

Draft

**TOWN OF RED HOOK  
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting  
August 13, 2014

Members present: Chairwoman Laurie Husted, Susan Ellis, Sarah Imboden  
Absent: Anne Rubin, Denis Collet, Karen Schneller-McDonald,  
Mike Zelig, Dr. Jane Ferguson

Guest: Councilwoman Brenda Cagle

**CALL TO ORDER / QUORUM:** Chairwoman Laurie Husted called the meeting to order at 7:25 P.M. A quorum was not present. Laurie noted that Mike Zelig was away; Jane Ferguson and Denis Collet notified her that they could not come.

**RECYCLING CENTER:** Sarah Imboden asked Brenda Cagle about an e-mail that she forwarded with a recycling report from Recycling Manager T.J. Hackett. Brenda replied that she wrote back to him that he should request needed items in the upcoming budget request for 2015 and also ask that some of the left-over Recycling Funds be redirected to some of those items. Brenda said that the Town Board liked his report and was receptive to his requests. Brenda added that she received an e-mail from him after the Town Board meeting regarding a flyer that she passed on to him from a new e-waste recycler from New Jersey that would like to do a collection in the Town. (not the same one that Bard College had used and did the e-waste pick-up for the Town in February ) Brenda noted that the Town was charged for the dumpster in February, though the transportation was free. She added that TJ is following up on the idea to hold another e-waste collection in October, and is researching options. TJ is also researching a tire recycling option.

Sarah Imboden spoke of an e-mail from Laura Pettit of New Paltz noting that they are holding a Mid Hudson Regional Reuse Network meeting for an interactive workshop on how to open reuse centers in other municipalities (with not for profit or for profit agencies), with common goal of sharing materials and costs and increasing revenues. Sarah said that TJ has been invited; Brenda added that she would check to see if he would be reimbursed for attending. They will encourage him to go.

**BRUSH AND YARD WASTE:** Brenda Cagle reported that the Town Board has talked about brush dumping and mentioned the issue to Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke. Supervisor Sue Crane wants the Town Board to do something to address the issue. Brenda will go to the first Agriculture and Open Space meeting in September to ask if the farmers are interested in working out a program. Brenda was at a meeting at Milan earlier in the day and asked the Supervisor how they handled residential brush and leaf waste. Residents are allowed to bring brush and yard waste to the Highway Garage, and then Milan will contract with the County to bring a chipper for two days a year for several thousand dollars. Laurie Husted and Sarah Imboden suggested seeking a Cooperative Extension grant for organic waste, or the 5 closest Towns could apply for a Shared Services Grant to provide for a chipper.

**TOWN HALL PARKING LOT:** Brenda Cagle further reported that the Town is redesigning the parking lot so that there would be only one entrance on Route 9, and landscaping of the perimeter. John Clarke of County Planning has provided a plan, and the Town is applying for a Block Grant for the handicap accessible portion. Laurie Husted noted that the Town still has two bike racks and the bus shelter awaiting locations. She suggested that one bike rack be used for the new parking lot.

*Brenda Cagle left the meeting.*

**BUDGET PLAN FOR 2015:** Laurie Husted said that the budget for CAC payroll was \$1,500 for 2013; the budget for 2014 is \$1,280, of which \$612 has already been spent. She asked that the expense be kept to that. The CAC budget is \$500, of which \$75 was spent for membership in the New York State Association of Conservation Councils (NYSACC); some mileage for events and expenses for the “GREEN Business Certification Focus Group” would apply. Gouled had applied for a \$500 grant for the “GREEN Business Certification program, but did not get it. Laurie would like to use some of the remainder of the budget towards that program. She plans to ask for \$500 for the 2015 CAC budget. Laurie asked Secretary Susan Ellis if she thought that she could be within the \$1280 for payroll; Susan replied that she would like Laurie to put in for the \$1,500. Laurie noted that the Town is really asking Departments to cut down their budgets and asked if the hours can be reduced. Sarah Imboden suggested reducing the detail. Laurie will put in the request for \$1,500.

**PLANNING BOARD MINUTES REPORT:** Since Mike Zelig is away, Laurie Husted asked Sarah Imboden if she had any Planning report. Sarah noted the following discussions:

- ◆ The Preserve at Lakes Kill developers requested another extension until August 18.

- ◆ Montgomery Place Farm operation requested a permit for a modular building to house farm workers.
- ◆ Red Hook Self Storage has submitted a sketch plan for adding an additional self storage unit, since the Town Board informed him that no determination has been made about a road connection requiring the property.
- ◆ Common Fire, a cooperative sustainable living compound on West Kerley Corners Road, and Dan O'Neill have applied for a lot line alteration to combine his three parcels that are divided by Common Fire's driveway and to create a flag lot with a new driveway for Common Fire. Planning is looking into issues with creating the flag lot and crossing regulated wetlands.
- ◆ Daniel Shapiro and Bonnie Loopesko of Woods Road adjoining Teviot have applied for tree removal permit, as a result of storm damage that felled a tree which crushed part of their house. Planning informed them that they need a special permit with documentation of the need.

**CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SEMINAR – INTRODUCTION TO COMPOSTING AND ANAEROBIC DIGESTION:** Laurie Husted and Anne Rubin attended the seminar at the Farm and Home Center. Laurie went because the CAC has supported the Grant request for Cooperative Extension to pursue the project and she wanted more information about it. Her reaction was that the detail of technological information was somewhat overwhelming, but she felt encouraged that some of the project ideas could be possible. The CAC should follow the program and see what opportunities will come up.

**NEW YORK STATE SHEEP AND WOOL FESTIVAL:** Laurie Husted received an e-mail from Sarah Wormer asking for volunteers to help at the festival on October 18 and 19, 2014. They are looking for shift leaders who will help make the festival a Zero Waste event. Sarah Imboden noted that shift leaders are paid, and all volunteers get free admission. Shifts are 4 hours long, and Laurie hopes that CAC members will fill some of them. Laurie and Sarah will look into student possibilities as school starts.

**WATER SEMINAR – ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE WITH SEA-LEVEL RISE:**

Laurie Husted went to the seminar in Beacon, but she did not think that Red Hook would find enough justification to apply for money to address the situation.

**SEPTIC MAINTENANCE INFORMATION:** Mike Zelig gave a small brochure to Laurie with information to be given to new homeowners, which she asked him to pass on to Anne Rubin.

**ENERGY:** Laurie Husted reported that there will be a Solar, Photovoltaic and Solar Hot Water Workshop in Tivoli on September 9, 2014.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Laurie attended a County Bike/Pedestrian Task Force meeting and noted that their Plan is online with the link that she gave CAC members. They wanted to know if the CAC could encourage a walk to school day on October 8, 2014. The CAC will do a bike/pedestrian count in September, the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup>, plus Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> from 4 – 6 P.M. Sarah Imboden and Susan Ellis will take slots.

**GREEN BUSINESS CERTIFICATION:** Gouled did not get the grant for the project, but he did get feedback from many businesses. When they had a focus group with Climate Smart Communities consultant Angela Vincent, Laurie Husted and Gouled were the only attendees. They did call the businesses who said that they would attend, but all had different reasons for not making the meeting. Laurie and Gouled went out and interviewed 4 that day and gave them booklets about what actions they could take to participate. They hand delivered copies to the others and asked them to fill them out so that they could pick them up. Banks and restaurants were the focus.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Laurie Husted noted that the Chairwoman of the Milan CAC is moving to Red Hook. Laurie hopes that she will consider joining the CAC and suggested that she send a letter of interest to the Town Board.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, September 10, 2014 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary