imboden volunteered to do from 1 P.M. - 2 P.M.

Bike Shelter: Laurie Husted brought up further conversation on bike shelters. Ross Gould reported that he has sent a draft letter to Councilwoman Brenda Cagle about locations to forward the request for permission to locate a shelter at Dunkin Donuts to the company and to the owner of the property. There was some difficulty in learning who the owner of the franchise is, but Ross found the address of a management company.

Laurie noted that the County and the State Department of Transportation (DOT) are in conversation again, making sure everyone is giving permission and that the Town has permission from everyone. She added that if the property owner for the Dunkin Donuts site won't give permission, the project probably won't go forward, as the State right-of-way is not deep enough there.

For the Annandale Road / Kelly Road and Route 9G site, Laurie said that DOT is looking at the right-of -way to see if it is large enough or if landowner permission will be needed. Laurie added that Ross could notify Brenda that she could send out the letters. Laurie also asked for a bike rack, which is still on hold.

WATER RESOURCES UPDATES: Laurie Husted said that Anne Rubin had some water updates, but was not present. Laurie called Anne and she talked with the CAC by speaker phone. Anne reported that she had sent an e-mail for information on a grant to apply for water resources, but had no reply yet. She will follow up with a call. She has spoken with Village Mayor Ed Blundell, who said that after Hardscrabble Day, he would like to have her speak about Town and Village collaboration for possible Aquifer Protection Overlays. She thought that they would meet before the end of September.

HARDSCRABBLE DAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2013: Laurie reported that Anne Rubin had asked the professional clown about doing a movable presentation on a bicycle. He first agreed, but then said no. Laurie suggested handing out septic maintenance packages at Hardscrabble Day.

ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE:

Solar energy for emergency power: Laurie Husted reported that Melissa Everett, Director of Sustainable Hudson Valley is also working with Gaines Consulting on a project to provide solar energy for emergency power. The firm is seeking money for grants to make communities more resilient in the event of catastrophes. They are proposing to put solar panels on a few locations in villages, such as gas stations, so that they could operate through a power outage. Melissa has asked if Red Hook would agree to be a pilot project.

Denis Collet said that it would be interesting to know who the architect would be that would develop the cost / benefit ratio for producing a comprehensive plan for emergency back-up. He feels that the project needs to start with a plan, not with fundraising.

Sarah Imboden asked what the pitch is for the proposal. Laurie said that Melissa asked if Red Hook would be interested in the project, so Laurie went to AGWAY and John's Service Station. The manager at AGWAY did not realize that the CAC ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE had been involved with the program to change light fixtures and reduce their energy costs. He said that he would be interested in a solar project even if the emergency solar one does not materialize. The gas station also was interested, so Laurie felt that she had made two good contacts. She said that she would like to go back to them, and maybe with Denis' help could tell them what to do as a commercial business to get assistance for solar installations.

Denis said that there are a lot of resources available that he could recommend, and Ross Gould added that Governor Cuomo developed a New York Sun Program with a whole new pot of money available for commercial and residential solar installations. Denis noted that what is happening in the building industry is that as the cost of solar installations has become more affordable, it is becoming more attractive to use as a way of reducing energy costs while also reducing the cost of building materials. Denis added that one problem that hasn't been solved yet is the storage of excess solar energy. Laurie said that she would like the information on the solar deals pushed into her inbox, asking Denis to e-mail them to her. Then the Energy Subcommittee could discuss what to do with the businesses.

Solar List: Laurie reported that a start-up company out of Brooklyn called Solar List contacted her. They are a for profit company which is making it their job to educate college students across the country and empower them about solar for the residential market. They have created an application (app.) and a website for students to go through their networks and door-to-door to educate homeowners about solar options. Then if the homeowners wish, they can get three bids from local contractors. Laurie felt that it is an interesting way of spreading the education in a way that might work, through networks and door -to-door, noting that the CAC Energy Subcommittee has struggled with how to do this effectively. She noted that their website and their interface are good.

Sarah Imboden said that she would suggest recommending that contacts be done through networks, rather than door-to-door, as people are not very receptive to door-to-door sales pitches. Denis Collet added that homeowners who would be spending a lot of money on a solar energy project would not want a student telling them what their costs and payback would be. Laurie said that this kind of feedback is what Solar List wants; they said that the Energy Subcommittee would be doing market research for them.

WASTE BINS/ HARDCRABBLE DAY: Laurie said that waste may be the CAC focus for Hardscrabble Day. She mentioned the recycling bins that are no longer needed at Bard College. Last month the CAC discussed how to give them away. Laurie noted that Living Eden has offered space in front of their store. Sarah Imboden said that she thought that the idea getting business owners and of revisiting or putting together a Green Business Challenge would be a better use. She suggested working with the Economic Development Committee and the Red Hook Chamber of Commerce to plan a program, but not on Hardscrabble Day. Laurie said that the CAC could ignore Hardscrabble Day this year and work on the other avenues to reach businesses. Ross Gould asked if all the public buildings had enough recycling bins.

Laurie said that she would really like to leave the meeting with a plan for Hardscrabble Day, adding that she has been looking for something that would be as successful in outreach as the 10% Challenge was. Sarah noted that the Waste Subcommittee was not ready to do a leaf program and suggested that perhaps Hardscrabble Day would be a good time to look for new volunteers. Sarah added that she thought the success of the 10% Challenge was that there was a neat package to sign up for and a program ready to go.

Laurie Husted said that there was about \$400 left in the CAC budget and suggested that the CAC buy some folders and have septic system packages printed that the CAC could give out for Hardscrabble Day. Denis Collet asked if there is information prepared on an Aquifer Protection Overlay. Sarah replied that she and Anne had worked on a fact sheet for educating people about why aquifer protection is important. Laurie said that then the septic and aquifer overlay information still might be handed out for Hardscrabble Day. CAC members discussed other possible ideas for Hardscrabble Day, finally deciding that there was no program that was really ready to go, and that the CAC would not have a table this year. The CAC will concentrate on putting together materials for the next event.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, October 9, 2013 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary