

Draft

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting
October 12, 2016

Members present: Chairwoman Laurie Husted, Susan Ellis, Michael Callejo, Lori Urbin
Dennis Collet, Jen Cavanaugh

Absent: Mike Zelig, Jody Jacobs

Guests: Councilwoman Sarah Imboden, Julia Solomon

CALL TO ORDER / QUORUM: Chairwoman Laurie Husted called the meeting to order at 7:17 P.M. A quorum was present. Laurie noted that Jody Jacobs is resigning from the CAC and Julia Solomon is being appointed in his place. CAC members expressed appreciation for Jody's work and welcomed Julia.

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 10, 2016 AND SEPTEMBER 14, 2016 CAC MEETINGS: The minutes of the CAC meetings on August 10 and September 14 were approved with a motion made by Laurie Husted and seconded by Michael Callejo.

WATERSHED REGULATIONS SEMINAR: Laurie Husted reported that she signed a registration for a Watershed and Water Regulations Basics for Municipal Officials Seminar on Thursday, October 27 from 6:30 – 8:30 P.M. at the Farm and Home Center in Millbrook. She invited other CAC members to join her.

NYSTRETCH ENERGY CODE WEBINAR: Laurie Husted gave information about this webinar to be broadcast on October 13 by the New York State Department of Conservation (DEC) Climate Smart Communities program and said that the CAC should connect to it. Denis Collet said that he could listen to the conversation.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY: Laurie Husted announced that the Dutchess County Division of Solid Waste Management is hosting a Household Hazardous Waste Disposal and Electronics Recycling Event on Saturday, October 29, 2016 from 8:00 A.M. To 1:30 P.M. at the DC Resource Recovery Agency facility in Poughkeepsie. There is a \$10 registration fee. CAC members discussed how the Town could interact with the event. Laurie suggested that while the Town is not a designated collection point, that friends and neighbors work out a way to share the transportation and cost. Sarah Imboden said that it might be possible to work out a joint collection with the Town of Rhinebeck next year.

PLANNING REVIEW: As he couldn't attend the meeting, Mike Zelig e-mailed Laurie his report on the current Planning Board reviews. Discussion on the DMAJS LLC 3 lot subdivision proposal in Forest Park was continued. Planning Chairwoman Chris Kane asked for a revised location of the house site planned for lot 3, noting that Planning Consultant Michele Greig had informed the Board that where a lot adjoins parcels in the Agricultural Business District, the set back is required to be 200' from the property line of contiguous ABD parcels, and that Planning may require vegetative screening.

FORMULA BUSINESS DISCUSSIONS: Michael Callejo reported that he and Denis Collet have been following the discussion of “formula business” regulations taking place with the Town and two Villages. They are looking at ways to preserve the character of the local business community by limiting the ability of “big box” businesses from developing commercial properties with large square footage. Michael suggested that any revised regulations include Low Impact Design (LED) provisions

TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE: The annual Bicycle / Pedestrian counts for 3 weekdays and a Saturday were completed in September. Laurie asked the counters for some observations. Lori Urbin noted that people were waiting for crossing lights, and that counts of bikers, pedestrians, skateboarders, etc. seemed to be higher.

SAW KILL WATERSHED COMMUNITY GROUP WATER SAMPLING: Laurie Husted announced that the next SKWC water sampling date is scheduled for Wednesday, October 19 at 10 A.M.

ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE:

LED Streetlight Proposal : Denis Collet reported that he just received an e-mail questionnaire from Pat Courtney Strong about the Mid Hudson Streetlight Consortium project to bring LED streetlights options to Mid Hudson municipalities. In the next few months she hopes to have the proposal put together. Denis has heard the pitch and sat in on some webinars and feels that they are really trying to get the project moving.

Community Generated Solar Project : Denis has some photos of the tour that he and Laurie took of the Community Driven Generation (CDG) solar site on the roof of the Deegan property in Kingston. At the tour, Denis had asked if it might be feasible to try a similar project on the Red Hook schools. The Deegan project may receive designation as the first CDG completed installation in New York State, and Denis hopes that they would send an invitation for the opening.

CoShare Solar Options : Denis attended a CoShare meeting sponsored by the New York State Energy Democracy Alliance (NYSEDA). They are promoting shared solar options for community groups. Denis noted that the Town can not currently join as a municipality, but thought that there might be some potential connection.

Renewable Energy Credits (RECs): Laurie Husted reported that for the commercial and industrial sector of solar projects supported by the New York State Energy Research and Development Agency (NYSERDA), the Agency has decided that it can claim all the RECs available to the project. This concerns her, as part of the incentive for planning and working on renewable projects is the RECs. Denis explained his understanding that the utility is required keep a financial percentage of its portfolio allotted to net metering and that the energy the project produces to the grid is a credit even if renewable facility also consumes it. Laurie said that has not been the case at Bard for their solar installation. Denis answered that he would research the details.

“The Grid : The Fraying Wires Between Americans and Our energy Future” by Gretchen Bakke : Denis watched a presentation on Gretchen Bakke's book. She is a social anthropologist who has researched utility grids and suggests that utilities are not going to be able to invest the money needed to upgrade the transmission infrastructure to meet the speed and volume needed for evolving technology without a significant input of capital. The “Catch 22” is that to even out the unpredictability of the varying inputs of renewable energy, there needs to be a consistency of all the grids and storage ability created for the high production times. Laurie thanked Denis for sharing his insight.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) CHARGING STATION GRANT: Jen Cavanaugh noted that she was researching EV charging station information and wanted information on grant possibilities and costs of installation. There is a 24 hour EV charging station at CVS. Laurie said that she had worked on a grant 4 years ago, and the cost was going to be \$7,000 and the grant did not work out.

PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING BINS AT LARGE MARKETS: Jen Cavanaugh said that since CVS moved into its new building, it has refused to put out a plastic bag recycling bin. Laurie Husted stated that it is the law and even if CVS has difficulty with customers using it for trash or paper, it is their responsibility to make it very clear that the bin is only for recyclable plastic bags. CAC members discussed how to achieve a workable resolution. Susan Ellis noted that the product packaging changes and many different types of plastic bags make it difficult for recyclers to follow proper sorting. Laurie suggested that a review of the current DEC regulations for plastic sorting would enable the CAC to work on public education of the issue. Susan Ellis agreed to research the current DEC standards and bring back information to the CAC.

DEC ENVIRONMENTAL BULLETIN (ENB) NOTICE OF VIOLATION: Jen Cavanaugh had e-mailed CAC members about a notice of violation in the ENB for a driveway constructed without a permit for placement on a single lot property on Guski Road. Jen had noted that the DEC determined that there was infringement on a wetland buffer area that required a DEC permit and an improper culvert crossing of the stream. Laurie had e-mailed the Planning Board to ask why a permit had not been required for

the driveway location and site location of the proposed house. Planning replied that they were not required to look at a single lot placement of a driveway and house planned on a large acreage of property. Laurie also asked Zoning and Building why a permit was not required. CAC members discussed further concerns that a procedure that caused a violation under DEC regulations did not also show up under Town regulations. Jen Cavanaugh also noted that a landowner can not do predevelopment clearing for a project that requires permits.

MADS EMONDS ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY AT TASTE BUDD'S CAFE: Mads Emonds display has been in Taste Budd's for a month. There has been some response to the Facebook postings over the month. CAC members discussed other methods to present and promote the concepts of the display.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary