

Draft

**TOWN OF RED HOOK  
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting  
August 12, 2015

Members present: Chairwoman Laurie Husted, Susan Ellis, Ross Gould, Jody Jacobs, Mike Zelig, Sarah Imboden (7:26 P.M.)

Absent: Denis Collet, Jen Cavanaugh, Anne Rubin

Guest: Councilwoman Brenda Cagle, Clea Schumer – High School student working on climate change events

**CALL TO ORDER / QUORUM:** Chairwoman Laurie Husted called the meeting to order at 7:12 P.M. A quorum was present. Denis Collet had to be out of town, but invited guest Clea Schumer, who had expressed interested in working with the CAC on climate change issues.

**MINUTES OF CAC MEETING ON JULY 8, 2015:** The minutes were approved with a motion made by Jody Jacobs and seconded by Sarah Imboden when she joined the meeting.

**EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT:** Laurie Husted announced that there would be a presentation by Hunter Lovins titled “Facing the Water Crisis: Sustaining Our Most Precious Resource.” It will be held at Bard College and Omega Institute on August 21, 2015. Ross Gould was interested in attending.

**MOVING DUTCHESS 2 SURVEY AND RED HOOK TRAILS GRANT SURVEY:** Laurie asked if any CAC members had filled out either of the surveys that were sent by e-mail. Some had filled out one or the other, but there was some question about the links going through. Laurie said that she would resend the links to all the members.

**CLIMATE CHANGE EVENT PLANS:** Laurie Husted introduced Clea Schumer from Red Hook High School. Clea attended a Climate Reality Leadership Corps training in Toronto, where Al Gore and other professionals spoke about all aspects of climate change and led a Day of Action petition rally. At the end, she signed a Climate Change Pledge to produce 10 events for local communities that relate to climate change issues over the coming year. Her first event will be at the Red Hook Library on August 20, at 5:30 P.M.

Clea discussed targeting an audience with posters and fliers; Jody Jacobs suggested adding a notice to the CAC Facebook page.

Susan Ellis suggested that Clea might be interested in coordinating an event to help with the expanded Sawkill Creek Watershed Monitoring Project proposal arranged by Professor Eli Dueker at Bard College. He is working on a grant to expand the monitoring to the whole Sawkill Creek watershed, with a partnership of community stakeholders to help define goals and concerns to focus their research and determine proposals for future protection. He already works with Mary Pat Budd of the Middle School. Susan said that a connection with high school students would be helpful.

Susan related the history of the Red Hook Rod and Gun Club and CAC partnership in an early Sawkill Creek water monitoring program. The new Sawkill Creek Watershed Monitoring Project will be able to compare the 1976 – 1982 data collected by the CAC and Red Hook Gun Club, and analyzed at the Bard College chemistry lab, with data that will be provided by the proposed extension of the water monitoring. Susan noted that Clea might find a connection to the climate change discussion with that. The CAC thanked Clea for her presentation and looks forward to working with her.

*Sarah Imboden joined the meeting.*

**PLANNING BOARD MEETING REPORT:** Mike Zelig reported on the August 3 Planning Board meeting.

- ◆ *Hoffman Residential Development* : Mike reported that the Planning Board closed the Public Hearing. There were some concerns about stormwater runoff that the developer gave a good response to, and continuing concern about traffic accessing Route 9 at Old Farm Road.
- ◆ *Old Gaslight Motel Expansion Application as Shafer's Hudson Valley Motel*: There is a question about the wetland buffer, which will be impacted by the driveway for the expansion, and will need permitting from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).
- ◆ *Jaeger House (old Sportsmen's Inn)* : The plan for Jaeger House is to have a beer garden. They need approval from the NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) and the County Department of Public Works (DPW) for their proposal to have an entrance on Route 9G and an exit on West Kerley Corners Road. There is a sight distance problem with a dip in West Kerley Corners Road. They also need a sewage system approval from Dutchess County.
- ◆ *Bard Media Building* : Laurie Husted reported that the Planning Board did a good job of preserving the scenic appearance and gave a variance for a smaller building.

**TOWN BOARD REPORT:** Brenda Cagle reported that Brian Kelly was appointed to the vacancy for the Planning Board, but there is still a need for alternates for both the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals.

**CAC FACEBOOK PAGE:** Laurie Husted asked Jody Jacobs about being added as an administrator on the CAC Facebook Page so that she could post directly, and asked if any other CAC member would like to be.

**NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY SEMINAR:** Mike Zelig attended the seminar presented by Laura Heady from DEC Estuary Grants and Bob Wills from Dutchess County Planning. They offered a tool called Creating a Natural Resources Inventory, which is to be used to compile maps, data and a report that defines goals, findings and recommendations for the future to preserve the resources of the Town. Mike said that he was sure that the natural inventory resource information for the Town needs updating and asked Susan Ellis when it had been done. Susan replied that different maps were done at different times, and some resource data would have little change, whereas new information, such as biodiversity should be updated. She added that it seems more important to have the Planning Board comment on what information they feel is needed for their work; they would probably need digital overlays. Brenda Cagle noted that there are certain maps used frequently, the applicant is required to provide mapping for site specific information, and Planning Consultant Michele Greig would research resources for her project evaluations. Susan Ellis added that in the early work on natural resources inventory maps, land use was one of the more changeable categories. It was originally done from tax parcel information, and now should be updated with habitat connectivity and biodiversity information. It would be a large commitment for volunteers, and really needs hired professionals to do it. Brenda said that compiling a record of the information that applicants have been required to provide would give a clearing house for resource information. Laurie Husted noted that there was a recent 3 day conference on habitat evaluation asked if the CAC should consider having a member trained for it. Laurie asked Mike Zelig if he would send a query to Michele Greig about what maps she uses, and how the Creating a Natural Resources Inventory Tool could be helpful for Planning.

**GRANTS / PARTNERSHIPS:** Laurie Husted talked about updates for grants and partnerships.

- ◆ *Organics* : Laurie reported that there was a kick-off meeting for a Dutchess County Organic Waste Grant, and it is in the information gathering stage. Laurie has Clea Schumer working to compile records of the waste at the Bard college sewer plant to share with the committee working on the grant. There will be consideration of commercial and residential wastes, and the potential for work on a composting operation for residents. Sarah Imboden noted that there had been

proposals for a composting operation and an anaerobic digester which did not materialize, but it should eventually happen. Creating bio-energy from organics is more energy efficient use of organic waste, and the Cornell Grant for Cooperative Extension may move forward. The CAC and Brenda considered that the Town might work towards a pilot project status.

- ◆ *Solar NY* : Laurie Husted noted that Solar NY has offered to help Red Hook streamline its planning process for commercial installations.
- ◆ *Sidewalk Grant* : Brenda Cagle reported that last Thursday Town officials met with the top 3 engineering consultants chosen from the applicants for the design work on the Sidewalk Grant. The engineers will design the project and sub out the construction with their oversight. The Town will refine its scope of services and choose a top consultant to negotiate the bid. It is moving forward, though it is very complicated with Federal and State regulations.
- ◆ *Bike Racks and Bus Shelters* : Brenda mentioned that the County still is holding bike racks for the Town. Laurie said that she knew that the County was holding the bus shelter that the Town has not found an agreement for siting, but the bike racks could be used. There was a discussion of the considered sitings for a bus shelter.
- ◆ *Sawkill Creek Watershed Monitoring Grant partnership* : Laurie Husted announced that there would be a meeting of the Science Outreach Committee for the Sawkill Watershed project the next day. Susan Ellis said that Professor Eli Dueker was also planning to set a date in September to gather the other Sawkill Watershed committees to share their activities and findings. Laurie asked for ideas, as their task is to determine what existing outreach activities are happening in the watershed that may be integrated into the program.
- ◆ *Trails Grant* : Brenda Cagle presented a map of proposed trails for the Trails Grant. It was displayed at Tivoli Day, Greig Farm Market, the Bike Shop and other public places for comment. The Trails Committee needs input gathered by the second week of September. Brenda asked if someone could distribute them at the school. There was discussion about how to mark out and rate trails options.

*Brenda Cagle left the meeting. The CAC thanked her for her reports and input.*

**HARDSCRABBLE DAY 2015:** Sarah Imboden reported that at the last meeting CAC members spoke of holding a Textiles Collection event at Hardscrabble Day in September. Sarah had brought the idea from the New Paltz Transfer Station Center which has had successful collections and has a staff member allotted to it. Her efforts to arrange a hauler and collection in the spring did not work. There are pros and cons to doing one in the fall along with Hardscrabble Day. Sarah attended a meeting of the Ulster / Dutchess League of Women Voters chaired by Kathy O'Connor. They have an active program of textiles collection and suggested that the CAC needs to promote one successful collection to get the interest of haulers. Sarah spoke of some of the options

and the work that they would require. She noted that textile recycler US Again would not send a hauler unless the Town had a bin on its property. Laurie Husted said that an event does not offer continuing service, and not a problem that the CAC needs to solve. Sarah agreed that the CAC could table it for now.

Sarah relayed another idea for Hardscrabble Day to improve communication about recycling is to have a table of information about about recycling options, putting together “Did you know facts,” or displaying what plastic bags can be recycled.

**BICYCLE / PEDESTRIAN COUNTS:** Laurie Husted announced that bicycle/ pedestrian counts will be in September. She is looking for CAC members to sign up for time slots.

**ENVIRONMENTAL UNDERSTUDY INTERN PROGRAM (EUS):** Laurie Husted is the Administrator of the EUS intern program at Bard College and asked the CAC to propose a suitable project. Reviewing the Environment and Climate Action Plan (ECAP) was a suggestion. Laurie added that the CAC should review the ECAP to determine what actions were suggested that need to be worked on. She asked members to choose a section and list up to 10 actions. Laurie agreed to do the Water Section, Jody Jacobs the Energy section, and Mike Zelig the Transportation section.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, September 9, 2015 at 7 P.M. At the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary