

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting
April 12, 2006

Members present: Chairwoman Brenda Cagle, Ruth Oja, Laurie Husted, Susan Ellis, Zoie Riel, Mary Ann Johnson

Chairwoman Brenda Cagle called the meeting to order at 7 P.M. The minutes of the March meeting were approved with a motion made by Zoie Riel and seconded by Laurie Husted.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT TAX ABATEMENT APPLICATIONS:

Chairwoman Brenda Cagle thanked Ruth Oja for writing a 7 page summary of the CAC review of the conservation easement tax abatement applications, and a notice of CAC support of the applications to the Town Board and Planning Board.

Mary Ann Johnson asked if the CAC had received a memo from the Assessor, Frank Orlando. According to Mary Ann, the Assessor will not support the applications of two of the parcels. Mary Ann noted that there will be a public hearing on the applications on Monday April 24 at 7:30 P.M.

SCENIC ROADS: Mary Ann Johnson presented a draft memorandum on scenic roads. CAC members Chairwoman Brenda Cagle, Mary Ann Johnson, Ruth Oja and Susan Ellis met on March 26 to discuss proposed recommendations for scenic roads.

CAC members discussed descriptions of proposed scenic roads and further additions. The description of Oriole Mills Road was completed, and the addition of River Road from Route 199 to Annandale was added to complete the description of River Road already included in the Open Space Plan. Members decided to add descriptions of the gateway areas noted in the Open Space Plan, which include Route 199 from Trow Boulevard to the High School and the east end of Orlich Road to Rock City, as well as Route 9 from the southern Town line to Rokeby Road and from Mill Road north to the Town line.

CAC members decided that based on the extensive development of Williams Road that it no longer meets the criteria for a scenic road.

Mary Ann Johnson will give the recommendations to the Planning Board, along with the referenced Town of Stanford Law as a suggested guide.

TREE PLANTING: Chairwoman Brenda Cagle has taken pictures of potential planting sites, and Ruth Oja suggested Echo Valley Road, Rockefeller Road, Budds Corners Road and along the soccer fields. CAC members discussed planting along Route 9 South from Triebel's to Butler's. In the past landowners have not been interested, but planting might

be possible in the DOT right-of-way with state permission. Brenda noted that there is \$2000 for plantings in the Town budget.

ARBOR DAY: Chairwoman Brenda Cagle noted that there will be a commemorative planting and pruning workshop at Abrahams Park on Arbor day, April 29. Ruth Oja will be available to hand out free seedlings to attendees. Brenda asked if a member could pick up the seedlings on April 21 or 22 at the Farm and Home Center. Zoie Riel or Mary Ann Johnson will try to plan the pick up.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 1) Chairwoman Brenda Cagle reported on the Environmental Management Council CAC roundtable in February. Brenda, Susan Ellis, Ruth Oja and Denise Barton attended. Brenda felt that there was a good sharing of projects and ideas among the CAC's. She noted that Rhinebeck CAC has a student member, which she felt offers new perspective and energy.

2) Timber Harvesting: Chairwoman Brenda Cagle announced that she has received a book on timber harvesting. She noted that Ruth Oja and Agriculture and Open Space Advisory Committee Chairman Robert Mckeon had complained about clearing by a Long Island developer on property on Hapeman Hill Road. There is no approved development plan for the property, an issue that has frequently occurred, but which could be addressed with timber harvesting regulations.

3) MaryAnn Johnson reported that the Northern Dutchess Alliance will be inviting CAC's to a meeting on April 27 from 4 – 6 P.M. They will discuss biodiversity maps. Karen Schneller- McDonald has written habitat assessment guidelines for the Town of Milan.

4) Household Hazardous Waste Day: Zoie Riel announced that the household hazardous waste day for Red Hook will be on June 3, 2006, and asked CAC members to distribute flyers.

Zoie noted that she attended an available grants meeting and reported that Governor Pataki has doubled the Environmental Protection fund in the proposed budget.

5) Environmental Scholarship Fund: There will be a dedication of an environmental scholarship fund in honor of Ruth Oja's many years of environmental work on May 7 from 1 – 3 P.M. Laurie Husted is helping do invitations.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: May 10, 2006 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Ellis, Secretary