

Draft

**TOWN OF RED HOOK  
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting  
September 9, 2015

Members present: Chairwoman Laurie Husted, Susan Ellis, Denis Collet, Mike Zelic, Jen Cavanaugh, Jody Jacobs, Sarah Imboden (7:17)

Absent: Anne Rubin, Ross Gould

Guest: Clea Schumer. Red Hook High School student working on climate change events

**CALL TO ORDER / QUORUM**”: Chairwoman Laurie Husted called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M. A quorum was present.

**MINUTES OF THE CAC MEETING ON AUGUST 12, 2015:** Laurie Husted asked for a correction of the page 2 Planning Board Meeting Report paragraph on the Bard Media Building application. She noted that the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) had granted an area variance for the proposed project, but that the Planning Board asked Bard representatives to return with alternatives and improved images to show how mitigation measures would address the goal of maintaining the scenic road context. The minutes were approved as amended with a motion made by Sarah Imboden and seconded by Laurie Husted.

**HARDSCRABBLE DAY SEPTEMBER 19, 2015:** Laurie Husted presented options for a flyer to pass out at a table at the Red Hook Library. The flyer would ask “What does the Sawkill Creek Watershed mean to you?” CAC members discussed which design would best show the context of the watershed and the relevance to the person looking at it. There were suggestions of making a frame of reference with the Town boundaries and adjoining watershed boundaries. Some road names and landmarks would be helpful, if not cluttering the map.

In response to Denis Collet's questions about the mission of the outreach and if a particular issue needed to be addressed, Jen Cavanaugh explained that Professor Eli Dueker of Bard and his student Sawkill Creek Water Monitoring project had presented their findings on the quality of the water at four sites at Bard College and were interested in pursuing a grant project to extend the project for the full expanse of the Sawkill Creek Watershed. Their goal for the project is to create community driven research to reflect

the concerns of community stakeholders. From the results of this research they will propose methods for the community to protect the watershed. To accomplish this goal, they have met with Laurie, Jen, Susan Ellis and other interested parties, and established 3 subcommittees – research, stewardship and outreach. Susan Ellis added that they are also supported by the Hudson Riverkeeper and the Hudson River Estuary Program, whereby they are not just testing the creek, they are also providing information on the influence of tributary inputs to the Hudson River and their impact on the quality of the Hudson River.

**BICYCLE / PEDESTRIAN COUNTS:** The Bicycle / Pedestrian counts will be done on Tuesday 9/15, Wednesday 9/16 and Thursday 9/17, with Saturday 9/12 replacing Saturday 9/19, which is Hardscrabble Day. CAC members decided what times they could take for the hours needed.

#### **EVENTS:**

- ◆ *Climate Smart Communities Seminar:* Laurie Husted announced that a Climate Smart Communities sponsored seminar would be held in Newburgh on Friday September 5, from 9 A.M.- 5 P.M.
- ◆ *350.org Webinar:* Laurie reported that she signed up for a 350.org webinar on September 10, 2015 titled “Off and On: the Climate Movement and the Road through Paris.” Jody Jacobs expressed interest.
- ◆ *Solarize Hudson Valley Program:* Laurie Husted announced that she was looking for company to attend the Solarize Hudson Valley program on Tuesday, September 22 from 7 – 9:30 P.M. at the Farm and Home Center in Millbrook and help determine what Red Hook could do to participate in Solarize Dutchess County proposals.
- ◆ *Walkway to Paris :* A Bard College professor has organized a rally for climate action on the Walkway over the Hudson for October 16, 2015 from 1– 5 P.M.

**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION REPORT ON RUTH OJA ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP:** Jen Cavanaugh reported that she had been contacted by the Foundation and given an updated budget sheet. There is additional money for several more years, and the Community Foundation program for selecting recipients will be adjusted for the next year to address CAC comments.

**CAC BUDGET:** Laurie Husted received a notice from Budget Officer Rose Rider that the CAC has \$500 remaining in the 2015 budget. CAC members discussed whether or not there were any upcoming conferences that would be worthwhile expenditures. There is the Solarize Hudson Valley program on September 22 in Millbrook, and a Dutchess County Trails Conference at Marist on October 10, 9 A.M.- 4 P.M. Denis Collet wanted to know if CAC members could plan ahead for funding more expensive training courses,

or sending more CAC members to presentations. Laurie replied that if any members knew of a valuable course coming up to let her know and the CAC would decide which and how many to attend.

Laurie reported that the CAC has \$1500 from NYSERDA grant rebate that could be used for an intern project. Laurie had suggested the possibility of doing a new educational brochure, a rain barrel distribution project or another round of compost bins.

### **ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (ECAP) FOR RED HOOK:**

At the August CAC meeting, Laurie Husted had asked CAC members to take a section of the ECAP to review recommended actions for possible projects to use an intern.

- ◆ *Transportation:* Mike Zelig reported on his review of the Transportation Section. The goals were to reduce carbon emissions, which fell into two categories – encouraging walking and bicycling to reduce use of engines, and working to encourage more efficient engine use, such as purchasing hybrid/electric vehicles for Town maintenance, facilitating carpooling, and developing strategies for reducing idling time of vehicles. Mike suggested that an intern could take the task of comparing what of these situations have changed since the ECAP was approved. For example, he noted that there is work in progress to increase safe sidewalks. The intern might also reach out to other similar communities to collect information on what they have done that could be useful to Red Hook.
- ◆ *Waste:* For the Waste Section of the ECAP, Sarah Imboden suggested that an intern could be asked to inventory the collection bins around the Town and create a brochure and web link. It would be helpful to consider all the types of waste that don't fit into the usual categories and research ways that they can be recycled.

Laurie Husted asked Clea Schumer if she would have the time outside of her ten event Climate Change Action projects to work on the internship. Clea replied that for the year she needs to finish her events and make college plans, so she might be able to help here or there, but not develop the project. Denis Collet asked Clea what her plans are for the remaining Climate Change Action events. Clea's first presentation was at the Red Hook Library, where she did a power point on the basic elements of climate change. She was contacted afterwards by the group Teachers of Hudson Valley asking her to blog about climate change action as active leadership. Dutchess County Legislator Joel Tyner asked her to take a leadership role in speaking for a rally. Clea said that she is trying to get more information from Citizens For Local Power on Community Choice Aggregation. Sarah Imboden said that they seem to be more focused on Ulster County right now, but suggested that Clea work as a conduit for sharing their activities with Dutchess County.

**INTERNSHIP / PHOTOJOURNALIST:** Laurie noted a suggestion of using a photojournalist for an internship to document local environmental situations to promote a different response to photos than with power points or brochures. Jen Cavanaugh asked the CAC to develop a list of projects that would be suitable for an internship so that when the money and person are available the CAC doesn't have to scramble to find a project. There was discussion of considering advertising for a photojournalist or videographer to make a proposal for what they could produce for what the CAC could spend. Denis Collet suggested considering production of 5 minute videos for You Tube as an affordable project. Susan Ellis noted that the CAC never completed all the "GREEN Spots" planned for PANDA TV. CAC members thought that it might be a good idea to revisit and build on that project.

**PLANNING REVIEW REPORT:** Mike Zelig noted that there was no Planning Board meeting on Labor Day, and the minutes of August 17 were not posted yet, so he had no report.

**DUTCHESS COUNTY BIKE / PEDESTRIAN TASK FORCE PRESENTATION:** Sarah Imboden attended (for Laurie) the presentation about a restored / created trail along the ridgeline near Breakneck Point. Scenic Hudson was working on the planning with a grant, and made the presentation to inform the Task Force. It is along the Hudson near the Amtrak rails. It covers the full gamut of challenges from right-of-way to access issues. Sarah reported to the Task Force that Red Hook is in the Master Plan phase for a comprehensive trail plan, and they asked if Red Hook would give a report on it for the future.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 at 6:15 P.M. at the Town Hall. The Bard Sawkill Creek Water Monitoring Project headed by Professor Eli Dueker will discuss the progress of the subcommittees working to expand the program to cover the whole Sawkill Creek Watershed.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary