

Draft

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting
May 13, 2013

Members present: Sarah Imboden, Susan Ellis, Mike Zelig, Jen Cavanaugh, Jody Jacobs
Chairwoman Laurie Husted (7:50 P.M.)

Absent: Anne Rubin (clerking at ZBA), Denis Collet, Ross Gould

CALL TO ORDER / QUORUM: Sarah Imboden, as acting Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M. Laurie Husted was representing Bard College at the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). Ross Gould e-mailed that he would not be able to attend. A quorum was present.

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 8, 2015 CAC MEETING: Jen noted that she had difficulty opening the minutes, but didn't know why, so she reviewed a copy. The minutes were approved with a motion made by Jody Jacobs and seconded by Mike Zelig.

RUTH OJA ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP: Jen Cavanaugh reported that only 3 completed evaluations had gone through the Community Foundation portal. Jody Jacobs noted that had done it that afternoon. Susan Ellis found that she had difficulty navigating the portal; others had also. CAC members noted that it was difficult to have to make a choice, and wished that all 4 applicants could be granted a scholarship, as they were excellent candidates. CAC members wanted to request that the applications have names removed, so that it would be an objective evaluation, as the camper scholarships are. Jen agreed that she would give that comment to the Community Foundation. Jen asked that any CAC member who had not entered their scores to do so within a day, and will e-mail a reminder.

ANNUAL ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP MAY 2, 2015: Sarah Imboden reported that she, Laurie Husted with two middle school students, Susan Ellis with her friend Anne Sinistore, Jody Jacobs and Mike Zelig participated. They did Kelly Road and Whaleback Road to Route 9G. A large portion of the trash was beer and liquor bottles and cigarette butts, along with fast food containers. Sarah was proud that the CAC had a good committee participation. CAC members suggested using a separate bag for

recyclables and discussed how to increase participation by doing more outreach.

WASTE SUBCOMMITTEE: Sarah Imboden reported that she had proposed a Textile Collection Day and had chosen a company to handle it that operates on a for-profit basis. The Town is asking for an opinion from Town Attorney Chris Chale regarding any potential conflict with having a for-profit company collection, when there are non-profit collection bins at the Recycling Center. When the legal situation is clarified, Sarah feels that the CAC can pursue an option and timing for the project. Jen Cavanaugh asked if the company paid the Town for its collection. Sarah replied that they paid 5 cents per pound. CAC members agreed that the main purpose of a textile collection project is to remove as much as possible from the waste stream. Sarah will continue work on the project and keep the CAC updated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ◆ *Talk at Bard College with former Riverkeeper John Cronin* : Laurie Husted asked Sarah to announce that John Cronin would be giving a talk titled “The River We Imagined, How We saved the Hudson and Can Again.” It will be Friday, May 15 at 11 A.M.
- ◆ *Tour de Red Hook and Bike Rodeo May 16* : Sarah reported that the events will be held on the weekend. It will be 1 – 4 P.M. on Saturday, starting at the High School. The Kingston Bike shop will offer free tune-ups for bikers. It is sponsored by the Village of Red Hook and the Town. The Tour de Red Hook will use Benner and Rokeby roads. Susan Ellis noted that the route is not very safe for groups of bikers, as it is very windy and has no shoulder.

Laurie Husted joined the meeting.

- ◆ *Habitat Connectivity Study* : The study sponsored through the Hudson River Estuary Program has done a pilot project documenting the habitat resources for the Town of Red Hook. Laura Heady, Conservation and Land Use Coordinator, will present the results and recommendations to the Town Board at their next meeting, which should be Wednesday, May 27, 2015.

PLANNING BOARD MINUTES REVIEW: Mike Zelig reported that the Planning Board continued discussion of the Willms Revokable Trust / R & R Development of Red Hook, Inc. (Zengen) Lot Line Alteration, Subdivision and Site Plan. The proposed single family house cannot connect to Village Water, and the Planning Board noted that the proposed well and septic will need to be approved by the Health Department prior to approval of the site plan.

HOFFMAN RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION: CAC members looked at a site plan for the proposal and discussed what a passive park would be and considerations for street

lighting. Laurie Husted felt that parks and recreational possibilities are positive. CAC members did have questions about who would pick up and maintain park and trail areas. Sarah will draft a memo of some of the CAC's questions and recognize the developer's inclusion of the Hucklebush Railroad trail reference.

SAWKILL CREEK MONITORING PROGRAM – PROFESSOR ELI DUEKER AT BARD COLLEGE: Laurie Husted asked Jen Cavanaugh about helping with a Water Stewardship Grant that Eli is trying to apply for to expand the Sawkill Creek Monitoring Program. Jen has spoken with Eli about the application, which is due in June. The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has asked him to apply under two different funding programs, one for the monitoring research program, and one for the stewardship program. He is looking for a stakeholder group for the stewardship program. What he needs from the CAC is a letter of support for the grants and for assistance with approval from the Town Board. Jen did not get the impression that he was asking for CAC help in writing the grant, but Laurie had met with the group working on the grant, and will check whether or not he was looking for her help with the Bard end or needed more assistance from the CAC.

Bard College Sawkill Creek Monitoring Team Presentation and Riverkeeper Slide Show: Susan Ellis reported on the presentation of the Bard College Sawkill Creek Water Monitoring Team, along with a slide show of the Riverkeeper sponsored Hudson River Tributaries Project assessing the impacts of the tributaries in the Mid Hudson area on the quality of Hudson River water. Eli Dueker's students showed graphs and photos of the water monitoring that they had done for four sites on the Sawkill Creek at Bard College. They were very pleased to find that their results exceeded the Riverkeeper standard of quality relating to suitability for swimming. Along with their studies, the students had digitized and compared data collected from a monitoring project involving the CAC from 1976 – 1982. One of the goals of the students is to make students and residents think about how their daily lives and actions impact their water sources. They are interested in expanding the project, which is the reason for the grant applications. Jen added that Eli is most interested in having the project driven by stakeholder concerns.

OUTDOOR WOODBURNING FURNACES: Laurie Husted reported that there are a small number of outdoor woodburning furnaces that were grandfathered at the time the Town placed regulations on installation permits and burning times. The furnaces impact air quality and affect neighbors. Laurie noted that there is a grant to get residents to replace them. She sent the information to Denis Collett for his opinion and advice on any action the CAC should take, as he had experienced the situation. Mike asked if any other residents had complained about neighbors burning, adding that when you pass by one there is a phenomenal amount of smoke. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has certified a more efficient model and offers grants for replacement. Laurie

asked if any CAC member would like to address the issue. Jen Cavanaugh asked if information is available on how many there are and where they are located. Laurie said that she would check on that information.

RECORD OF CAC RESOURCE MATERIAL: Sarah Imboden and Susan Ellis met for a few hours to inventory the maps and publications in the Conference Room and looked at storage options in the basement. Town Clerk Sue McCann also showed them the CAC room files. The CAC room is currently shared by Judge Triebwasser and is not always available to work in. All thought that it would be better to have them removed and stored in the basement space as long as there is adequate dehumidification. Sarah said that it might have been a good job for an intern, though it would be necessary to have a CAC member or other Town employee with the knowledge of which records and publications are necessary to keep. At present, no one has the available time to do the project. Laurie said that it is good that there is a beginning list that the CAC can review and work out decisions for handling the material.

FACEBOOK PAGE: Jody Jacobs has started a Facebook page for the CAC. He brought his computer and showed it to members. It will help to distribute information about CAC activities. CAC members discussed how to administrate posting and keep the site updated and relevant.

ROUTE 9G TRAFFIC DISCUSSION AT BARD COLLEGE: Laurie reported that she attended one session of the discussion about how to handle traffic issues on Route 9G corridor from Route 199 to Tivoli. Participants were asked to go to sections for pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers to tell where they had trouble spots. The information should help determine alterations and safety measures for the corridor.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 at 7 P.M. at Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary