

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of meeting
January 10, 2006**

Members present: Chairwoman Brenda Cagle, Laurie Husted, Susan Ellis, Denise Barton, Zoie Riel

Guests: Owen O'Connor, Mike Ignatowski, Rohan Parikh, Jack and Gail Christmann of Home Energy Solutions, Jeremy Barton

Chairwoman Brenda Cagle called the meeting to order at 7 P.M. She introduced Owen O'Connor and Mike Ignatowski as potential new members of the CAC. The CAC currently has 3 vacancies.

Laurie Husted noted as a correction to the Energy Conservation section of the minutes of December 7, 2006, that the Ulster County resolution requiring that new building meet LEED silver standards only applies to county buildings. The minutes of the December meeting were approved as corrected with a motion made by Zoie Riel and seconded by Brenda Cagle.

The CAC temporarily adjourned to attend the public hearing by the Zoning Board Appeals on the interpretation of the Farmland Protection regulations.

PHOTOVOLTAIC GRANT: The Town Board has approved \$10,000 for the photovoltaic project. Laurie Husted reported that the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) has not designated a project manager yet. The contractor overestimated the shading and has to refigure. Laurie also noted that the Town must do the energy conservation measures to comply with the grant. She has asked Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy to work on a rebid for the grant. Laurie noted that costs for photovoltaic systems are increasing and hopes that the project can be completed in 2007.

RECYCLING: Denise Barton suggested that the Town recycling brochure needs to be updated. Zoie Riel will ask Ruth Oja for information and ideas. CAC members discussed toner cartridge recycling. Brenda Cagle will ask where the money goes; CAC members feel that it should be put towards recycling education or purchase of recycling bins for the Town.

ENERGY STAR REQUIREMENTS: Brenda Cagle introduced guests Jack and Gail Christmann as guest speakers. Jack is a HERS (Home Energy Rating System) rater and Energy Star builder; he is also a NYSERDA representative for new commercial construction in zone 5. CAC discussed with Jack possibilities for Energy Star and energy conservation programs that would be feasible for the Town. Brenda Cagle noted that Energy Star requirements might work for the proposed Traditional Neighborhood District. Zoie Riel made a motion to recommend to the Town Board and Intermunicipal Task Force that all new residential construction be required to be Energy Star certified. The CAC discussed the motion and tabled it for more information; Brenda will ask the Task Force if they will support Energy Star requirements.

The CAC discussed how to get local builders involved with Energy Star and LEED designated construction. Jack Christmann noted that Leadership in Energy and Environmental design (LEED) has no requirement for mandatory energy efficiency. He added that builders have said that training is a problem, but he could do training. It would be market driven to show how builders would benefit. The Town of Greenburgh code is straightforward – new building must comply with current Energy Star

requirements. A HERS rater does 3 reviews. Jack noted that NYSERDA will review plans for commercial development for free. The CAC thanked Jack and Gail for their input and offer of assistance.

Zoie Riel asked the CAC to help promote energy conservation measures at the schools. She has spoken with Superintendent Paul Finch who is promoting student involvement. The School District is working with NYSERDA for energy efficient mechanical units. The School District is holding a meeting on the new roof proposals on Tuesday, January 16; some CAC members will attend to offer assistance. Zoie would like the roofing contract to include energy conservation features.

ICLEI CITIES FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION PROGRAM: The Town Board has passed a resolution authorizing the CAC to apply for membership in ICLEI (a nationwide organization promoting environmental protection by reduction of greenhouse gasses and energy use changes). Denise Barton has the application. She will ask Councilwoman Sue Crane to be the elected official liaison and Zoning Enforcement Officer Bob Fennell to be staff representative. Denise Barton and Zoie Riel will assist. Denise discussed setting a goal of doing a greenhouse gas inventory for 2007. She suggested that perhaps the CAC could partner with a Bard College internship program.

AQUIFER STUDY: Brenda Cagle reported that she has the final report of Russell Urban Meade's aquifer study, as well as a fiscal impact report. The conclusions suggest a need for more townhouses and similar development that coincide with the desires of the Intermunicipal Task Force to minimize the negative impacts of the current least restrictive zoning. Brenda also noted that the sewer feasibility report would be presented at the Friday, January 12 Intermunicipal Task Force meeting.

TREES: Brenda Cagle spoke with Town Attorney Christine Chale about a draft of a tree ordinance and establishing a Tree Board. She will prepare a draft.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS:

Susan Ellis noted that DEC requires that the names of the students chosen for the two reservations for one week at Camp DeBruce be submitted by February 15. Applications need to be prepared as soon as possible. Zoie Riel said that she could take the applications to the school. Susan Ellis will e-mail her the CAC letters for the packet. Laurie Husted suggested that the CAC might be able to use the "Kid Mail" feature at the school.

MEMBERSHIP: The CAC will present Owen O'Connor and Mike Ignatowski for Town Board appointment as CAC members. This leaves one vacancy, for which Brenda Cagle would like to find a candidate interested in pursuing tree projects.

Mary Ann Johnson noted that the CAC has no liaison to or from the Planning Board. She will speak with Chairwoman Christine Kane.

The meeting was adjourned at 10 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, February 14, 2007 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary

