

Draft

**TOWN OF RED HOOK  
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting  
June 8, 2016

Members present: Chairwoman Laurie Husted, Susan Ellis, Mike Zelic, Jen Cavanaugh, Jody Jacobs, Denis Collet, Michael Callejo, Lori Urbin

Absent: Ross Gould

Guest: Mads Emond, intern from Bard on a photographic project for educational display of land use and the environment in Red Hook relating to the Environmental Climate Action Plan (E-CAP)

**CAC RECORD FILES SORTING AND PURGING:** At 7:00 P.M. CAC members worked to sort and consolidate record files, while removing unnecessary and outdated material. Susan Ellis explained that there is a Records Retention Policy established by the State Archives and Records Administration (SARA) under the New York State Department of Education that should be followed. It specifies what records of a municipality are to be permanent, the time frame for non-permanent and temporary records, and gives deference to the municipality to retain supporting materials that show social and cultural reference to the community life at the time period of the records.

**CALL TO ORDER / QUORUM :** Chairwoman Laurie Husted called the meeting to order at 7:43 P.M. A quorum was present.

**MINUTES OF THE CAC MEETING FOR MAY 11, 2016 :** Mike Zelic noted a correction to the pg. 2 section on the Zoning Review Committee that they were discussing legislation about food trucks, and did not discuss any solar zoning legislation. Lori Urbin noted that for the pg. 2 Solarize Event For Commercial Property Owners, she did not attend the Solarize breakfast for commercial installations, though she commented on it. Dennis Collet added that he was in attendance. The minutes of the May 11, 2016 meeting were approved as amended with a motion made by Mike Zelic and seconded by Lori Urbin.

## **MADS EMOND REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES OF RED HOOK DISPLAY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS :**

Bard intern Mads Emond reported that she has about 50% of the photos scanned, as she was having problems with some negatives. She presented photos that will be posted on Facebook, and read a brief introduction to the development of her photographic project to show examples of land use, waste, energy and transportation issues that impact the environment in the community. Over the next few months there will be postings to create conversations from the community leading up to a final show in October at Taste Budd's Cafe. The goal of the conversations is to provide a forum to consider what is sustainable and what is not sustainable activity in the community, and what we as residents can do to progress our environmental sensibilities as a community.

Jen Cavanaugh suggested that Mads specifically say that we need the community's help to drive this project forward and invite respondents to do more than just comment on Facebook. Mads has thought of having a raffle entry with a small prize for interactive respondents.

Mads asked CAC members to look at four different photos and write down their individual reaction and observations about the subject of the photos, and add their relationship to the themes of land use, waste, energy use and transportation as a preview of possible reactions in the public forum. When she does the Facebook posts, Mads will first post the photos without identification; several days later she will post a description of the location.

Mads thanked the CAC for its input on her proposals to move forward with the photographic environmental awareness project, and the CAC expressed appreciation for her work and ideas.

*Mads Emond left the meeting.*

## **THE COMMUNITY RISK AND RESILIENCE ACT (CRRA) : MAINSTREAMING CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATION**

The Hudson River Watershed Alliance (HRWA) is holding a breakfast meeting in New Paltz at 8:00A.M. on June 9, 2016. The CRRA is the topic of discussion. Laurie Husted had asked if any other CAC members would join her and Denis Collet. Michael Callejo asked when they needed to leave and made arrangements to meet them.

**SOLARIZE NORTHERN DUTCHESS CAMPAIGN:** Laurie Husted reported that there is a banner ready to put on the Town Hall announcing a last call for leads to the Solarize program by June 30, 2016.

**SAW KILL WATERSHED COMMUNITY (SKWC) FIRST WATER SAMPLING TEST RESULTS:** Laurie Husted asked Jen Cavanaugh to report the results of the first complete watershed sampling run. Jen said that they were generally positive, but one site had elevated conductivity and fecal coliform values. Susan Ellis added that it is ironic that the same tributary site was the issue that started the CAC water sampling project 40 years ago. At that time the chicken processing factory was releasing fats and waste water into a wetland that left the tributary banks coated with grey sludge and red with blood worms, a sign of extreme pollution.

**CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES CERTIFICATION FORUM:** Laurie Husted reported that she and Denis Collet and Michael Callejo attended the meeting at Vassar College on June 4, 2016. Michael noted that there are 130 items on the action Checklist for the program. What they learned is that the Town should probably do the program, but Laurie said that the Town has already done many of the items. Denis added that it really is a matter of rethinking the program, as it is not just a CAC project; there needs to be a specific Climate Smart Community Task Force.

As an example of the value of the program, Denis said that the City of Kingston has achieved bronze certification through the environmental work of Steve and Julie Noble, which means that Kingston can implement changes in regulations to reflect the effect of higher water levels and more frequent flooding in the Rondout area. Laurie noted that one of the actions that Red Hook has not done is a Flood Area Vulnerability Study. If there is a person available to put the time into completing it, or funding available, it could be a project for next year. Meanwhile, the CAC is working on a major project to replace streetlights with LED bulbs, the Solarize Northern Dutchess Campaign and the Saw Kill Creek Watershed Community project. There is a need for grants and manpower.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, July 13, 2016 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary