

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Draft

Minutes of meeting
July 12, 2006

Members present: Chairwoman Brenda Cagle, Ruth Oja, Zoie Riel, Susan Ellis

Guests: Ginger Hagan, Rohan Parikh (who is interning for Councilwoman Jean Bordewich)

Chairwoman Brenda Cagle called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. There was no quorum to approve the minutes from June. Zoie Riel and Ruth Oja noted that they would amend the report on Household Hazardous Waste Day. They said that while the day was very busy, with lines for the hazardous waste drop off, recycling and the waste collection proceeded smoothly despite inclement weather.

GREEN BUILDING: Rohan Parikh attended the meeting to speak with the CAC about a proposal from Councilwoman Jean Bordewich to include green building standards in the zoning code. Rohan noted that the Town of Greenburgh in Westchester has passed an ordinance requiring that all new construction be Energy Star compliant and created a position of Energy Conservation Manager. He defined Energy Star compliance as 30% more energy conserving than international standards. Rohan explained the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System.

Zoie Riel suggested that the Town should require Energy Star compliance and that the CAC should get more information on the Town of Greenburgh's program. The CAC discussed incentives for builders and decided to propose a workshop for Town Boards. Chairwoman Brenda Cagle will contact Rick Derikart, who works with the Conservation Services Group implementing New York Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) programs. Zoie Riel will contact Nikki Coddington, Energy Conservation Manager at Greenburgh. Susan Ellis noted that a workshop would be a good follow-up to the Energy Sustainability Conference sponsored by the CAC, and that the CAC should do future work to help homeowners make energy efficient renovations.

The CAC thanked Rohan for his presentation.

REPORTS:

SCENIC ROADS: Mary Ann Johnson was not available. Chairwoman Brenda Cagle noted that the Planning Board would be reviewing Mary Ann's report on Monday, July 17, and that Mary Ann's map would be needed.

BULLETIN BOARD: The CAC bulletin board is not installed yet.

TREES: Digging for the holes to plant trees next to the Town Hall has been postponed.

MEMBERSHIP: Chairwoman Brenda Cagle reported that Jim Rapoli is willing to resign from the CAC, but will be available for consultation on bicycle/ pedestrian/ traffic issues. Susan Ellis noted that he should submit a formal letter to the Town Board for their approval.

INTERMUNICIPAL TASK FORCE: Chairwoman Brenda Cagle reported that the Task Force meets every Friday and that Planning Consultant Michele Greig is bringing sample codes for review. Subjects being discussed include traditional neighborhood districts, open space, infrastructure (sewer), affordable housing, development of the Hardscrabble area and the Chazen study. The CAC decided that it would like to have schools and green building added to the discussion. Brenda noted that the Task Force gave the CAC recommendations on the sewer feasibility study to CTMale Associates.

RUTH OJA ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP: Chairwoman Brenda Cagle reported that there are papers to sign for the scholarship. A stipulation of the Dutchess County Fund Foundation is that the fund must accrue to \$10,000 within 5 years, or the name is lost and the funds revert to the Dutchess County Fund Foundation manager.

PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS GRANT: Chairwoman Brenda Cagle and Susan Ellis attended the July 11 Town Board meeting to speak in support of Laurie Husted's proposal for a grant to place a photovoltaic system on the Town Hall as a demonstration model. They reported that the Town Board unanimously agreed for the CAC to pursue the application for the grant. Brenda noted that NYSERDA recommended conservation measures at the Town Hall must be implemented before a grant could be awarded.

Laurie Husted has also suggested that the CAC needs to do an educational outreach component including the photovoltaics with green building information, perhaps using the Town website. Zoie Riel will speak with Dick Wambach about the website.

AQUIFER AND WELLHEAD PROTECTION WORKSHOP: Chairwoman Brenda Cagle and Susan Ellis attended the June 22 workshop at Belleayre Mountain. Horsley Witten Group, environmental consultants from Massachusetts, provided the speakers. Brenda and Susan reported that they brought good information about wellhead and aquifer issues. They noted that the burden of proof of whether or not a development would impact the aquifer should be on the applicant. They discussed considerations of requiring or accepting minimal, no impact, or positive impact on aquifers. There were many questions about the use of reed bed sewage treatment and small, decentralized sewer systems.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, August 9, 2006 at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary