

Draft

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting
May 11, 2016

Members present: Chairwoman Laurie Husted, Susan Ellis, Mike Zelic, Lori Urbin, Mike Callejo, Jen Cavanaugh

Absent: Jody Jacobs, Denis Collet, Ross Gould

SAW KILL WATERSHED COMMUNITY GROUP (SKWC) : Michael Callejo reported on his involvement with the SKWC group and observed that it seems that there has not been enough communication among the group and other municipal agencies and organizations. For the summer he is planning to go to meetings for Economic Development, the Community Preservation Fund (CPF), the Red Hook Chamber of Commerce and others. Laurie Husted asked Michael if the CAC could give him the official role as liaison from the CAC. At this time, Michael indicated that he is focusing on learning about land use issues and how they are addressed in relation to impacts on the watershed.

CALL TO ORDER / QUORUM : Chairwoman Laurie Husted called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M. A quorum was present. Laurie noted that Denis Collet and Jody Jacobs notified her that they could not attend.

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 13, 2016 MEETING OF THE CAC: The minutes of the April 13, 2016 meeting were approved with a motion made by Lori Urbin and seconded by Mike Zelic.

RUTH OJA ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP: Jen Cavanaugh reported that Clea Schumer was awarded the scholarship. CAC members were all impressed with the candidates' applications, and agreed that Clea's ranking, environmental activities and commitment earned her the award. The CAC further decided that it would be beneficial to have a discussion with Ruth Oja and the Community Foundation about adding provision for more need based scholarship consideration.

AMPHIBIAN MIGRATION NIGHTS: Laurie Husted showed some of the photos taken on the migration nights.

CLEANER GREENER COMMUNITIES ORGANIC WASTE GRANT: Laurie Husted reported that the Town of Red Hook is on step 4.2 of its Organic Waste grant through Dutchess County Cooperative Extension. The last meeting was two weeks ago with Town Supervisors, asking them if they would be willing to site an organic composting facility. Laurie is hopeful that an agreeable arrangement can be worked out.

HUDSON RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY (HRES): Laurie Husted went to the Hudson River Estuary and Mohawk River “Coming Together of the Waters” conference sponsored by the HRES.

ECHO VALLEY ROAD IMPROVEMENT: Jen Cavanaugh reported that at the Apple Blossom Festival, Supervisor Robert McKeon spoke to her about a proposed narrowing of Echo Valley Road from a width of 26' to 22'. The road is scheduled to be repaved, and will need a plan revision, but the goal is to create a reduction in speed by confining the space, and thereby increase safety.

ZONING REVIEW COMMITTEE: Mike Zelig reported that he has been appointed to the Zoning Review Committee. On Thursday they are meeting. Mike will follow through to the end of the year, and has information about solar zoning legislation.

PERMEABLE PAVEMENT USE FOR HOFFMAN RESIDENTIAL

DEVELOPMENT: Jen Cavanaugh reported that she had relayed to Planning Consultant Michele Greig the CAC concerns about costs and maintenance of permeable pavement driveways proposed by developer Kirchoff Associates. Michele referred her to Town Engineer Brandee Nelson. Brandee noted that the engineers are considering the costs and maintenance issues and that the soils of the property are adequate to handle stormwater infiltration. She would like a letter from the CAC detailing the CAC's positions, which Jen will draft.

TOWN GRANT AWARD FOR ROAD CULVERT RENOVATIONS: Laurie Husted reported that the Town won a \$12,750 grant for culvert renovation work to assist in aquifer protection and reduction of flooding events.

SOLARIZE EVENT FOR COMMERCIAL PROPERTY OWNERS: Laurie Husted reported that Lori Urbin and she attended a breakfast hosted by the Economic Development Committee and the Red Hook Chamber of Commerce. There were 29 people in attendance, resulting in 7 leads from it. It will be a challenge; Laurie, Lori and Sarah Imboden have gone door to door in the village to encourage business owners to attend the workshops. Many are not aware of the Clean Energy Plan, which allows costs of renewable energy installations to be financed over 20 years on property tax bills.

SOLARIZE NORTHERN DUTCHESS UPCOMING EVENTS:

There are two upcoming events, one at Omega Institute, a regular community workshop on May 23, and one at Hudson Solar's zero energy headquarters on May 25. The Solarize ND campaign currently has 150 leads. Lori Urbin reported that the Solarize table at Apple Blossom Day drew some interest, but not a lot of leads. The table was directly across from a table for Direct Energy, so there was another opportunity to reach residents. Lori added that Direct Energy has offered that if they get 50 installation contracts from the campaign, they will donate to Solarize ND a 5KW roof mount solar panel; Solarize ND will decide on a location for it.

There was discussion of how to get ambassadors for solar installations by identifying teachers, police officers and firemen who have found that solar is an affordable alternative, with financing on electric bills.

SAW KILL WATERSHED COMMUNITY (SKWC) GROUP AT APPLE

BLOSSOM FESTIVAL: Michael Callejo reported that there was a limited response to the table and suggested that the group has to work on a focused presentation for any future similar event. Susan Ellis agreed and added that some catchy signage could help, along with approaching residents with questions about the importance of the watershed to them. Jen Cavanaugh suggested that having some gadgets to attract children might help draw in families.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M., so that CAC members could move boxes in the basement.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, June 8, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary