

Draft

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting
April 8, 2015

Members present: Sarah Imboden, Susan Ellis, Mike Zelig, Jen Cavanaugh, Ross Gould, Denis Collet (7:20 P.M.)

Absent: Chairwoman Laurie Husted, Jody Jacobs, Anne Rubin (at ZBA meeting)

CALL TO ORDER / QUORUM: Sarah Imboden as Acting Chairwoman called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M. A quorum was present. Sarah noted that Chairwoman Laurie Husted had a last minute change in plans, and asked her as Deputy Chairwoman to run the meeting.

“BIG NIGHT” SALAMANDER / FROG CROSSING EVENT: Mike Zelig asked Sarah Imboden how the event went. Sarah did the Thursday night, but couldn't do Friday. She reported that the group working on Kelly Road found about 5 or 6 different species of frogs and some newts and salamanders. A young boy with her said it was the best night of his life. Sarah noted that there are safety concerns on Kelly Road, as motorists often don't keep to the speed limit. She suggested that this area has been done a number of times and has a good amount of data, so perhaps the Town might consider providing some flashing warning lights for the few days of the Event.

MINUTES OF THE CAC MARCH 11, 2015 MEETING: Sarah Imboden noted that in the page 1 RECORD OF CAC RESOURCE MATERIALS that she had said that she could put it on a spread sheet, and that the adjournment would have been 8:47 P.M.

Denis Collet joined the meeting.

Sarah asked for clarification of the process of distributing minutes, as she had concerns with the minutes being put on the website before CAC members have the opportunity to correct them. Susan Ellis said that as Secretary she distributes the minutes to the Town Clerk, Town Board, Planning Board, CAC members and interested former members at the same time. The Town Clerk sends them to the Webmaster for posting. Corrections are included in the meeting at which the minutes are approved.

The minutes of the CAC March 11, 2015 meeting were approved as amended with a motion made by Ross Gould and seconded by Jen Cavanaugh.

DEC SUMMER ENVIRONMENTAL CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS: Jen Cavanaugh reminded CAC members that the presentation of two scholarship awards will take place at the Town Board meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 about 7:45 P.M. The VFW Commander and the Masons will each present a certificate to the recipients chosen by the CAC. Jen and Sarah encouraged other CAC members to attend.

ANNUAL TOWN ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP: Mike Zelic reported that the Clean-up day would be Saturday, May 2 from 12:30 – 4:00 P.M., with a rain date of May 3. Sarah suggested that it would be motivating to have teams from the CAC, Town Board, Planning Board or residents to compete for the most amount collected. She will e-mail to see who can participate.

CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES WEBINAR ON TRANSPORTATION THURSDAY APRIL 9, 2015: Ross Gould said that he might do the webinar. Sarah asked him to report on it if he did.

PLANNING BOARD REVIEW REPORT: Mike Zelic reported on the status of planning reviews:

- ◆ *Preserve at Lakes Kill* : The project is moving through the process and needed to reword the EAF, because they wanted to reduce the speed limit to 25 MPH along the stretch by the entrance to the development. The EAF said that the developer would do that, but they can't. It has been sent to the County Highway Department, who has referred it to the state DOT.
- ◆ *Hoffman Residential Development* : The Planning Board is trying to redo some of the language in the Town regulations regarding Traditional Neighborhood Design to accommodate a different size cottage for affordable housing, which the developer considers more marketable. Developer representative Richard Rang mentioned that he had sent something to the CAC about the Hucklebush Trail and expected to meet with someone from the CAC or have a response that satisfies the Planning Board that he has accommodated the request to recognize the old railroad bed. Sarah said that she would ask Laurie Husted for an update. There was discussion of curb cuts and garage locations.
- ◆ *Gaslight Motel expansion* : There was preliminary discussion of expansion of the motel.

WASTE SUBCOMMITTEE: Sarah Imboden noted that Supervisor Sue Crane had replied to the section on page 2, WASTE SUBCOMMITTEE of the March 11, 2015 CAC minutes, to clarify that the new contract with Welsh Carting did not change the per bag garbage fees with the exception of adding a large 33 gallon size for \$4.00.

Single stream recycling option : Supervisor Crane also asked for CAC recommendations about whether or not the Town should take the proposed single stream recycling option for the Recycling Center. Welch Carting is agreeable and recommends it, but stipulates that the contract could not be changed back. Sarah Imboden said that Laurie Husted has provided data to Councilwoman Brenda Cagle comparing the two systems. Jen Cavanaugh added that single stream may certainly increase the volume collected, but also may have a significant portion go to trash. CAC members had questions about how the change would impact the site layout of the Transfer Station, which currently can be congested and have traffic issues. They would like to see a mock-up of a proposed layout for single stream collection and information about how often containers would be hauled out. Ross Gould noted that the Town of Rhinebeck just switched to single stream and could advise of their experience.

Textile Recycling Day : Sarah Imboden reported that she is trying to organize a Textile Recycling Day. She had received notification from Terry Laibach of the DEC that there had been an event in New Paltz in the fall of 2014. Terry gave suggestions about how to run a Textile Recycling event, including planning for enough people to volunteer to sort the items. Sarah said that she could also contact vendors who will specifically take textiles and do the sorting and distribution of them. CAC members discussed choosing a time that would maximize participation and that if it could not be put together before June, it would have to be planned for the Fall or next year.

Yard waste : Ross Gould asked if there would be consideration of yard waste and brush disposal options. Sarah replied that the issue has come up before, but no formal proposal resulted. The Village of Red Hook does brush and yard waste pick-up with funds for garbage pick-up. Ross asked if the Town would have property where they could bring it to, but that would require having a time schedule and a monitor. Susan Ellis noted that many people would not have the ability to transport it, and suggested that for the Town to propose any yard waste or brush disposal it should start with an assessment of the developments where residents have limited space to determine what the cost might be.

RUTH OJA ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE: Jen Cavanaugh reported that there are two applications in draft form and may be a total of four for the Ruth Oja Environmental Scholarship. The Community Foundation which administers the Scholarship will send a e-mail to all CAC members with a portal for voting for the recipient by evaluating weighted scores for need, academic qualifications, references and an essay.

WATER RIGHTS MEMO: Sarah Imboden asked Denis Collet if he had any information about rights based law for water resource protection. He has not had a

chance to contact Town Attorney Chris Chale, but will work on it. CAC members discussed sustainability and inefficiency of water resource use.

ENERGY ISSUES: Denis Collet announced that on April 29 and 30, Marist College is holding a Leadership Forum on Energy Policy. Ross Gould was interested in attending, but found that it was really designed for business and too expensive.

Climate Smart Communities Webinar on Mobilizing Regional Climate Action : Sarah Imboden reported that she joined the webinar. There was a focus on Westchester County and how much they had accomplished by building coalitions. They had divided the County into 4 sectors and developed their own privatized energy grids. Sarah felt that the discussion did not include enough details of how the coalitions were established and operate. Another energy coalition discussed was around Ithaca and included the college. Sarah thought that it offered a possibility that such a project could happen here.

Denis Collet noted that Solarize New York and Microgrid proposals before the Public Service Commission (PSC) are changing the way that the PSC is allocating money. They are looking for buy-in from the businesses themselves.

INTERN POSSIBILITY FROM BARD COLLEGE: Sarah Imboden noted that most of the CAC members had agreed that the CAC would be willing to supervise or monitor a student intern project. She said that Laurie Husted is thinking of focusing on a street lighting project as she had spoken with Village Mayor Ed Blundell, who indicated that it would be of interest to the Village. The Bard College lighting contractor suggested that it might be too technical for an intern project, but that he would be willing to offer help, and perhaps the intern could at least prepare an inventory of the street lights. Sarah added that Laurie is talking with the Town about the Town street lights, which are rented by Central Hudson, so the Town would need to work with them to get the lights replaced. CAC members discussed determining the specific tasks needed and Denis Collet suggested that the CAC needs to have the details of what specific skills the potential intern offers to fit the project. CAC members discussed a cost analysis of renting versus owning lighting equipment and the difference of electric usage of LED lights relative to the cost of installation. The consensus was that Sarah should tell Laurie Husted to pursue the street lighting project with Ed Blundell and get more information from the Town about lighting districts for the CAC to develop a recommendation.

Denis reported that Councilwoman Brenda Cagle had asked him about a Microgrid Project. There is a Request For Proposal (RFP3044) offered by NYSERDA through Climate Smart Communities which will grant money for a feasibility study. They are interested in projects including critical buildings at critical locations that would qualify as a part of a Microgrid to provide shelter and services during major power outages.

Buildings such as fire stations, municipal buildings, schools, and hospitals would be set up with alternate energy sources so that they could provide shelter and food distribution in times of emergency. Denis had recommended that the Town use parcel access to identify the buildings and area to be connected, but had concerns that once the Town qualified for a feasibility grant, it would be obliged to follow through with funding a project. Ross Gould said that he has been interested in the grant process, but noted that the application for the first round is 15 pages and the deadline is May 15. There would be two more rounds to qualify for one of four demonstration projects.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 13, 2015, at 7P.M. at the Town Hall