

Draft

**TOWN OF RED HOOK  
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting  
February 10, 2016

Members present: Chairwoman Laurie Husted, Susan Ellis, Mike Zelic, Jen Cavanaugh, Lori Urbin, Michael Callejo, Denis Collet (7:11 P.M.), Jody Jacobs (7:23 P.M.)

Absent: Ross Gould

Guest: Bard College intern Madison Emond, Supervisor Robert Mckeeon (8:21 P.M.)

**CALL TO ORDER / QUORUM:** Chairwoman Laurie Husted called the meeting to order at 7:09 P.M. A quorum was present. Laurie announced that Lori Urbin and Michael Callejo have received their appointments from the Town Board, and welcomed them as CAC members. The CAC now has full membership at 9 members.

**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 9, 2015 CAC MEETING:** \*\* There was no January meeting of the CAC, as members worked on the e-waste collection day.\*\* The minutes of the December 9, 2015 CAC meeting were approved with a motion made by Jen Cavanaugh and seconded by Mike Zelic.

**MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY OF ENGAGEMENT E-WASTE COLLECTION AND ACTIVITIES.** Laurie Husted asked Michael Callejo about his experience with the project. Michael reported that for the MLK Day of Civic Engagement at Bard College, he and a group of classmates came to the Recycling Center to help with an e-waste collection. They helped residents unload unwanted electronic items, such as printers and televisions, collecting over 7,000 lbs. Laurie noted that the last year's collection brought in 3 times as much. The decrease could have been affected by the fee charged for older and bulkier tv's, or the fact there are fewer older and heavier electronics that need disposal.

*Denis Collet joined the meeting.*

*Solarize Mosaic:* Laurie reported that the second project of MLK Day, doing a photo mosaic about the Solarize Northern Dutchess program to upload on Facebook went well. It included a photo of the Solarize training group held earlier in January.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS:**

*Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Summer Camp Scholarships :* Jen Cavanaugh reported that camper slots need to be registered by the beginning of February, which leaves little time to advertise and determine camper selections. She added that the day of registration opened at 10 A.M., and by early afternoon some camps were already full. With help from Laurie, the scholarship winners were determined to be Michael Holtman for the scholarship funded by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and Sara Scott for the scholarship funded by the Hendrick Hudson Lodge of Masons. The Town Board presentation of the scholarship winners will be on April 12, 2016. Jen has worked to get other organizations involved in the award, but has not yet found one.

*Ruth Oja Environmental Scholarship :* Jen has publicized the scholarship and posted it on Facebook. The deadline is April 1, 2016, so the CAC will not have the information for selection until then. Jen has spoken with the Community Foundation about sending applications for review without name or financial information, and they will help with that. Laurie Husted asked Michael Callejo if he could recommend ways to reach seniors.

**ZONING REVIEW COMMITTEE:** Laurie Husted asked CAC members to consider becoming the CAC Zoning Review Committee liaison to replace Anne Rubin. The ZRC meets only when needed for special situations.

**AMPHIBIAN MIGRATIONS:** Laurie Husted noted that she was putting out notice that she is calling for captains and volunteers to work on amphibian migrations, as some nights have already been above 40 degrees. Sarah Imboden already has a stretch that she has worked on. Lori Urbin said that she would be on call. Michael Callejo said that he could work in the Village and Laurie said that she has a Village captain who could call Michael if he found a migration. Susan Ellis noted that the list of projects for the Saw Kill Watershed Community included amphibian migrations.

**SAW KILL COMMUNITY WATERSHED MONITORING PROGRAM:** Laurie Husted announced that the monitoring program is set to kick off on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of April. Laurie had some more thoughts about other sites for monitoring, and Eli Dueker is considering whether or not to choose a week day instead, so that he could use it for a class. Lab analysis could take about 3-4 hours, so if grabbers start about noon and return by 4 P.M., analysis could be done by 8 P.M.

**TRAILS PLAN MEETING:** Laurie Husted reported that the Trails Plan Public Meeting drew residents and municipal officials, who commented on and ranked the consultants proposals for trails networks. Denis Collet noted that as liaison to the Intermunicipal Task Force, he had attended to represent the Solarize Northern Dutchess

program, but also was part of the Task Force discussion of how to decide trail issues, such as creating a riverfront trail, access through private property, liability, and the role of the Trails Committee. Denis had said that he would agree to be liaison to the Task Force, but didn't know that it met weekly. Susan Ellis noted that not all members could make every meeting. Susan added that at the Trails Plan meeting she had said that the river front trails have been the focus of much work and grant opportunities, but that a connection that works to follow the Hucklebush Trail would offer a path through the eastern sector of the Town, which is not currently served by biking and hiking opportunities. It could even be handicapped accessible for some parts. Laurie felt that there was not enough information to be able to rank trail choices, such as data about numbers of properties to be crossed and projected costs. Jen Cavanaugh added that since currently there is no money available for large projects, perhaps the CAC should start with suggesting small improvements.

*Mads Emond joined the meeting.*

#### PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS:

Laurie welcomed Mads Emond's return to update the CAC on her work for a photographic exhibit of environmental awareness in Red Hook images. Mads brought some larger prints of photos and a demonstration project that she did in an urban area. She added photos of the Saw Kill Farms Tree Planting Project, Denis Collet's solar electric panel and geothermal installation, and the Goods Exchange at the Recycling Center. Mads explained for new members that her intern project is to create photographic displays that will encourage residents to discuss what they see and how that relates to issues of energy, land use, transportation, and solid waste, with a goal of starting a dialogue about how the issues relate to our environment and how the community can partner to reduce negative impacts.

Jen Cavanaugh suggested that a first display should be done now to get a reaction from the community, and Susan Ellis added that if the residents are shown the display without knowing what they should see, the CAC will know what questions to ask. Mads asked that the CAC put her groupings on its Facebook page with an introduction asking "What do you see, and what do you want to know about this project?" Jen asked what her timeline would be, and she replied from the end of the semester through the summer. She will then refine the displays based on comments and have an exhibit at Taste Budds in the Fall. The CAC encouraged Mads and thanked her for the update.

*Mads Emond left the meeting .*

**PLANNING BOARD REVIEWS:** Mike Zelig reported that not a whole lot was happening.

- ◆ *Preserve at Lakes Kill* : The applicants were granted a delay as they worked out details of filing and agreements with the County Water and Waste Water

Authority.

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- ◆ *Hoffman Residential Development* : The development is getting close to Final Site Plan and Plat Approval. The Developers are working out easements that are to be granted to the Town and how the Homeowners' Association will be structured. They will try to accelerate the timeline for the gardens, trails and public spaces, so that they are done earlier in the construction phase. Denis Collet asked when the final approval would occur. Mike noted that the review of the community septic plan is not complete, and will be a large review. Jen Cavanaugh has written about CAC concerns with the water and waste water agreements.

*Robert McKeon joined the meeting.*

Denis Collet noted that he had a discussion with the Village about the use of Village water, fire and police resources, as the project is outside village boundaries. Denis also expressed concern that the Planning Board had not considered alternatives to fossil fuel as a sole energy source. Laurie Husted asked if Denis Collet had written Planning about energy alternatives. Denis replied that he has been doing research to get data that will demonstrate savings possible with solar or geothermal applications before he presents it to the Planning Board. Denis wants to be able to present the developers with figures that will show how renewable energy options can be achieved with similar construction costs, through grants and incentives, that would also provide customers with future energy savings. Denis said that he would be happy to have a meeting with the developers when he has all the facts and figures together. Laurie thanked Denis for working to research the information, and there will be further discussion.

Denis also asked how the Town would address reaching the goal stated in the Town's Environmental Climate Action Plan (E-CAP) of a 20 % reduction in carbon footprint from 2005 to 2020 if it did not start to address the impact of the current large developments under review.

**SOLARIZE NORTHERN DUTCHESS PROGRAM:** Laurie Husted and Denis Collet will attend a Solarize meeting on Thursday to interview six installers who were short listed by the Request For Proposals (RFP) process. The goal is to choose by Monday two for the project, one for commercial and one for residential. Denis suggested that they should ask other solarize responders who have done campaigns to answer how many installers they had worked with and if any issues came up with closing the deal. He has concerns that having two or three choices for the Solarize ND campaign would be confusing, and the campaign should choose the best presentation to achieve the maximum number of installations. Laurie replied that the goal is to educate residents about the solar options. Denis added that one of the choices would be that a

resident not sign up for the Solarize ND campaign, but hire their own installer.

CAC members discussed other criteria for choosing vendors. Jen Cavanaugh summed it up as low cost, high quality and quick service. Denis said that the 6 RFP's have 40 pages of response, which Solarize Hudson Valley assistant John Wackman has summarized. Laurie created a matrix for ranking responses and asked the CAC what suggestions members have for weighing the importance of the criteria. There was consideration of how important are issues such as proximity to the campaign area, lead management capacity (time of follow-up calls), installation capacity, marketing and advertising commitment, adequate staffing. The conclusion was to list 9 criteria, which Denis will rank from 1 – 10 for the interviews.

Denis Collet discussed the market pricing of the 6 RFP installers, their difference in cost per watts, discounts and whether or not their panels are made in the U.S. He said that some offered microinverters and some string inverters, noting that the microinverters are more efficient and durable. He also wants to compare their leasing options and power purchase agreements. Each one will offer an economy price and a range to a deluxe option.

Supervisor McKeon noted that as the Town is endorsing the Solarize ND program, there needs to be a hard look at any potential for failure of service of any chosen installer. Laurie Husted replied that the listed contractors have been approved by NYSERDA and carefully vetted by John Wackman, so the recommendations of any should be succesful.

Laurie noted that there are 7 public events planned to promote the Solarize ND campaign. The first will be held on Saturday, March 5 in Rhinebeck, and the second on Thursday March 17 from 6:00 - 7:30 P.M. at the Elmendorph Inn in Red Hook.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary