

**TOWN OF RED HOOK  
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting  
October 11, 2006

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

Guest: Rohan Parikh, citizen representative

Chairwoman Brenda Cagle called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. The minutes of the September CAC meeting were approved with a motion made by Zoie Riel and seconded by Ruth Oja.

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT:** The Town Board held a public hearing on the Community Preservation Act proposal for Red Hook on October 9, 2006. Several CAC members spoke in favor of putting the Community Preservation Act on the November ballot. The CPA would authorize a surcharge on sales of real estate above the median price, to be used as funding for purchase of open space.

**CONSERVATION EASEMENT TAX ABATEMENT APPLICATION:** The CAC reviewed a conservation easement application for property on Hapeman Hill Road. Members rated and gave a positive recommendation for the application. Brenda Cagle will write the narrative and recommendation to submit to the Planning Board.

**RED HOOK TRADITIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD EXPANSION PLANS:** CAC members discussed the plans proposed to the Intermunicipal Task Force for expansion of neighborhood development to the North and South of the Village of Red Hook, including adjoining lands in the Town. John Clark of Dutchess County Planning has drawn up the proposal to allow greater development density around the Village, while maintaining open space in outlying areas. CAC members noted that the plan allows room for a trail from Abrahams Park to the Town Recreational Park, a feature that the CAC has long supported.

Barry and Roni Gurland, owners of the historic Hendrick Martin House, are very concerned that development of the adjoining Cookingham property would adversely affect the historic and scenic agricultural landscape of both properties. Ruth Oja noted that only one corner of the Cookingham property is within the Town and subject to Town planning regulations. CAC members agreed that whatever plan is accepted by the Intermunicipal Task Force, the CAC recommends a greater buffer to protect the Gurland property, which is seeking National Historic Register status. CAC members also requested that Brenda Cagle ask the Task Force how the plan will guarantee that the remaining farmland will be preserved, and to encourage that any development follow “green building” principles

**ENERGY CONSERVATION - GREEN BUILDING:** The CAC discussed alternatives for “green building” and energy codes. Laurie Husted spoke with Jack Christman of New Paltz, a Home Energy systems (HERS) rater and energy star builder. He reviewed a check list of 200 items for “green” buildings, and noted those that are achievable without great effort, though he is less familiar with materials. Laurie called builder Steve Cornacchini, but has no reply. Keith Lore answered Laurie that

he agrees with the “green building” concept, but not with regulations requiring them; Laurie has asked him to tell the CAC what is reasonable. Laurie is also in contact with Steve Dunning, who has done geothermal work and is interested in energy conserving materials. Brenda Cagle has given Laurie sample codes.

Rohan Parikh reported that he has not been able to reach Nikki Coddington , Energy Conservation manager for the Town of Greenburgh, but he is working on a comparison of 3 Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) processes for new development.

Laurie Husted announced that the Hudson Valley Regional Council is holding a conference on “green building” on October 18 and suggested faxing the information to builders. Denise Barton will post on the bulletin board. Laurie also suggested arranging a local conference, perhaps a breakfast meeting at the Elmendorph Inn in November.

**RECYCLING:** The CAC discussed purchasing a recycling container for the Recreational Park; Zoie Riel will get prices.

**SCENIC ROADS:** Brenda Cagle noted that the Planning Board has reviewed CAC recommendations and driven the roads. The Planning Board suggested adding that on Woods Road most houses are not visible, and that keeping farmlands on Pitcher Lane and Rockefeller Lane is important. They would delete Benner Road as too developed, and would include Feller-Newmark Road from Crestwood Road to Hapeman Hill Road, East Kerleys Corners Road from Williams Road to Route 9 and Scism Road. They will consider regulations recommended by the CAC.

**TREES:** Brenda Cagle reported that Ginger Hagen has been working to set a date for tree planting, either October 28 or November 4. She has approval for 2 trees at the Bagel Shop and John Kuhn wants 4 trees at the Recreational Park. Some will also be planted on the Town Hall/Rhinebeck Savings Bank property line. Car Quest doesn’t want any. Ginger is working on a tree ordinance. Brenda and Ginger met with the Hyde Park Tree Committee and Rhinebeck for information on their programs.

**AQUIFER STUDY:** Brenda Cagle reported that the Town Board has approved \$6500 for hiring the Chazen Company and Russell Urban Mead to do an aquifer study.

**BRUSH DUMPING:** Denise Barton noted that a landscaper had been dumping brush in the wetlands near her home. The CAC discussed options for providing residents with a suitable area to dump brush. Denise will speak with her neighbors. The CAC will talk with the Highway Department.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary

