

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of rescheduled meeting
February 21, 2007

Members present: Chairwoman Brenda Cagle, Denise Barton, Susan Ellis, Mary Ann Johnson, Zoie Riel, Laurie Husted, Mike Ignatowski, Owen O'Connor

Guest: Councilwoman Lisa Pullaro

Chairwoman Brenda Cagle called the meeting to order at 7 P.M.

HANSEN CONSERVATION EASEMENT APPLICATION: The CAC looked at resource maps of the Hansen property proposed for conservation easement to determine a recommendation for the Town Conservation Easement Tax Abatement Program. There was discussion of the difference in the manner whereby these easements are held. Mary Ann Johnson noted that monitoring of easements may be a right or an obligation. For an easement held by a land trust, monitoring is an obligation; for easements such as the Town program, where the Town is a third party, monitoring is a right. Lisa Pullaro added that the Town as a third party would have to be prepared to take the responsibility, should the need arise.

Denise Barton described the easement rating sheet for those not familiar, and the CAC completed the ratings. The CAC determined a positive recommendation for the property based on agricultural soils and wildlife values, and gave this recommendation to the Town Board. Mary Ann Johnson noted that the Farmland Protection Law requires easements as a condition of subdivision applications on lands with prime agricultural soils or soils of statewide importance.

CAC members asked about the final disposition of previous conservation easement application recommendations. Brenda Cagle will write up the results of the other easement ratings and distribute to CAC members.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT: The Town Board meeting agenda for the same evening included discussion of setting a date for public referendum for the proposed Town Community Preservation Act. The CAC adjourned to attend the Town Board meeting; Brenda Cagle and Susan Ellis spoke in favor of the Community Preservation Act and putting it to a public referendum.

Brenda Cagle reopened the CAC meeting. She noted a correction in the minutes of the January meeting for the Aquifer Study report; there is no fiscal impact study with the report, but one will be a part of the sewer feasibility study. The minutes of the January meeting as amended were approved with a motion made by Denise Barton and seconded by Laurie Husted.

RECYCLING: Zoie Riel noted that the recycling container for the Town Hall is in the hallway, and the two for the Recreational Park have arrived. The CAC discussed publicizing the new recycling containers – a notice at the Town Board meeting or a press release, or a ribbon cutting at the Rec Park on Earth Day, April 21, 2007. Zoie will discuss ideas with Recreational Park Director John Kuhn.

Brenda Cagle reported that Recycling Manager T J Hackett wants 200 more flyers and is updating the website. Councilwoman Lisa Pullaro has asked that the CAC make sure that revisions to the flyer match information on the website. Zoie will speak with T J.

Zoie Riel announced the schedule for Household Hazardous Waste Days and gave flyers for distribution. Red Hook's collection day will be June 2, 2007. Zoie also reported that Recycling Manager T J Hackett is concerned about the garbage fees for inappropriate materials left at the Recycling Center. The CAC will work on strategies to reduce the fees, including notices on the bulletin board.

EARTH DAY/ ARBOR DAY: The CAC discussed planting trees for Earth Day, April 21, 2007. Brenda Cagle has proposed asking that Red Hook be included in the State Main Street Planting Program. Through the Department of Transportation, the State is giving free trees. The Town Board should approve the program at their meeting. They would use a landscape architect to designate locations this year, and do the planting next year.

Brenda Cagle has submitted the application for Tree City USA. Brenda will order seedlings to give out on Arbor Day, April 28, 2007. Zoie Riel suggested asking the school to do species labels for the trees; Mary Ann Johnson will ask the kindergarten teacher. Brenda noted that Regional Forester Lou Sebesta will do free publicity.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION SUMMER CAMP

SCHOLARSHIPS: The CAC thanked Denise Barton for handling the program. Denise reported that Amber Edler Zollner and Declan Dwyer-McNulty were the students selected for the scholarships. VFW Post 7765 has donated the scholarship money.

GREEN BUILDING/ENERGY STAR: Brenda Cagle received a note from Planning Consultant Michele Greig that she had sent the CAC proposals for Energy Star requirements, but had no reply. CAC members had been forwarded the proposals, which included only the Traditional Neighborhood development area; the CAC recommends requirement of Energy Star compliance for all new residential development. CAC members discussed outreach with the Planning and Town Boards, perhaps a workshop with Rick Derikart.

HISTORIC STRUCTURES: Brenda Cagle reported that Ruth Oja and Patsy Vogel met to include the Gurland property information in the Historic Structures Survey. Zoning revisions should consider the Historic Structures overlay. Mary Ann Johnson added that the Gurland house should be added to the map.

PHOTOVOLTAIC GRANT: Laurie Husted reported that there is no progress on the energy conservation measures or the grant bid. Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy has not rebid the project; costs were not coming out within the estimates of the consultant. Laurie has updated NYSERDA; she will speak with Councilwoman Lisa Pullaro. Laurie has spoken with Rhinebeck, and the installer said that the PV installation at the Rec Park is meeting expected performance.

ICLEI – SUSTAINABLE HUDSON VALLEY: Denise Barton has completed the application for ICLEI membership, which needs the Supervisor’s signature. Brenda Cagle spoke with Melissa Everett, Executive Director of Sustainable Hudson Valley, who suggests that Red Hook should join with Rhinebeck and Hudson to create a cluster of “Cool Communities.” Brenda has concerns about overlap with ICLEI. Brenda will notify Melissa that the CAC would like a meeting; Mary Ann Johnson will speak with the Northern Dutchess Alliance.

The CAC discussed membership in Sustainable Hudson Valley and voted unanimously to spend up to \$40 to join.

WORKSHOPS: Brenda Cagle announced that the Cooperative Extension Environmental Program for February 28 would be a Conservation Advisory Council Roundtable. The forum is valuable because all the County CAC’s share their experiences and expertise.

Brenda Cagle, Laurie Husted, Mike Ignatowski and Owen O’Connor attended the Energy Conference with Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. There was discussion of biofuels and Gillibrand’s goal to use technology to make New York energy self sufficient.

Brenda Cagle, Susan Ellis and Owen O’Connor attended the Cooperative Extension program on conservation easements. Presentations by Dutchess County Planning, Dutchess Land Conservancy, Winnakee Land Trust and Scenic Hudson described their various roles in acquiring and managing conservation easements, and the benefits to landowners and communities. Owen O’Connor suggested that another option would be a community land trust that would own property and lease for farming. Mary Ann Johnson asked how financing would work, noting that non-profit organizations can get grants and donors. She added that the Hudson Valley Agricultural Corporation is an organization that does not hold land, but offers property management services.

The CAC was informed that the Town Board appointed Mike Ignatowski and Owen O’Connor as CAC members at their meeting. The CAC welcomed them to membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary

