

Draft

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting
November 11, 2015

Members present: Chairwoman Laurie Husted, Susan Ellis, Jen Cavanaugh,
Mike Zelig, Sarah Imboden

Absent: Jody Jacobs, Ross Gould, Anne Rubin, Denis Collet

Guests: Madison Emond, a Bard College intern working on a photographic interpretation of Climate Action communications for the CAC, and Supervisor elect Robert McKeon

CALL TO ORDER / QUORUM: Chairwoman Laurie Husted called the meeting to order at 7:25 P.M. A quorum was present. Laurie noted that Ross Gould and Jody Jacobs e-mailed that they would be unable to come and Anne Rubin was clerking at the ZBA.

CAC MEMBERSHIP POSITIONS: Laurie Husted had asked what CAC members are up for reappointment and Susan Ellis will find out from Town Clerk Sue McCann. As Councilwoman Elect, Sarah Imboden's position will be open as of January 2016. CAC members discussed the procedure for applicants to join the CAC and potential candidates.

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 14, 2015 CAC MEETING: Laurie Husted noted that in the first paragraph of page 6, where she mentioned that Dutchess County had passed an ordinance to allow municipalities to grant financing of solar installations and energy efficiency upgrades on tax bills, she meant to stipulate only for commercial installations. (UPDATE) Riverkeeper representative Jen Epstein e-mailed a correction to page 2, first paragraph of her presentation. She noted that the name of *John Cronin* needed to be corrected to John Lipscomb, Water Quality Program Director. The minutes were approved as amended with a motion made by Laurie Husted and seconded by Mike Zelig.

LED LIGHTING ISSUE: Laurie Husted reported that the Town received a letter from Central Hudson asking if it would sign on for renting poles for an upgrade of municipal lighting to LED lights. Laurie made a recommendation that the Town not sign the letter,

as most of the cost of the Lighting Districts is the rental from Central Hudson. There is a meeting on Thursday, November 12 at 8:30 A.M. to discuss the issue, and Laurie intends to go to hear what options and considerations are discussed about LED street lighting. Sarah Imboden noted that the Villages of Red Hook and Tivoli are also considering the same blanket agreement. More information would enable the CAC to determine what option to recommend to the Town.

Laurie Husted welcomed Madison (Mads) Emond and Supervisor Elect Robert McKeon to the meeting. Laurie and the CAC congratulated Robert McKeon and Sarah Imboden on their recent election.

PHOTOGRAPHIC PROJECT ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN RED HOOK:

Laurie Husted introduced Mads Emond, a Bard College photojournalism student working on an intern project for the CAC to photographically demonstrate how Red Hook is addressing recommendations in the Red Hook Environmental and Climate Action Plan (E-CAP).

Mads Emond described the project categories as land use, energy, transportation and waste. She presented photos for discussion of which would fit the interests of the CAC and how they would be used. She did roadside photos showing litter for waste, photos of free standing solar panels for energy and bicycles for transportation. She plans to take more photos of solar installations. She suggested creating a collage with the bicycle photos for visual interest.

Laurie asked Mads about ways to integrate the photos on Facebook and social media, with a challenge to residents to think about what they see in the photos, where they might be, and to see how residents interact with the images. They also discussed a possible display in Taste Budd's. Mads added that she is interested in connecting more photos to scenic roads and wants to do shoots of old stone walls to bring out thoughts of the history of land use. She is working up a map showing the sites.

Susan Ellis described situations where drainage ditches and wetlands have been used for disposal of yard wastes, old toys and other unwanted items, defeating the purpose of the drainage. Laurie suggested that photos of such situations might make good subjects for a blog that would offer them for comment and become an educational tool. Jen Cavanaugh asked Mads about adding titles and captions for the photos, and whether or not she was ready to have the CAC choose the preferred photos. Jen thought that the collage idea is good, but perhaps for solar installations instead of bikes. Sarah suggested shot of the Village four corners for bikes, pedestrians and cars; Laurie asked Mads to try. Jen suggested that the Scenic Hudson Tree planting on Sawkill Farm Saturday November 4, 2015 would be a good subject for positive land use action. CAC members thanked Mads for her presentation.

REFORMING THE ENERGY VISION (REV) HEARING AT 6 P.M. ON NOVEMBER 12, 2015 AT KINGSTON HIGH SCHOOL: Laurie Husted reminded CAC members that the NYS Public Service Commission (PSC) is holding a public information session followed by a Public Statement Hearing on energy and utility reform proposals as part of the State's REV initiative. Citizens For Local Power (CLP) has been an active party in proceedings in Albany, and pushed for local hearings, of which this is the only one for this region. Laurie noted that she has a conflict, but CLP would really like local officials and public to comment, and their talking points are good. Sarah Imboden is still thinking about attending; she reviewed the talking points prepared by CLP and agreed with them. She also thought that there would be other opportunities for comment.

CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES (CSC) WEBINAR - ELECTRIC VEHICLE PROCUREMENT GUIDANCE FOR LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES: Laurie Husted announced that this also is planned for November 12, 2015 from 10:30 A.M. - 12 P.M. She has done it for Bard College and asked for anyone interested in registering. She will send a link to Robert McKeon.

PLANNING BOARD REVIEWS: Mike Zelig reported that there have been some minor approvals and gave details of two other applications:

- ◆ *Peter and Sarah Sweeny Minor Subdivision application* : The Sweenys are applicants for a two lot subdivision of 27 acres on Stonybrook Road in Tivoli. The Stony Creek runs through the property. The Planning Board has requested revisions to the proposal to comply with the National Historic Landmarks District, stream, flood plain and wetland buffer considerations. It is also a sensitive archeological area. The applicants will have to return with more information.
- ◆ *Ruge's Parts Center Expansion application* : Ruge's is requesting a 6000 square foot addition to the Parts Center building. Their tractor trailers come in at 4:30A.M., so Planning is requesting a berm or plantings to minimize impact on the neighborhood, as well as motion sensor lights to minimize night lighting. Jen Cavanaugh asked if the project was the same that Ruge's applied for several months ago. Mike Zelig replied that they had applied for the allowable expansion for a non-conforming use, but Planning is working to make adjustments so that the project fits into the Traditional Neighborhood Zoning model.

TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE: Laurie Husted reported that Ross Gould e-mailed that he had contact with the owner of the Red Hook Diner, who indicated that he would be agreeable to having a bus shelter located on the property. However, Laurie noted that past attempts made to reach the owner of the parcel for discussion of permission, were not successful. While the Diner owner might be agreeable, it would depend upon what is allowed under his rental agreement and also

might depend upon who maintains the landscape of the property, the Diner or someone hired by the parcel owner. Another option discussed was going back to look for an agreement for siting it in the Village of Red Hook. There will need to be follow-up work.

TRAILS MEETING: Laurie Husted announced that there would be a public meeting on the Trails Plan in the Week of November 30, 2015. The CAC will be asked to comment upon the Plan, and Laurie has a link for reviewing it.

DEC SUMMER ENVIRONMENTAL CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS: Jen Cavanaugh e-mailed Ragy Begay about a Thank you letter; Sarah Imboden noted that it was read at the Town Board meeting. Jen will see that it is forwarded to the VFW. Laurie added that plans need to be made for next year's applications. Jen suggested consideration of whether or not the CAC wanted to continue the the effort of promoting and choosing applicants, and securing funding, or could focus on directing students to the options of other organizations, as the CAC cannot budget the funding.

ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE: Laurie Husted gave a report that the Solarize Hudson Valley grant application is still in the works. Laurie said that she would continue to reach out to gather a coalition of municipalities and was given suggestions about people who might help keep the project going.

E-WASTE COLLECTION: Laurie Husted said that Village Mayor Ed Blundell is interested in participating again. She reported that Bard College has changed e-waste vendors for the 2016 Community Day of Giving e-waste collection. There will be an added charge for televisions of 35 cents per pound. In order to do a flat rate, Laurie and the organizers are suggesting a \$5 per TV charge. The CAC discussed pros and cons of how it would impact the collection.

TOWN CULVERT FEASIBILITY STUDY: Jen Cavanaugh reported that there is continuing discussion about implementing a study for feasibility of culvert retrofitting. There is a grant that was due that the Town was not ready to apply for, because there needs to be more information about which culverts would meet what DEC wants to see done and what Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke needs to get done. There is another Hudson River Estuary grant option for planning. At a meeting with Theresa and Town Engineer Brandee Nelson, they discussed and determined a possibility of doing planning for flooding bridges near Kelly Road and what it would take to replace them. That grant is due in December, and Brandee is supposed to put together a "to do list" of what she, Theresa and Jen would handle.

Laurie Husted noted that Bard College applied for a feasibility study of the Bard dams through IBM.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, December 9, 2015 at 6 P.M. at the Town Hall

**** NOTE early start ****

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary