

Draft

**TOWN OF RED HOOK  
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting  
August 10, 2016

Members present: Chairwoman Laurie Husted, Susan Ellis, Michael Callejo  
Mike Zelig, Lori Urbin, Dennis Collet, Ross Gould

absent: Jody Jacobs, Jen Cavanaugh

Guests: Councilwoman Sarah Imboden, Julia Soloman

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

**NO MEETING IN JULY / MINUTES OF THE JUNE 8, 2016 CAC MEETING:**  
The meeting scheduled for July 16 was canceled, so there were no minutes. Secretary Susan Ellis noted that the minutes for the June 8, 2016 meeting were not approved. A copy was circulated for approval. At the end of this meeting, the June 8, 2016 CAC meeting minutes were approved with a motion made by Mike Zelig and seconded by Lori Urbin.

**PLANNING BOARD REVIEW:** Mike Zelig reported that several minor site approvals were addressed and a preliminary sketch plan of a minor subdivision of three lots for a 29+ acre parcel in Forest Park adjoining Edgewood, Cedar and Overlook Drive was discussed.

**SMOKER BBQ'S:** Laurie Husted reported that Linda Keeling had copied her about a complaint of violation for a neighboring smoker operation. She asked if the Town Board wanted CAC involvement. Sarah noted some of the concerns about air quality and safety, and that Zoning Enforcement Officer Steve Cole had determined that the site was compliant with current zoning. The Town Board is currently looking at food truck regulation. Air quality issues fall under Department of Environmental Conservation regulations. The CAC will wait for further direction.

**HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION GRANT FOR RED HOOK:** There is a possibility for Red Hook to get a 50% grant from DEC towards a hazardous waste collection day. Laurie Husted asked CAC members if they thought anyone could put it

together and if it could be handled in Red Hook. Laurie would prefer to have Dutchess County handle it. Ross Gould suggested shared services, i.e. a coalition of Northern Dutchess communities.

**RECYCLING BIN GRANT:** Laurie Husted reviewed a virtual recycling conversation that resulted in acquisition of two recycling bins for the Recreational Park. Ross Gould described them as the bins that Dutchess County gives out for events. Laurie found that they allowed rain to get in and wanted to find other types. Laurie added that they needed plastic bags for easy pick-up. There is a DEC Grant application that might take 3 months to get.

Ross said that Lindsay Carille of Dutchess County Resource Recovery got 30 bins for County parks from “Keep the Parks Clean sponsored by Dr. Pepper. There are people in the department working on “make your own bin projects,” using plastic drums from car washes. Ross spoke about guiding principles on what to do, how to make the bins, and how to make them stand out. He suggested to reach out to stakeholder groups using the Rec Park (softball league, soccer teams, etc.) to get their support in passing the word about using and keeping the bins free of garbage. Ross took a visit and pictures of the currently used bins. He noted that they mostly contained water bottles. Ross suggested a “kick off event” to gather the groups together. Sarah Imboden said that if the Town makes a commitment to the project, it can probably qualify for a 50% match in a DEC grant cycle for waste reduction. Ross Gould is willing to work on the project.

**CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITIES PROGRAM:** Laurie Husted read the report from Hudson Solar that they have 49 solar projects from the Solarize Campaign.

- ◆ *Community Distributed Generation (CDG) Energy for a Solar Farm Project :* Denis Collet reported that the project proposal all depends on the zoning regulations. Denis and Supervisor Robert McKeon have worked on an initial draft to be distributed. Mike Zelig noted that a discussion about it had come up with the Zoning Review Committee (ZRC), which questioned whether or not a solar farm would be an agricultural use. Denis said that the dilemma is that many developers are making offers for lease plans to any holder of 20 + acres of land.

Denis reported that they now know that there are 360 applications in the “que” for approval in Central Hudson's area. The Red Hook application is part of a circuit that has four other local CDG projects ahead of it, which means that the aggregate megawatt impact if all were approved could force Central Hudson to upgrade the circuit and need to absorb the cost. For the megawatt systems, there is a fee of \$35,000 for System Interconnect Review to estimate the potential cost for upgrades. The Public Service Commission (PSC) is reviewing the multiple local projects for possible sharing of the cost of the Interconnect Review.

- ◆ *200 KW CDG Grant potential for small developments* : Denis said that grants for small developments require 10 oftakers with a total demand of less than 200 kw. One for 166 kw has already been approved in the Red Hook area. Tax credits and NYSERDA benefits are the same, but there is no System Interconnect Review. The project would have less impact on the circuit, and have a quicker approval.
- ◆ *Legislation re: Solar farms in the Agricultural Business District (ABD)* : The Town is looking at regulations for the ABD to assure that solar companies can't offer leases so that farmers will just collect rent instead of continuing farming. Denis said that position needs to be presented to the Town Board in the next few months to define what solar proposals are acceptable in the ABD.
- ◆ *Clean Energy Communities Program Offering Notice (PON) 3298* : Denis Collet reported that becoming a Clean Energy Community requires completing 4 of 10 high impact actions
  - benchmarking – checking our inventory (done in our Climate Action Plan)
  - clean energy upgrades – electric vehicles
  - LED streetlights
  - clean fleets
  - Solarize campaign – in progress
  - unified solar permit - passed by Town
  - energy code enforcement training
  - climate smart communities certification
  - community choice aggregation – pooling our resources
  - Energize NY finance

Denis has identified five that he believes are doable for Red Hook - LED streetlights, unified solar permits (done), energy code enforcement code training, community choice aggregation and climate smart communities certification. Two of the four actions to qualify for the grant money must be started after August 1, 2016. Denis suggested that the Town start with LED streetlights, energy code enforcement training and/or CSCC. He discussed the work needed for the grant qualifications and the limited possibility of being chosen to receive one when there are 4 available for the 360 applications in the Central Hudson area.
- ◆ *Climate Smart Community Designation* : Denis added that the goal of becoming a Climate Smart Community is worthy of the effort, though it may take a separate Task Force to carry beyond what the Energy Subcommittee can do, as the CAC has many projects that it is following. There will be further research, planning and discussion to determine how to move forward.

**TRANSPORTATION: BICYCLE / PEDESTRIAN COUNTS :** Laurie Husted reported that the dates of the counts would be Tuesday 9/13, Wednesday 9/14, Thursday 9/15 and Saturday 9/17, and asked for volunteers for time slots. It was noted that September 17 is Hardscrabble Day, so the day was changed to Saturday 9/10. Michael Callejo agreed to do noon to 1 P.M. On 9/10; Lori Urbin will take the 1 – 2 P.M. slot. Mike Zelig agreed to do 4 – 5 P.M. on Thursday 9/15 and Laurie would take 5 – 6 P.M.

**RIDE SHARING :** Laurie Husted told the CAC that Bard College has worked out a ride sharing program where participants can sign up with with times and destinations to connect with one another for shared rides. She offered that it might be expanded to the community to increase sharing options through the Town website or CAC Facebook page. She will find out what information she can post.

**SAW KILL WATERSHED COMMUNITY WATER TESTING PROGRAM:**

Laurie asked Susan Ellis to report on the results and observations of the expanded sampling program for the Saw Kill watershed. Susan noted that the group had done the third sampling of the year on July 15, and expected to find increased coliform counts and conductivity due to the increased temperatures. That did occur. There was also a rain event just before, which may have stirred up sediments and added to the increases. One site showed elevated levels all three times, for which the cause is undetermined. Further samplings and discussion will help point to suggestions for mitigation.

Laurie reported that the Saw Kill Watershed Community Group meets monthly to discuss activities and findings. The meetings will be on the first Tuesday of the month at 7P.M. at the Town Hall, open to the public.

**WATER WORDS THAT WORK:** Laurie Husted attended a workshop that discussed ideas for looking at better ways to communicate to community members the issues and science involved in water resource management. A part of that is always taking pictures for a frame of reference, including before and afters.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING :** Wednesday, September 14, 2016 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary