

Draft

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of Meeting
April 12, 2017

Members Present: Chairwoman Laurie Husted, Susan Ellis, Mike Zelig, Julia Solomon, Jen Cavanaugh, Michael Callejo, Lori Urbin (7:12 P.M.)

Absent: Denis Collet, Ross Gould

CALL TO ORDER / QUORUM: Chairwoman Laurie Husted called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. A quorum was present.

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 8, 2017 MEETING OF THE CAC: Jen Cavanaugh had requested that an amendment be made to the Energy Subcommittee discussion at the end of paragraph 2 on page 3 to remove the words in Long Island. The amended minutes were approved with a motion made by Jen Cavanaugh and seconded by Mike Zelig.

There was no business meeting for the CAC on March 8, 2017. (and no minutes)

ANNOUNCEMENT: Laurie Husted announced that a webinar to be held on Thursday, April 13, 2017 sounded interesting. Climate Smart Communities is presenting a Residential Energy Score project – a Plan for Advancing Energy Efficiency, where a homeowner would volunteer to be rated for an energy score which could be shared with prospective buyers, tenants or other interested parties.

PLANNING BOARD REVIEWS: Mike Zelig reported on the following Planning Board actions:

- ◆ *The Bard Barringer House, 1442 Annandale Road Barrytown* : Mike reported that Bard College has been seeking approval of *a 900 sq. ft. addition to the Victorian house*. The Proposal has been reviewed by the Design Review Committee (DRC); Planning and Bard representative Mr. Simmons discussed the recommended alternatives to the plan.
- ◆ *Uncorked Bottle* : Mike reported that the Uncorked Bottle received its final approval for a wine business on Route 199.
- ◆ *Special Permit application for a pool on Bard Avenue* : An applicant has requested a special permit to locate a pool within 100' of the high watermark of the Saw Kill Creek. Planning said that a use variance would be required and the other option was placement in the front yard.

- ◆ *Baxter Road – minor subdivision* : There is an application for a 22 acre parcel to be split into two lots. The Planning Board wants certification of well and septic and location of the driveway cuts.
- ◆ *Norton Road subdivision application* : The same engineer for the Baxter Road subdivision has an application for a 3 lot subdivision of 20 acres off Norton Road, two of which will be flag lots. It also may have a stream crossing. The Planning Board asked the engineer to provide more information and suggested that he consider redesigning the proposal. *The CAC will follow the information on these two subdivisions.*

RUTH OJA ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP: Laurie Husted noted that the Ruth Oja scholarship application reviews will come up soon. Jen Cavanaugh said that she will notify CAC members about candidate selection.

WATER ISSUES: Laurie Husted reported that she received a note from a friend with the Kingston water group that opposed the approval of Niagara Water Bottling Company and their proposal to build a water bottling complex in Ulster and purchase water from the city of Kingston. The note said that Niagara Water Company is currently purchasing spring water from Cokertown Springs Water Company in Red Hook. The Saw Kill Watershed Community will discuss the potential impacts at its next meeting on April 19, 2017 at 7 P.M. at the Elmendorph Inn. Laurie asked who might be able to report on the meeting. Michael Callejo said that he would see if he could.

WASTE SUBCOMMITTEE: Laurie Husted mentioned a letter from Kathy O'Connor of Tivoli Green asking the CAC to send a letter of support for NYS Assembly Bill 1038 for legislation requiring recycling of waste paint. Laurie said that she was reminded of the request and did send a letter. CAC members discussed what level of involvement the CAC should have. Jen Cavanaugh noted that dealing with hazard waste or any single stream of recycling involving a collection is difficult and time consuming. Susan Ellis explained that she had reviewed the information package from Kathy and suggested that Laurie return it to Kathy for more answers on what involvement is expected of the CAC. Susan questioned how important it was among all the issues the CAC is asked to address to take on this project. She felt that the CAC should wait to see what legislative proposals in fact reach agreement Laurie agreed that then the CAC could reach out to local residents and businesses to explain the impacts to them.

RECYCLING BROCHURE: Laurie Husted asked Julia Solomon if she had all of the information for the brochure. Julia said yes, and that she has Publisher, a computer program, to print it, and wanted to know who to ask at Town Hall about posting it. Laurie said to run it by Supervisor McKeon Julia agreed to have T.J. Hacket review it for accuracy, and speak with Supervisor McKeon about distribution .

STYROFOAM USE REDUCTION: Governor Cuomo wants to promote reduction of use of styrofoam products in New York. Laurie said that the CAC needs to develop a way to approach local businesses. She asked Michael Callejo if he still had the letter he had written and to forward it to her. She expects that what started as a voluntary program may be followed by legislative action.

CAC members discussed positive approaches, mentioning comparisons of the cost to the environment of using styrofoam in production and waste, with the benefits of using alternatives that are more sustainable. Jen Cavanaugh suggested that recent recognition of Red Hook's conservation efforts warrants a community response to chip in. Michael Callejo would like to study options to incentivize businesses. Laurie said that creating a Red Hook “to go container” could be a project.

Red Hook Green Business: Jen Cavanaugh suggested starting a sticker program for businesses that would advertise their “green” features. Other promotions will be considered.

COMPOSTING AND A BETTER WORLD PROJECT: Lori Urbin presented the project with notation that she and Laurie Husted would recuse themselves from any CAC decision on the project. Lori's daughter Abbie and Laurie's daughter Tessa have put together a project to promote composting. Their letter to the CAC outlined a desire to focus A Better World project on composting, with the hope of creating a composting area at the Town Hall. They asked that the CAC consider donating a compost bin that would cost \$44 with a 20% discount from Ulster County Resource Recovery on Earth Day. Tessa and Abbie spoke with Supervisor McKeon at a special meeting where he approved having the compost bin on the Town Hall property. After further discussion of the educational possibilities, placement ideas and monitoring of the project, CAC members Mike Zelig, Jen Cavanaugh, Julia Solomon, Michael Callejo and Susan Ellis voted to approve the \$44 expense for the compost bin, while Laurie Husted and Lori Urbin abstained. They praised the young ladies' initiative and suggested that there be a contact/stakeholder at the Town Hall to oversee the project, which would be Supervisor Mckeon.

TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE:

- ◆ *Sidewalk project on east side of Route 9 from Town Hall to Hardscrabble Plaza :* CAC members noted that trees and shrubs along the path are being removed in preparation of the sidewalk construction. CAC members would support the Tree Commission in efforts to find residents' approval for siting appropriate shrubs and small trees to landscape the right-of-way.
- ◆ *Route 199 upgrades.* There is continuing discussion of a walking/biking shoulder on the north side of Route 199 from the High School to Route 9G.

- ◆ *Bard College Saw Kill Trail* : A feasibility study for the trail is being pursued
- ◆ *Dutchess County Bicycle / Pedestrian Committee* : Jen Cavanaugh has put together a list of projects that the Trails Committee with Brenda Cagle, Tom O'Dowd and Howie Callas would like support for.

ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE:

- ◆ *Solar Array for Town Hall buildings* : The Town has been given an estimate of ~\$200,000 for installation of enough solar panels to produce about 80% of the electricity needed for the campus. That would be the whole amount of the Clean Energy grant. There are more questions to answer before a decision would be made.
- ◆ *Energize Red Hook Launch on March 8, 2017* : CAC members joined the presentation of the Launch on March 8, 2017 as its monthly meeting. The Program included Town and Village officials, Energy Star, RUPCO and Climate Smart Communities representatives, area energy efficiency contractors and interested citizens. The presentation detailed the many options for reducing energy use and increasing comfort in the home, having free energy assessments, financial options for affordability and the availability of Michael Courtney as an energy coach.

Laurie sent a follow-up e-mail about the success of the Launch, with some people signing up that evening. The program was uploaded to the Panda TV website - <http://www.pandatv23.org/node732>. The Energy Subcommittee will work over the year to promote the project.

Mike Zelig noted that he had signed up with Sigma Tremblay for his energy assessment. He said that much of their evaluation was about what he expected, as he had done a contract 3 years ago. What really impressed him was the infra red photos showing the areas of energy loss and where his gains were.

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

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary

