

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of rescheduled meeting
December 7, 2006

Members present: Chairwoman Brenda Cagle, Susan Ellis, Laurie Husted, Zoie Riel, Ginger Hagan

Guest: Rohan Parikh

Chairwoman Brenda Cagle called the meeting to order at 7 P.M. Denise Barton has requested that the minutes clarify Michael O'Hara's description of cleaning products acceptable for the City of Hudson as those that leave no persistent bioaccumulative toxins (currently used in EPA definitions). The minutes of the November meeting were approved with the clarification by a motion made by Brenda Cagle and seconded by Ginger Hagan.

MEETING WITH CENTRAL HUDSON RE: TREE CUTTING: A meeting with Central Hudson on November 9, 2006 was attended by representatives from the State, County and Department of Transportation, along with Councilman Harold Ramsey, Councilwoman Sue Crane, Brenda Cagle, Ginger Hagan, Linda Keeling and Kathy Stewart. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss concerns about Central Hudson's "enhanced pruning" program. According to Central Hudson, the Public Service Commission occasionally mandates such pruning to prevent damage to power lines. Otherwise, Central Hudson claims that they only remove dead or damaged trees.

Brenda Cagle asked Central Hudson to consider a replanting program similar to the National Grid offer of \$50 for any appropriate tree planting near power lines. Central Hudson was not receptive to the idea. Brenda also noted that residents have requested underground lines wherever feasible. Brenda suggested that a Tree Board would be a point of contact for any future discussions.

SCENIC ROADS: Brenda Cagle reported that she spoke with Paula Schoonmaker for an update on scenic roads. The Planning Board is proceeding with work on them and Planning Consultant Michele Greig will have write the final proposal.

RECYCLING BINS: Brenda Cagle reported that Recreational Park Director John Kuhn would like two bins placed at the refreshment area. John has consulted with Recycling Manager T J Hackett; Recycling will buy bags for the containers and Recreation personnel will put them in. CAC members discussed whether or not a container could also be placed by the Recreational Park pavilion.

Zoie Riel showed a catalogue of various types of containers and discussed which might be the most suitable. CAC members discussed additional possibilities for placing containers at the Town Hall. Laurie Husted noted that she might be able to provide one from Bard College. Zoie will ask at Town Hall what would work for them. Zoie noted that prominent use of recycling containers in both locations would start an identity that Red Hook recycles.

Ginger Hagan made a motion, seconded by Zoie Riel that the CAC spend up to a maximum of \$2500 for recycling containers for 3 locations. Approval was unanimous.

MEMBERSHIP: Ginger Hagan is moving in January and will be submitting her resignation. Ruth Oja has submitted her resignation. The CAC regrets losing both valuable members. Owen O'Connor from Common Fire and Mike Ignatowski are interested candidates for membership.

TREES: Ginger Hagan and Brenda Cagle presented a draft tree ordinance to the Town Board, and Brenda met with Town Attorney Christine Chale. They are working on a listing of what the CAC wants in the ordinance, which is needed as soon as possible for application for Tree City status. The CAC discussed the issue and considered establishing a Tree Board to set up the ordinance. Ginger suggested establishing the authority for the Tree Board and giving reasons for the ordinance. Brenda will discuss the issue with Supervisor Marirose Blum Bump.

INTERMUNICIPAL TASK FORCE: Brenda Cagle reported that the sewer feasibility study is proceeding and a fiscal impact report of proposed development is being prepared. Russell Urban Mead has done part of the aquifer study. Brenda asked if GREEN building standards can be included in the final Task Force report and considered for revisions of the Zoning Code. Laurie Husted and Brenda will attend the Town Board workshop on December 11.

ENERGY CONSERVATION AND ENERGY STAR REQUIREMENTS: Laurie Husted has received the code changes done by the Town of Greenburgh. Laurie suggested that Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold standards are too much to consider for the Highway garage. Rohan Parikh noted that Ulster County has passed an ordinance requiring that all new building meet LEED silver standards. Laurie proposed that the CAC present municipal LEED and Energy Star requirements to the Town Board at the same time. She also asked that the CAC encourage ICLEI membership, which will require a Town resolution to join and an appointed liason.

Laurie reported that Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy has no viable bids on the lighting retrofit. She noted that a consultant could come to speak about it and new technology available (needed for the photovoltaic grant). Then bids could be put out again.

CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE: Brenda Cagle, Rohan Parikh, Denise Barton, Owen O'Connor and Supervisor Marirose Blum Bump attended the conference, which discussed how global warming would affect the Hudson Valley. The Director of ICLEI spoke and a proposed initiative for the town of Guilford, Connecticut was presented. A conclusion of the conference was that if nothing is done to change emissions of greenhouse gasses, the climate in New York would be similar to North Carolina by the end of the century.

HANSEN CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROPOSAL: The CAC reviewed a proposal by Richard and Lee Ann Hansen for a subdivision including a parcel to be dedicated to conservation easement. The CAC agreed that it would recommend the parcel for inclusion in the Conservation Easement Tax Abatement Program, but could not submit a formal review until the subdivision approved the parcel. Susan Ellis will send a memo to the Planning Board and copy the attorney for the Hansens.

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

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, January 10, 2007 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary

