

Draft

**TOWN OF RED HOOK  
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting  
February 11, 2015

Members present: Chairwoman Laurie Husted, Mike Zelig, Jen Cavanaugh, Anne Rubin (7:13 P.M.), Jody Jacobs, Ross Gould, Susan Ellis, Sarah Imboden, Denis Collet (7:28 P.M.)

**CALL TO ORDER / QUORUM:** Chairwoman Laurie Husted called the meeting to order at 7:08 P.M. A quorum was present.

**MINUTES OF THE CAC JANUARY 14, 2015 MEETING:** The minutes of the January 14 meeting were approved with a motion made by Sarah Imboden and seconded by Jen Cavanaugh. Laurie Husted asked Secretary Susan Ellis if the last minutes took a little less time; Susan replied not really, as discussions skipped back and forth among different subjects, which needed to be consolidated to avoid duplication. Laurie said that the CAC would try to stay more on subject to respect the Town's budget cap and not waste taxpayers money.

*Anne Rubin joined the meeting, as the ZBA meeting was canceled.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- ◆ CAC Membership: Laurie Husted announced that Ross Gould has rejoined the CAC and Jody Jacobs was officially appointed at the last Town Board meeting. Laurie added that this makes the CAC at full membership. Jen Cavanaugh commented that it is a huge credit, as there was not one other CAC at last year's Environmental Management Council (EMC) Roundtable for CAC's with a full membership.
- ◆ CAC 2015 Budget: Laurie Husted noted that she had received the CAC's 2015 Budget funding notice, which is \$1,000 for the supply item (events, projects, meetings).
- ◆ Pilgrim Pipeline Project Resolution: Laurie Husted reported that Jess Scott of the Rhinebeck CAC presented a resolution to the Town Board to oppose the approval of the Pilgrim Pipeline project, which the Town Board passed.

*Denis Collet joined the meeting.*

- ◆ DCCE Environmental Management Council (EMC) annual CAC Roundtable: The EMC will hold the CAC Roundtable on Wednesday February 25, 2015 at the Farm and Home Center in Millbrook. Laurie Husted asked CAC members if any would plan to attend and said that they could call to carpool.
- ◆ NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Fine Culvert Assessment Project: Laurie Husted announced that she received a notice that DEC would be holding a webinar on the subject on Thursday, February 12 at 10:30 A.M. Jody Jacobs was interested, but said that he couldn't at that time. Sarah Imboden suggested that he register for the webinar, and could receive a report of it afterwards. Anne Rubin suggested that Laurie e-mail the notice to the red Hook Village Trustee in charge of stormwater and culvert issues.
- ◆ Ross Gould announced that he is going to ask the Town Board to sign on for a resolution asking General Electric to expand its dredging program. Clearwater, Scenic Hudson and the Riverkeeper are trying to get 100 municipalities to sign the resolution. Ross explained that if there is not an agreement from GE to expand the dredging program, it will remain under Superfund status, and other communities along the Hudson River may not be eligible for funding. It would be helpful if the CAC sent a memo to the Town Board in support of the resolution. Anne Rubin offered to discuss the subject at a Zoning Review Commission meeting; Ross will send her a link for the issue.

**PLANNING REVIEW:** Mike Zelig noted that he had no report, as the Planning Board had not met since the last CAC meeting.

#### **WEB MAPPING SEMINAR FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS AND**

**VOLUNTEERS:** The seminar was held at Red Hook and presented by Neil Curri from Dutchess County Cooperative Extension, Sarah Love from Dutchess Land Conservancy and Robert Wills from Dutchess County Planning and Development. Laurie Husted asked for a report on the seminar from CAC members who had signed on for it. Sarah Imboden noted that there were problems with the downloads, but the seminar gave a basic overview of web mapping resources available to the public. Ross Gould added that the map of wetlands is a helpful tool. They showed how to bring up a parcel on Parcel Access, and how the wetlands map can be overlain to show their relationship to the parcel. Ross added that the DEC map also identified potential areas of endangered species or threatened habitats, so both maps would be good resources to look at if a parcel is considered for development.

**CORNELL CONNECTIVITY GRANT:** Laurie Husted reported that the results presentation has not been scheduled yet, so there is nothing for the CAC to do.

**RUTH OJA ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP AND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION (DEC) SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIP :**

Jen Cavanaugh reported that both have been advertised. There is a full page article about Ruth and her scholarship in the “Hudson River Chronicle.” Jen has no reply for either. She just reposted the notice for the DEC Camp, and will put the Ruth Oja notice on Facebook. The VFW has notified Jen that they would sponsor one camper this year.

**WATER AND WASTEWATER:** Laurie Husted reported that the movie “Tapped” was screened at Bard College and Jody Jacobs was there, along with Bard students. There was a taste test of filtered and unfiltered Bard College water and Poland Springs bottled water. The Bard College water was preferred.

Anne Rubin reported that her brother-in-law, hydrogeologist Paul Rubin sent a report to the Town Board and the Planning Board. She asked if CAC members had seen it and spoke of items that she really took note of. The report on Cooper Lake and Mink Hollow stream addressed sustainable yield, stating that there is no safe sustainable yield, as the data on the lake is old – from 1961. Paul concluded that no permit or variance should be considered until the hydrological assessment has been reevaluated. Segmentation with State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) is an issue – separating the impacts of the bottling plant from the water withdrawal and consideration of purchase of Cokertown Springs. Anne felt that the CAC should be aware of what is happening and get as much information as possible.

Sarah Imboden asked if the CAC could be proactive to prevent take over of water resources. Anne Rubin has previously recommended developing a Water Protection Ordinance similar to one passed by the Town of Amenia, which requires water permit requests to be reviewed by a Town Hydrogeologist. Sarah asked for other possibilities, even more than consideration of an Aquifer Protection Ordinance. CAC members discussed other possibilities. Sarah concluded that the CAC should contact Town Attorney Chris Chale about the legal options. Laurie Husted said that she would ask Town Board liaison Brenda Cagle to ask Chris Chale what is being done about water protection and relay the CAC concerns.

**ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE:** Laurie Husted asked Ross Gould to explain Microgrid programs. Ross said that the intent of Microgrid programs is to take businesses and important facilities, such as hospitals and fire stations within a community, and connect them in a Microgrid that will continue to be operational in times of power outages. Governor Cuomo has established a \$40 million program for community proposals for projects. The competitive grant process has 3 phases, the first being a feasibility study for a proposal to show that it could be successful.

Ross continued that the State just issued a Request For Proposals (RFP) to be submitted in May. The Town would have to present the proposal to the community and reach out to stake holders, such as Central Hudson, the Firehouse, businesses and residential areas to be included in the Microgrid. Denis Collet added that there would be two parts to consider, deciding a common location to distribute power to, and selecting what source would be used for the power. Ross suggested that the CAC needs to define goals and purposes for any proposal and he would contact Central Hudson to see if they will consider the proposal.

### **COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION AND MUNICIPAL POWER**

**OPTIONS:** Laurie Husted reported that Councilwoman Brenda Cagle called her to notify the CAC that the Town Board has decided to join the Association of Towns cooperative plan to contract for cheaper municipal power, which locks in for two years. Laurie noted the CAC's preference for the plan to choose greener sources of the power and asked if the Town could request that option, at least for the next time. Brenda asked for a letter from the CAC addressing the request. Laurie asked if the Town could just call Viridian Energy and lock in at a cheaper price. Denis said that he had called the cooperative's power provider as a customer and asked if they would consider changing the sources to greener power and was told that they would not. Laurie said that she feels that the CAC needs to formally request that “Green power” be a choice in the plan and will write a memo to the Town Board.

*Community Choice Aggregation 2.0 discussion:* Laurie Husted and Jody Jacobs went to the CCA 2.0 public forum at Kingston City Hall. She commented on the Public Service Commission (PSC) website that communities should have the right to choose aggregation. Ross noted that the PSC extended the deadline for comments to February 17. Jody said that he found the discussion was a lot to digest and noted that it included talk about market based solutions, which concerned him in that it might mean removing incentives for solar energy. He thought that a “carbon tax” might encourage more positive moves toward “green energy,” and that they shouldn't remove incentives for solar energy unless they institute the carbon tax. Denis agreed that is a good position to take, as the public perception is that solar energy is still more expensive. CAC members agreed. Ross noted that there are good things happening in the energy division in that they are trying to move away from large centralized power plants to smaller local Microgrids.

### **TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE:**

*Bicycle / Pedestrian Task Force:* Laurie Husted attended the quarterly meeting of the Task Force but has no new activity to report.

*Sidewalk Grant :* The first meeting for the Sidewalk Grant meeting will be on Friday at 10. A.M.

*Trails grant:* Laurie Husted reported that Councilwoman Brenda Cagle has said that the Town is sending RFP's to 7 professional trail planners.

**E-WASTE COLLECTION DAY JANUARY 17:** Laurie Husted thanked all the volunteers who helped with the day. Last year's collection was 18,000 lbs, and this year was over 21,000 lbs. Laurie reported that it was much better organized. Sarah said that many people brought items that they said were still working; she suggested that the CAC take time to think about the next level that could be increasing reuse or repurposing some of the items.

**SOLARIZE MIDHUDSON:** Ross Gould asked if the CAC had applied for Solarize MidHudson. Laurie replied that the CAC had not, but she has gotten information about how it will work, and the CAC can consider the next round of applications. First there will be one small pilot with a cluster of 3 or 4 communities in Ulster County. CAC members discussed options for solar companies and the option of leasing versus buying. Laurie added that the next round would be in the early summer and then the CAC can consider it more carefully.

**WELCOME TO THE TOWN BOOKLET:** Sarah Imboden reported that she has taken Jen Cavanaugh's Welcome to the Town of Clinton handout to the Intermunicipal Task Force and asked their opinion of the idea of producing one for Red Hook. They liked the idea, but suggested that it be expanded to more than just CAC flyers, and have more condensed information panels with links to websites. Sarah will continue to work with the project.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 7 P.M. At the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary