

Draft

**TOWN OF RED HOOK  
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting  
March 14, 2018

Members present: Chairwoman Laurie Husted, Susan Ellis, Jen Cavanaugh, Julia Solomon, Steve Appenzeller, Lori Urbin (7:17 P.M.), Denis Collet ( 7:18 P.M.)

Absent: Mike Zelig

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

**MINUTES FOR THE CAC MEETING ON FEBRUARY 14, 2018:** Laurie Husted noted that she had a small correction and asked if there were others. Julia Solomon said she would like to have time to go over the minutes and they were passed around to be returned to the Secretary for revisions.

**WATER, SOIL, FOREST RESOURCES:** Julia Solomon reported on the progress of the Extraction Working Group. The Group has been meeting weekly to formulate recommendations for updates to the Town Code related to soil mining, timber harvesting and water extraction. They are now starting to work with GREENPLAN to discuss how recommendations could be integrated into the Code. The Group expects to be able to discuss preliminary recommendations with the CAC and the Town Board by mid-April. (The Town Moratorium on these activities expires in August.)

**AMPHIBIAN MIGRATIONS (“BIG NIGHT” CROSSINGS) :** There has only been one night so far when temperatures have been warm enough to stimulate amphibian activity.

**NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY (NRI) UPDATES:** Laurie Husted reported that Mike Zelig had asked information about what sources that Town already has available from previous NRI reports. Supervisor Robert McKeon pointed out the records of NRI resources at the Town Hall that are currently being used. Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (CCEDC) is asking the Town to properly update its inventory information. NRI changes need to follow CCEDC guidelines.

**BRUSH DISPOSAL FOR THE TOWN:** Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke has had many residents request help with assistance for a place to dispose of the large

amount of branch and tree debris left from the severe winter storms. She would like to find a grant for a chipper. CAC members discussed what help the CAC could offer. At the present time, the CAC is committed to more projects than it has manpower to keep up with.

**COMMUNITY COMPOSTING PROPOSAL FROM HUDSON SOIL COMPANY:** Steve Appenzeller has been researching the proposal that a Composting Company could gather enough customers to pay for the service of food waste pick-up, He thought that it might be feasible to start with schools as a limited testing. Research for a waste reduction grant will continue.

**REPAIR CAFE:** Steve Appenzeller has also been researching the potential for support to host a Repair Cafe. He needs volunteers to help set up and assist repair stations, and there would need to be at least 6 scheduled in a year. Lori Urbin suggested that a bike repair session would be good to include. Laurie Husted agreed, but general consensus of the CAC is that the location, structure and other details need to be worked out. Laurie Husted will invite John Wackman, who has been advising Steve Appenzeller, to the CAC May 2018 meeting.

**RUTH OJA ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP:** Jen Cavanaugh reported that the deadline is near for the applications.

**KILL-A-WATT DONATED TO THE RED HOOK LIBRARY AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC USE:** In December 2017, the CAC donated a Kill-A-Watt to the library to help residents check the energy use of their appliances. Lori Urbin tried it out and found it useful, suggesting that an instruction poster be laminated for the Library to lend with it.

**LIGHTING SURVEY FOR LED STREET LIGHT REPLACEMENTS:** Jen Cavanaugh reported that the lighting survey is almost finished, with thanks to Mike Zelic.

**ENERGIZE RED HOOK:** As the year of the program to Energize Red Hook is closing out, Jen Cavanaugh made one last attempt to sign up residents for energy audits, energy saving counseling and other energy assistance by attending the School Science Fair. She did not find any renewed response.

**ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:** Denis Collet gave updates on Town energy projects.

- ◆ *Led Streetlight Conversion* – On March 13, the Town Board approved a preliminary contract with the New York Power Authority (NYPA) lowest bid. They are looking at a turn-key provision with them. There is a need to work on light design, so the streetlight inventory is still important.

- ◆ *Insulation of Town Hall campus buildings* – Denis Collet is working with Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy. The Town Engineer has to review the specifications and then a RFP will be sent out.
- ◆ *Replacement of heating and cooling systems* – There are no preliminary provisions worked out for replacement of heating and cooling units.
- ◆ *Solar Farm project* – Denis Collet said that work on a contract proposal for a Solar Farm project is on hold for better reimbursement rates. The Town has until June 2018 on the 90 day time requirement for a contract proposal.

**GREEN DRINKS MIXER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORKING:** Laurie Husted announced that the April “Green Drinks” will be held at Bard College.

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

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 7 P.M. at Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary