

Draft

**TOWN OF RED HOOK  
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting  
January 11, 2017

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

Absent: Julia Solomon, Ross Gould

**CALL TO ORDER / QUORUM :** Chairwoman Laurie Husted called the meeting to order at 7:07 P.M. A quorum was present.

**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 14, 2016 CAC MEETING:** Lori Urbin commented that on pg. 3, paragraph 1, she did not tell Jen Cavanaugh that she would put notice of and applications for DEC Summer Environmental camp scholarships on a school Facebook page; she was relaying them to her contacts at the School Environmental Club.

Jen Cavanaugh detailed corrections to pg. 3, paragraph 2 about a presentation that she made on behalf of Fuss and O'Neill Consultants to read as follows:

**FUSS AND O'NEILL CONSULTANTS GRANT PROPOSAL OPPORTUNITY:**

Jen Cavanaugh noted that her boss at Fuss and O'Neill consulting firm is working to develop a grant proposal for the Town and Village of Red Hook, along with Bard College, to apply for funding a project addressing flood resiliency in the Saw Kill watershed that may occur as a result of climate change effects. The consultant is looking for a letter of support from the CAC. The CAC was in agreement, and Laurie suggested a contact in Milan for Jen.

Denis Collet noted a correction on pg. 4 in the paragraph for Code Enforcement Education that the name of the NYSERDA trainer's name is Steve Rocklin. Denis also clarified that on pg. 4 in the paragraph for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations, he and Jen Cavanaugh had worked together on the application, and needed to reach an agreement with Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke on the location of the charging stations, as well as the work that the Highway Department would do for the 20% services in kind.

The minutes of the December 14, 2016 were approved as amended with a motion made by Lori Urbin and seconded by Denis Collet.

**NYS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS:**

The CAC has received 7 applications for the scholarships. Jen Cavanaugh noted that through her contacts at the school, she received a note from Debbie Moser, a 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and advisor to the environmental and garden clubs. Her daughter attended Camp DeBruce with her scholarship and had a wonderful experience; she is currently completing a PhD in Environmental Science.

Jen has formatted the applications for a blind rating and discussed the criteria she is setting up. CAC members discussed elements to consider in evaluating the qualities of the applications. All present agreed that with 9 CAC members rating the applications the results would point to the best two to be awarded the scholarships. Jen said that once the applications are all in, she would send them to CAC members with a spread sheet to return the rankings.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Laurie Husted announced the following seminars/webinars and events:

- 1) "Waters of the US" talk on Thurs. Jan. 12, 2017 at 8 – 9:30 AM in New Paltz.
- 2) Climate-Adaptive Design: Creating Resilient Waterfronts seminar on Thurs. Jan. 12, 2017 from 10:30 AM – 2:00 PM.
- 3) Introduction to Plant Identification webinar on Feb. 23, 2017 at 2:00 PM US/Eastern
- 4) Northeast Regional Conference on Mar. 18-19, 2017 will be the launch for the Citizens' Climate Lobby Mid-Hudson group.

**PLANNING BOARD REVIEWS:** Mike Zelig reported on the recent Planning Board actions.

*DMAJS Associates LLC subdivision* – The Planning Board held a Public Hearing on the proposal and asked representative Doug Strawinski about the status of water supply and access easements. There were no further comments, so the Planning Board closed the hearing. The Board and applicant reviewed and revised a draft preliminary application approval, which the Board approved.

*Teviot LLC 254 Woods Road – Special Permit Application.* The Planning Board held a Public Hearing on an application for special permit to replace trees that had been removed without a permit authorization. The Consulting Arborist for the Planning Board hired to work with the applicant gave his report and restoration plan to the Planning Board. The Board asked for some revisions to the plan and approved the proposal with them. The Town Tree Commission had asked why they weren't consulted, as that is their function. Planning noted that they had the applicant hire their Consulting Arborist, and it is optional in Town law to have a report from the Tree Commission.

**E-WASTE COLLECTION AT THE RECYCLING CENTER ON SATURDAY JANUARY 13, 2017 FROM 8AM – 1 PM:**

Laurie Husted discussed the proposed schedule for volunteers, noting that she could help open from 8-9AM, but has to leave to work with a student group at Bard College. Laurie, Jen Cavanaugh, Michael Callejo, Mike Zelig and Lori Urbin worked out their time slots. They discussed what would be accepted and what could not be, such as mattresses and furniture. They also determined what fees would be charged for tv's (not flat screens) and humidifiers/dehumidifiers, and how fees would be collected. They will direct student volunteers to destroy computer hard drives, help unload cars and stack or box e-waste on pallets, which will be wrapped in plastic. The pallets need to be secured as the e-waste collection company truck will pick it up at the beginning of the next week.

Laurie asked about a hot chocolate run for the volunteers. CAC members also requested a box of hot coffee. Laurie asked Susan Ellis if she could pick up the coffee and hot chocolate at Taste Budds' and deliver it by 10:45 AM to cover the morning shift change. Susan agreed and Laurie said that she would phone in the order.

**FUSS AND O'NEILL CONSULTANT GRANT OPPORTUNITY APPLICATION:**

Jen Cavanaugh reported that the grant application that she helped the consulting firm put together was submitted successfully. It will fund an assessment study of the Saw Kill Creek Watershed to determine what actions could be taken to provide resiliency to future flood events. There were letters of support from the Town and Village of Red Hook, Town of Milan, County Executive Mark Molinaro, State Assemblywoman Sue Serino, Bard college and the CAC. It is now a matter of waiting for approval. Laurie said that we are all very excited that this grant allowed a private company to put in for the Town as a collaboration. The CAC thanked Jen for facilitating the proposal.

**2016 CAC BUDGET END OF THE YEAR EXPENDITURES:** Laurie Husted noted that she covered a share of the laboratory costs for e-coli testing of water samples taken by the Saw Kill Watershed Community group and ordered some Energize NY signs to use at locations of Energize Northern Dutchess energy saving installations to increase local awareness of the options.

**ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE:**

*Mid-Hudson Street Light Consortium* : Denis Collet reported on a meeting with the steering committee of the Mid-Hudson Street Light Consortium. Denis carpooled with Danielle (who represented Tivoli Green), Supervisor McKeon and Councilman Harry Colgan. It was a kick-off for the steering committee of all of the communities joining with the Mid-Hudson Street Light Consortium, which is funded as an organization to help and assist communities doing street light conversions. It helped Harry see the potential benefits, as he received a complaint about a street light replacement that was improperly fitted and was causing an annoying glare. If the Town

controls the contract, it can see that they are adjusted by choosing the intensity, color and temperature.

Denis Collet said that there were people from about 20 communities attending. The intention is to try to get an audit done by Computel. The company investigates the billing records of Central Hudson and helps file for any refund due directly from Central Hudson for any savings to the Town. They get 40% of the savings realized. The experience in Rosendale as told by Jen Metzger is that the Town actually received \$30,000 after the 40% cut, as the audit disclosed errors in former calculations. Computel would come in and do an audit before the Town would sign a contract to purchase the lights from Central Hudson. A 2<sup>nd</sup> audit would be done by the Street Light Consortium to document what lights are there and if they are working. The Consortium would offer design services and choose lights appropriate for different locations. George Woodbury, who has done conversions for some 80,000 lights over the last 10 years, was at the meeting to talk about the technical details associated with conversions.

Denis added that Danielle from Tivoli Green was positive about the information that she would bring back to the Tivoli officials. Denis asked what the CAC could do to build momentum for the project in the two Villages. The CAC as a Town appointed council covers the whole Town and can offer information and recommendations to the two Villages for their decision on what they might participate in. If the Town takes control of the street light contract, there will be a need for a subcontractor, as the Highway Department does not have personnel qualified to put the lights up or a truck with a boom lift.

*Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grant:* Denis noted thanks for the work that Jen Cavanaugh did to upload the grant application by the December 31, 2016 deadline. They were doing the final work for the submission, but found that it would not complete without an official signatory. They managed to catch Supervisor McKeon by phone and tell him how to submit it by i-phone, so that it is in the pipeline. The lesson is that collaboration and good relationships are the key to implementing these projects.

*Zero Energy Building focus for the Town Hall:* Denis suggested that another option for the Town, depending on what energy grants are approved for the Town, would be to focus on the Town Hall as a Zero Energy Building. Putting solar panels on the front roof of the Town Hall would show the Town's commitment to being a Clean Energy Community with a publicly visible solar array. For that, Denis feels that an architect's evaluation and cost estimate would be needed.

*Clean Energy Community Certification(CECC):* Dennis added that the next step towards qualifying the for the CECC is completing the Code Enforcement Training and pushing NYSERDA to grant the certification. Denis noted that he was invited to meet with the Town of Chatham officials, who want to get the certification and had questions

about how the Red Hook is approaching it. They want to do a Solarize NY Campaign, and asked how Red Hook's Solarize Northern Dutchess Campaign worked. At the end, they asked how Red Hook managed to get all of the projects put together, as the Town and Village in Chatham are separate entities. Denis replied that there has been a history of cooperation between the Town and Villages in Red Hook, and realized that the Intermunicipal Task Force that meets weekly has provided a communications link.

**CAC/EMC ANNUAL ROUNDTABLE:** Jen Cavanaugh announced that she just heard that the roundtable for the Dutchess County CACs with Cornell Cooperative Extension Environmental and Energy Committee will be held on March 1, 2017.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday February 8, 2017 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary