

Draft

**TOWN OF RED HOOK  
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting  
July 9, 2014

Members present: Sarah Imboden, Susan Ellis, Mike Zelig, Dr. Jane Ferguson, Denis Collet (7:11 P.M.) Absent: Chairman Laurie Husted, Anne Rubin, Karen Schneller-McDonald

Guests: Councilwoman Brenda Cagle, Bard College student Gouled

**CALL TO ORDER / QUORUM:** Acting Chairwoman Sarah Imboden called the meeting to order at 7:07 P.M. A quorum was present with the arrival of Denis Collet at 7:11 P.M.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Councilwoman Brenda Cagle gave the CAC updates from the Town Board:

*Sidewalk Grant Application:* Brenda announced that the application for the sidewalk grant along the east side of Route 9 had been delivered to the County.

*Cornell University Pilot Project:* Brenda reported that the Town has received a request from Cornell University to apply to participate in a pilot project. Three different planning groups have approached the Town with a Request For Proposal (RFP) to be a test for a model developed by Cornell to help Hudson River estuary communities maintain and protect habitat connectivity. Brenda noted that the Town of Rhinebeck has also applied for the grant, so a decision is pending. It would be as short project from fall to December.

*Cornell Cooperative Extension letter of support:* Brenda reported that the Town has received a request from Cornell Cooperative Extension to draft a letter of support for a Consolidated Funding Application (CFA). CFA grants are statewide grants from a pool of money from several State agencies. Cornell Cooperative Extension plans to apply for a grant for organic waste management, with an emphasis on anaerobic digestion.

*Denis Collet joined the meeting.*

*Hoffman Residential Subdivision:* Brenda reported that on Tuesday night the Town Board heard details of the Kirchoff submission of a new plan and asked Mike if he had attended the Planning Board meeting and if he would speak about it. Sarah Imboden asked if there were any Town Board specific comments about the submission, noting that both the Town Board and Planning likely had the same presentation. Mike said that Kirchoff Properties and Michael Watkins, an architect who has authored a book on Traditional Neighborhood Design, were there to present a reworked sketch plan for preliminary site plan approval.

*Church parking lot bus shelter location:* Sarah Imboden asked Brenda Cagle if she had any update on the proposal to locate a bus shelter on the Methodist church parking lot. Brenda replied that she did not.

**PLANNING BOARD MINUTES REVIEW:** Mike Zelig noted that the Planning Board meeting for June 16 had been cancelled, but he attended the meeting on July 7, where the Planning Board announced that the Preserve at Lakes Kill discussion was postponed until September.

*Montgomery Place Tree Removal Application:* Mike Zelig reported that the application to remove trees to restore scenic vistas is progressing. The Planning Board held a public hearing at which Executive Director Ray Armater discussed the proposal to remove invasive species. Mike noted that they had consulted with Hudsonia and would remove only Ailanthus in the summer and wait until November to complete the job, thus protecting Indiana bat habitat and not disturbing eagle nesting sites. The Planning Board reviewed the Full Environmental Assessment Form (FEAF) and approved a Negative Declaration; Planning also adopted a resolution to approve the work, including specified time frames.

*Teviot Unauthorized Tree Removal:* A landscape architect assessed the removal and determined that about 75 trees had been removed from the Tidal Buffer Zone (up to 100' elevation from the water). He has proposed that Teviot owner Jann Wenner restore 75 trees, but they need trees that don't require heavy equipment for placement, to avoid disturbing a bald eagle nesting site. Sarah Imboden noted that it is not an exact restoration, as mature trees are being replaced by young ones. Mike agreed, but said that to recreate the biomass of the trees removed would take 2,000 trees. The Planning Board asked for a maintenance plan to assure the survival of the trees be included. Jane Ferguson asked if the trees would be planted in different places; Mike replied that Hudsonia would work out a habitat improvement plan for the Tidal Buffer Zone. Teviot is scheduled to bring a revised EAF to the August 18 meeting.

*Zengen / Windmill Lodge Preapplication Discussion:* Planning Consultant Michele Greig suggested that they apply to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a variance on the frontage required for an access to Metzger Road.

*Hoffman Residential Subdivision Presentation by Kirchoff:* Mike Zelig reported that they came back with a reworked plan that now includes 102 lots instead of 96. The open space is in the back, but there is a lot of green space throughout. There was discussion about road widths, parking and type of houses. Mike asked Brenda Cagle if she knew about the 1200 square foot single story affordable housing component of the Traditional Neighborhood District Zoning, adding that Kirchoff claimed that they could build a 1400 square foot two story house and sell it for less.

Mike noted that the CAC should be interested that the water may be a conduit between Rokeby Gardens Water Supply and the Village Water Supply if the Village has the capacity. There will be a community septic system that will be gravity fed to a pump station, which will be under the Dutchess County Water and Wastewater Agency.

*Red Hook Self Storage amended Site Plan:* Sarah Imboden reported that Red Hook Self Storage submitted a revised application for an additional self storage building and asked that a proposed Town connector road be altered, as it would impact their property. Planning Chairwoman Chris Kane said that the Town Board would have to make a decision on the status of the proposed connector.

**GREEN BUSINESS COMMITTEE:** Sarah Imboden asked Brenda Cagle if she would be a member of a Green Business Committee that is proposed to be formed to work on a grant being developed and applied for by Bard student Gouled. Other members would be Laurie Husted, Sarah Imboden, Village Mayor Ed Blundell and Red Hook Chamber Executive Director Kim Gomez. Sarah asked if Gouled could take photos of the meeting before Brenda leaves, as he needs to make a You Tube video for the application. Gouled also asked for a short biography of members.

*Brenda Cagle left the meeting.*

**MINUTES OF THE JUNE 11, 2014 CAC MEETING:** The minutes of the June meeting were approved with a motion made by Jane Ferguson and seconded by Mike Zelig.

**MEMBERSHIP:** The CAC has one vacancy, and Karen Schneller-McDonald has indicated that she would be interested in serving as an ad hoc consultant on water issues if another applicant is interested in membership. Sarah Imboden asked if CAC members had any suggestions for membership applicants. CAC members discussed having the

Town Board advertise for applicants, as they will need to approve them. Denis Collet asked if living in the Town is a requirement. It is for Town Committee members.

**ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE:** Sarah Imboden asked Denis Collet if there were any updates on solar proposals. Denis replied nothing other than what Brenda Cagle reported before she left. She noted that Northern Dutchess Alliance is very interested in the Solarize NY option. Brenda had heard that the County might be working to plan a countywide program, so she called for information. The County will have a meeting to discuss the options at the end of July and will inform the Towns after they have evaluated the information.

**GREEN BUSINESS CHALLENGE:** Bard student Gouled spoke of applying for a grant called a Get Together Grant for between \$2000 and \$4000. If approved it would be available during the Fall and need to be completed by April. It needs to have 3 components dealing with sustainability or “green business.” Gouled sent in a pre-application in June and needs to complete the final by July 15. He has walked through the Village contacting businesses to introduce the “Green Business Challenge.” He has spoken with Angela Vincent of Climate Smart Communities who will provide survey questions. He and Laurie Husted met with Kim Gomez of the Red Hook Chamber of Commerce, who suggested that the banks are a good place to start. Gouled found them very receptive to the proposal. He tried a number of restaurants, but did not have as much success, as he was mostly speaking with managers.

CAC members discussed which meetings would be a good place for Gouled to present the program, the Chamber of Commerce or the Rotary Club. Sarah felt that the CAC should see a draft of the presentation before it is arranged. Gouled said that Angela Vincent has suggested a focus group for the banks on July 28 to get more feedback on incentives that would encourage them to join the “Green Business Challenge,” and he hopes to have the survey questions before that.

Gouled added that he thought that restaurants would have to be reached separately, as he has not met many of the owners. Sarah suggested that he try to reach them by e-mail to save time, and that perhaps the contact should come from Laurie or Kim Gomez. Susan Ellis added that she thought that first the first step is to address how each restaurant handles the things in their business that are of concern. For example, if the issue is composting, some have compostable containers, some use styrofoam, and some are mixed. Jane asked if some of these questions would be part of the survey. Sarah said that the CAC should review the survey as soon as possible.

Further discussion centered on various ideas to start with a more limited definition of the project such as just focusing on the banks, or adding only the take out area of restaurant

business. Denis said that it would help to emphasize any health benefits to changing types of containers, which could be an attraction for customers. Since restaurants are a more complicated process, Sarah thought that for now the CAC should consider businesses more related to banking, such as insurance and tax preparation for a phase I of the pilot project, and then do a phase II with restaurants. Gouled did note that he had spoken with managers in about half of the 28 restaurants.

Sarah concluded that the next steps would be to find out from Laurie Husted what is happening with the focus group, and review and send out the survey as soon as possible. The project is more about communication than anything else. The CAC needs to know about what the businesses are interested in and then determine what the alternatives are and give them back to the businesses. Sarah thanked Gouled for all the work he has been doing on the grant.

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

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, August 13, 2014 at 7 P.M. At the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary