

Draft

**TOWN OF RED HOOK  
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting  
July 8, 2015

Members present: Acting Chairwoman Sarah Imboden, Susan Ellis, Jen Cavanaugh, Mike Zelig, Denis Collet, Ross Gould (7:29 P.M.)

Absent: Chairwoman Laurie Husted, Jody Jacobs, Anne Rubin (clerking for ZBA)

**CALL TO ORDER / QUORUM:** Acting Chairwoman Sarah Imboden called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M. A quorum was present.

**MINUTES OF THE CAC MEETING ON JUNE 10, 2015:** The minutes of the June 10, 2015 meeting were approved with a motion made by Jen Cavanaugh and seconded by Denis Collet.

**PLANNING BOARD REVIEWS:** Mike Zelig reported on the Planning Board meeting of July 6, 2015.

*Ruge's Automotive Site Plan for expansion of auto parts store:* At a public hearing for the expansion site plan, the Planning Board addressed the issue that the plan does not comply with the Traditional Neighborhood Development Commercial Center zoning district (TND-CC), where road frontage is landscaped and parking is on the side or rear. The public hearing will be continued to August 17, where the applicant needs to submit an alternative plan to address the issue.

*Hoffman Residential Development Public Hearing :* CAC members discussed the proposed phasing of the development and the need to have coordination of trails and connections during that time. Denis Collet has suggested that the developer offer Zero Net Energy housing options, stating that even though the initial cost of the home will be greater, they may be the first to sell, because they will have long term energy savings. CAC members agreed that traffic increase will be an issue until the State Department of Transportation (DOT) agrees to installation of traffic lights and crosswalks.

Sarah Imboden continued that the Planning Board and experts were generally pleased that the Hoffman Residential Development plan has addressed most of the standards for the Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) zoning. Jen Cavanaugh noted that

the land that is under conservation easement is largely wetland area that is required to be conserved.

*Ross Gould joined the meeting.*

Mike Zelig added that the State DOT does not consider that the increased traffic projected from the development meets the threshold for installing a traffic light. There may be future development that warrants traffic signals at the two intersections accessing the development. Mike concluded by noting that the Planning Board left the Public Hearing open until their next meeting for residents that were not aware of the meeting.

*Flag Lot Regulations* : Sarah Imboden reported that the Intermunicipal Task Force notified the Planning Board that they were interested in revision to the flag lot regulations. They submitted a draft proposal of revisions for the Planning Board's consideration.

**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT INTERESTED IN WORKING WITH THE CAC ON CLIMATE CHANGE:** Denis Collet reported that Clea Schumer spoke at the last Town Board meeting. She has been to a Climate Conference at which she signed up for the task of planning and executing 10 events for the school year involving climate change, such as renewable energy. She asked the Town Board to sign a letter of support for her project and is interested in working with the CAC.

**SAWKILL WATERSHED MONITORING PROJECT:** Jen Cavanaugh reported that she and Laurie Husted attended a meeting with Professor Eli Dueker and his watershed monitoring team. The goal is to create a community driven scientific research on the Sawkill Creek watershed. A Community Stakeholder Group will be established to develop questions and a list of concerns that will become the focus of what the Bard College program will study. There was a huge turnout. Among them were Eli with his students, DEC Hudson River Estuary and Hudson River Watershed Alliance representatives, Library representatives, Mary Pat Budd who does sampling for Red Hook Middle School, Village officials, Robert McKeon, Bard professors and Dutchess County Soil and Water. Jen said that it was encouraging to have so many interested people for a small watershed that has not shown major red flags for pollution. They are working to establish a Sawkill Watershed Group and decide what the mission will be. Jen will be attached to two parts of the group, and will provide information as it progresses.

**NATURAL RESOURCES TRAINING DAY:** Sara Imboden announced that there is a Natural Resources Inventory Training Day on July 14, 2105 at the Dutchess Land

Conservancy, and asked if any CAC members were interested in attending. No one present felt that they could. CAC members asked what the Town had available for Natural Resource Inventory Maps; Susan Ellis gave a summary of the efforts on the Town level over the years, and an indication of resource maps that were purchased. The information from the seminar would most likely be updated technologies for overlaying resource information and how to use digitized materials for parcel evaluations. Sarah said that the CAC should look at what is currently available at the Town, and how up to date it is. Susan Ellis suggested that the CAC find out which maps the Planning Board uses for resource information, and resources for which they might want more information.

**2015 PLANNING AND ZONING SCHOOL AT THE WALLACE CENTER:** Sarah Imboden announced that the annual summer training sponsored by the NYS Planning Federation and the NYS Association of Towns will be held on July 15, 2015 at the FDR Library Wallace Center. It is a whole day conference, and Sarah plans to attend.

**HARDSCRABBLE DAY 2015:** Sarah Imboden asked CAC members to think about plans for the upcoming Hardscrabble Day in September. Jen Cavanaugh asked about having a textiles collection, which will be considered. CAC members discussed other options for increasing recycling education.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday August 12, 2015 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary