

Draft

**TOWN OF RED HOOK  
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting  
September 14, 2016

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

Absent: Ross Gould

Guest: Councilwoman Sarah Imboden

**CALL TO ORDER / QUORUM:** Chairwoman Laurie Husted called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M. A quorum was present.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 10, 2016.** Secretary Susan Ellis reported that she had not been able to complete the minutes for the CAC August 10, 2016 minutes due to an unresolved computer malfunction. She asked Sarah Imboden if she had been able to find her recorder, since the unfinished minutes still filled the CAC recorder, but Sarah could not find one. Laurie Husted asked Susan to summarize the subjects discussed at the August 10 meeting, which Susan did.

**HAZARDOUS WASTE GRANT POSSIBILITY:** Laurie Husted reported that she will follow up with the County about a potential hazardous waste grant.

**NEW ELECTRONIC SCREEN:** Lori Urbin commented on the electronic display screen installed in the meeting room as a great tool for projecting digital reports, power points or other electronic media.

**SOLAR FARM PROPOSALS UPDATE:** Denis Collet reported that 4 requests for grant approval ahead of the Town on the same Central Hudson circuit would need three phase lines to provide for all the solar energy they would produce. That could make the Town's proposal cost more because the added production of energy increases Central Hudson's equipment costs.

Denis has researched other communities that have made arrangements to partner with an investor who will fund and get credits and rebates for a solar farm project. The investor then constructs the project, sells the power to the municipality for a price per kilowatt

that is still less than other energy suppliers, and after 6 years sells the solar farm to the Town for a price that allows the investor to make a reasonable profit. The Town would have a system with a 19 year remaining solar panel life span producing power that lowers the cost of energy bills.

For solar farm legislation, Denis Collet indicated that the issue of allowing potential prime agricultural soils or agricultural soils of statewide significance for use of solar installations and not for agriculture is under discussion for determining possible restrictions. Denis added that he has not yet found any objective criteria for evaluating solar installations on historic properties. In summary, there is continuing discussion of the solar possibilities.

Denis reported that he and Laurie Husted toured a Deegan property on Albany Avenue, Kingston, to view a rooftop installation that is about 1/3 completed. The project may be the first Community Generated Solar project completed in New York State. The City of Kingston is working to sign up subscribers. Denis suggested that reaching out to Melissa Everett of Sustainable Hudson Valley would be valuable networking.

**BICYCLE / PEDESTRIAN COUNTS:** The bike/pedestrian counts in the Village will be completed on Thursday, September 15, 2016.

**NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT) GRANT FUNDING FOR SIDEWALKS:** Sarah Imboden reported that the Town Board is looking at funding for a multi-modal pathway from Red Hook High School west along Route 199. They are also considering recommendations for the Route 9G corridor. Sarah, Supervisor Robert McKeon and Brenda Cagle will meet in the next week to discuss them.

**ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING STATIONS:** Laurie mentioned a grant for charging stations for electric cars and noted that there is one in Red Hook at CVS.

**PLANNING REVIEW:** Mike Zelig noted that there was no Planning Board meeting on Labor Day. In August, the Hoffman Residential Development received Final Site Plan Approval, following discussion of and compromise for the requirements and responsibility for construction of a sidewalk along Old Farm Road to Route 9.

**MADS EMONDS PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY AT TASTE BUDD'S AND HER FACEBOOK PRESENTATION:** Laurie Husted reported that the CAC Facebook Page with intern Mads Emonds' images of Red Hook for environmental awareness is generating comments, and asked all CAC members to go to the page and "like" and share it. Starting October 1, 2016, Mad's photos and descriptions will be displayed at

Taste Budd's Cafe in the Village.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, October 12, 2016 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary