

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting
March 14, 2007

Members present: Denise Barton, Laurie Husted, Zoie Riel, Susan Ellis, Owen O'Connor

Guest: Councilwoman Lisa Pullaro

In the absence of Brenda Cagle, Denise Barton as acting Chairwoman called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M. The minutes of the February meeting were approved with a motion made by Zoie Riel and seconded by Owen O'Connor.

SUSTAINABLE HUDSON VALLEY (SHV): Denise Barton reported that a proposed Thursday conference call with Melissa Everett of SHV was not viable and would need to be rescheduled. Melissa's original proposal for work with SHV was to join the Towns of Red Hook and Rhinebeck together with the City of Hudson in hiring a part time outreach person for promoting climate change studies and proposals. She was looking for each community to contribute \$12,000 to \$15,000. Melissa has since amended the proposal to include a \$500 membership fee with defined benefits and a fee schedule (to be worked out) for any additional services or support requested by the community. The CAC agreed that the second proposal sounds much more workable.

Owen O'Connor suggested that perhaps Red Hook would need access to ALLCO, a solar energy financing group on Wall Street, more than conferences. Councilwoman Lisa Pullaro asked if ALLCO has done any work in New York State. Owen said that he knew that they have done work in Connecticut, but wasn't familiar with their work in New York.

CLIMATE CHANGE RESOLUTION: Owen O'Connor and Councilwoman Lisa Pullaro spoke on Tuesday about Owen's draft climate change resolution. Lisa expressed concerns that the resolution does not call for an action per se, and noted that the Town has already supported membership in ICLEI. She suggested that getting too bound up in whereases could affect Town Board agreement. Owen noted that the Town of Woodstock had modeled their resolution on the US Mayors' Conference, which he did also. Owen will rework the draft.

Laurie Husted noted that the CAC is probably a year away from any action program. Meanwhile, the CAC would ask the Town to commit to buying Energy Star products while the CAC is doing carbon footprint studies. Councilwoman Lisa Pullaro added that the CAC request for Energy Star products should stipulate that the Town will buy when available and cost effective, so that it is not too restrictive. Laurie Husted noted that life cost versus initial cost should be a consideration. Lisa agreed, but added that vendors still must be cost competitive.

April 14, 2007 is designated as a day to "Step It Up for Climate Change." Councilwoman Lisa Pullaro asked what the CAC wanted to do. CAC members agreed that they would like the Town Board to make a declaration supporting climate change goals. Lisa noted that the Town Board meets on April 3 and 10 and could be presented a request at those meetings. Denise Barton asked Owen if he would modify his resolution to a declaration.

Owen O'Connor asked when the software package for emissions inventory and tracking that is a part of the membership package would be available from ICLEI. Denise Barton will ask Kim Lundgren, the regional representative for ICLEI.

AQUIFER ORDINANCE: The issue of an aquifer ordinance has come up at the Intermunicipal Task Force. Chairwoman Brenda Cagle is looking for help to compare and contrast the County model and Amenia's ordinance.

ARBOR DAY: Brenda Cagle will purchase seedlings to give out on Arbor Day at the Recycling Center. Mary Ann Johnson is working on a project with school children to place name tags on trees.

ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES: Laurie Husted reported that she met with Councilman Jim Ross and Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand, who agreed that they could do weatherstripping and programmable thermostats for the Town buildings. Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy has called for prices on new ballasts and energy conserving light bulbs. Jim asked whether or not it would make as much sense to do new fixtures, suggesting that the prices for new fixtures would be below \$5000. Laurie noted that New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) has renewed its rebate for \$10 per energy saving fixture; Ted will work on the proposal to match the rebate. Councilwoman Lisa Pullaro reminded that the project would still need quotes.

PHOTOVOLTAIC GRANT PROGRESS: Laurie Husted reported that Engineer Dan Wheeler has done a roof analysis and wants to know if he would be the engineer. Laurie is also waiting for another engineering estimate. If the project can be done for less than \$1000, the choice is usually at the discretion of the Department head. There will be attorney review. The photovoltaic grant will cover 80% of the approximately \$40,000 cost of the system.

RECYCLING: Denise Barton suggested putting a graph on the bulletin board showing Recycling Center tonnages. Zoie Riel asked who does the website, and noted that Recycling Manager T J Hackett has sent changes. Zoie also asked who has the recycling brochure; she will check with the printer. Councilwoman Lisa Pullaro offered to produce a hard copy if the CAC can't find electronic copy.

Zoie distributed flyers for Household Hazardous Waste Day, which is June 2, 2007 for Red Hook. She will ask Mary Ann Johnson about school distribution.

INTERMUNICIPAL TASK FORCE: Brenda Cagle relayed news from the Task Force that they would hold a public meeting to discuss a proposal for additional commercial space south of Hannaford.

BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENT: Brenda Cagle and Denise Barton spoke with Erik Kiviat of Hudsonia about biodiversity mapping that he has been doing for the Towns of Rhinebeck and Amenia. Erik suggested contacting our State legislator for assistance in funding; Brenda will speak to Legislator Marc Molinaro. Brenda, Owen and Denise will speak with Kristen Bell of Hudsonia for information on funding and training.

TREE PLANTING: A tentative date for tree planting is April 28, 2007. Volunteers are needed; Denise Barton will help.

SCHOOL ROOFING PROJECT: Laurie Husted reported that she went to a School Board meeting to ask about the progress of the roofing project. Superintendent Paul Finch noted that information would be in the school newsletter. Denise Barton will e-mail or call to offer that the CAC might have a line on solar funding. Zoie Riel added that she would try to get architect Bob Fox involved; he is a GREEN builder who helped with the CAC's energy conservation conference.

Zoie Riel noted that the Friends of Ruth Oja luncheon was a nice honor and went well. Susan Ellis thanked all the members who helped make it a success, adding that surplus monies are going to the Ruth Oja Environmental Scholarship Fund.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION SUMMER CAMP

SCHOLARSHIPS: Denise Barton reported that Amber Edler Zollner and Declan Dwyer-McNulty were presented to the Town Board as winners of the summer camp scholarships. Though the VFW could not attend, they told Denise that they are very happy to support the scholarship funding. Denise will be ready to start early next year.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 A.M.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, April 11, 2007 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary