

Draft

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting
January 8, 2014

Members Present: Chairwoman Laurie Husted, Susan Ellis, Mike Zelig, Sarah Imboden, Denis Collet (7:18 P.M.), Ross Gould (7:21 P.M.)

Absent: Dr. Jane Ferguson, Anne Rubin, Karen Schneller-McDonald

Guest: Sue Mora

CALL TO ORDER: Chairwoman Laurie Husted called the meeting to order at 7:13 P.M. A quorum was determined to be present with the arrival of Denis Collet at 7:18 P.M. Laurie noted that Jane Ferguson had e-mailed her that she could not attend.

RECREATION PARK EXTENSION PROPOSAL PLANS: The CAC looked over the proposed plans, which Laurie Husted noted was the first time that the CAC had reviewed them. CAC members agreed that the vegetation plans for buffers and landscaping were very specific. Mike Zelig pointed out the low area which is proposed to be graded for a soccer field, and the area of wetland which is proposed to be graded down and vegetated for increased wetland area.

Denis Collet joined the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 8, 2014 CAC MEETING: The minutes of the January meeting were approved with a motion made by Sarah Imboden and seconded by Denis Collet.

FINAL BUDGET EXPENDITURES FOR 2013: Laurie Husted reported that the December expenditures of the CAC were for mileage to conferences and tours of Recycling and composting facilities, an ad for the January e-waste event, reusable bottles for event give-aways, and the CAC membership to the New York State Association of Conservation Councils (NYSACC). The total was about \$400.

E-WASTE EVENT FLIER FOR SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2014: Laurie presented a draft flier for the e-waste collection to be held at the Red Hook Recycling Center on Saturday January 18, from 10 A.M. To 1 P.M. As part of Martin Luther King

Jr.'s Day of Service, Bard College students will come into the community to help with the e-waste collection and a food drive.

Ross Gould joined the meeting at 7:21 P.M.

Laurie Husted called for some CAC back-up in case some students didn't show up or there is a large public response with e-waste. She added that pick-up of e-waste would only be offered if a person could not lift the items. Laurie considered doing a press release, but Sarah Imboden said that putting the ad in "The Red Hook – Rhinebeck Observer" would not guarantee space for a press release, but she could see that the event is listed in the calendar.

CAC members discussed the types of e-waste that would be acceptable. Laurie noted that the list of e-waste items to be collected is restricted, but that the company taking the waste would probably take other items as a public service.

SUSTAINABLE HUDSON VALLEY FRIDAY FREE LUNCH WEBINARS:

Laurie Husted announced that Sustainable Hudson Valley has started a series of webinars, and that she has signed up for the one on Friday January 10 from noon to 1P.M. She can send a link to interested CAC members.

PLANNING REVIEW:

- 1. Preserve at Lakes Kill Site Plan Application:* Laurie Husted said that she brought the draft Planning Board minutes of the January 6 meeting. They detail the many comments made at the public hearing extension regarding the Preliminary Site Plan Application Approval. Denis Collet asked if there was a consensus about the status of the approval. Sarah Imboden replied that it probably would stand, as Planning Board Chairwoman Christine Kane carefully explained how the application met the SEQR requirements. Laurie added that the Public Hearing was extended for the applicant's response to all the comments and that residents of Feller-Newmark Road have hired a lawyer to contest the approval.

CAC members discussed other unresolved issues of the application, such as safety, mitigation of environmental impacts, the integrity of the rural community and the impact on agricultural use of the proposed conservation easement, which is supposed to satisfy Centers and Greenspaces planning.

Denis Collet said that safety of the road would be a compelling reason, but could be mitigated. Susan Ellis replied that the applicant's plan for regrading and satisfying site distance requirements was based on the assumption that the road was a 50' right-of-way, but in fact it was discovered that it is only 33', which

means that the applicant has to redo the plan for grading or buy neighboring property.

Denis Collet asked if CAC members were satisfied with the mitigation plans prepared to address environmental issues, such as waste and run-off. Laurie Husted replied that she had presented the comments prepared by Anne Rubin and Karen Schneller-McDonald, who has worked on similar planning issues for the Town of Gardiner. Laurie noted that the CAC has not received a formal response to the comments, and needs to see that it is adequate.

Susan Ellis said that there needs to be assurance that the oversight of construction mitigation measures will be adequately addressed, as well as measures to mitigate construction and landowner impacts when individual purchasers build on and maintain their parcels. The applicant proposes requirements for a Homeowners' Association (HOA) to be the responsible party, but who oversees the performance of the Association? Susan added that the Applicant is supposed to have an agreement with Winakee Land Trust to monitor the conserved land, but no contract has been set up.

CAC members discussed the relativity of the Centers and Greenspaces zoning to the proposed project. Denis Collet felt that the project did not fit the spirit of the zoning. At the public hearing, the Planning Board stated that the project complied with the law as it was written, and they could not change the law. Susan Ellis suggested that the CAC concentrate on promoting enforcement of mitigation measures that are required, so that whatever proposal is finally approved will have the least impact.

Laurie Husted concluded that the CAC should have done more follow-up on the revision of the Scenic Roads Overlay and regulations. The CAC had commented on proposed revisions and added the section of Feller-Newmark Road, but the revisions were never completed.

2. *Anderson Commons*: Laurie Husted reported that the Anderson Commons proposal for a major subdivision of 52 lots connecting to Fisk Street was discussed at the January 6 Planning Board meeting. Mike Zelig added that the engineer for the applicant presented a new drawing to show that the project has been adjusted to comply with open space requirements by reducing executive lots to increase the open space. The project is not ready for public hearing.

3. *Bard College Permeable Pavement Parking Lot proposal*: Laurie Husted spoke at the January 6 Planning Board meeting about the project that Bard

is proposing to improve stormwater drainage.

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“GREEN SPOTS:” Laurie Husted said that several “Green Spots” are ready to go, but that Anne Rubin hasn't had a date for her reader to record them yet. Sarah Imboden suggested that the CAC might look at alternatives in case that didn't work out. Laurie asked if Denis could bring something on solar energy next month.

TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE: Laurie Husted reported that the bus stop/bus shelter proposals have not worked out. As an alternate location, she asked the Village if it would consider a bus stop/shelter at Bard College's MAT building (old school district offices) near Red Hook Commons. Sarah Imboden thought that might be a good compromise, but asked how well lit the area is at night.

Laurie asked Ross Gould if he would update his draft of a letter in support of construction of sidewalks on the east side of Route 9 and resend to CAC members. Sarah said that the Town did not get the Community Funds Grant, but there is still a possibility that it will get a TEP Grant.

WASTE SUBCOMMITTEE: Laurie Husted was contacted by Julian Lesser who also had approached the Rhinebeck CAC about setting up a compost collection for businesses. Laurie wants to speak with the Rhinebeck CAB again, as their hope is that the combined collection for both Towns would generate enough waste to justify investment in a Biodigestor.

MEMBER SUGGESTION: Denis Collet has discussed expanded energy projects with Gabriel Accascina who is involved with international work at the United Nations and lives here. Denis asked if he would have interest in working on the CAC. Laurie said that while there is no open slot on the CAC, he would be a valuable addition to create an Energy Task Force. Laurie would be glad to work with him. Denis said that the two of them are working on the idea of an “energy tool kit” to apply on a global scale, but could model their strategies using a smaller unit such as the Town to show how they integrate their energy solutions. Laurie said that the Town should recognize the group as a Task Force.

RUTH OJA ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP: Ruth Oja told Laurie that there is enough money added to the fund to keep the scholarship going for 3 more students. Anne Rubin was to take responsibility for promoting the applications.

DEC SUMMER ENVIRONMENTAL CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS: Laurie Husted reported that she contacted the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) to ask if they would fund the scholarships. They have put it on their agenda.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 at 7 P.M. at Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary