

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of rescheduled meeting
May 23, 2007**

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

Chairwoman Brenda Cagle called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M. She reported that Pat Kelly is interested in joining the CAC. She will be invited to come to the June meeting of the CAC.

Brenda distributed mail from the Dutchess County Executive and noted that the names and addresses of the CAC members were not up to date. Susan Ellis will contact the County Executive's office and forward to them a current membership mailing list.

The minutes of the April meeting were approved with a motion made by Owen O'Connor and seconded by Denise Barton. Mike Ignatowski noted that he had difficulty with the e-mail format, as the margins were cut off. Secretary Susan Ellis said that she could adjust the margins to correct.

JAMS CONSERVATION EASEMENT APPLICATION RECOMMENDATIONS: Brenda Cagle summarized the site review of the property proposed for conservation easement by Sam Harkins. CAC members who visited the property site agreed with the Harkins' desire to protect the viewshed, but recommended a smaller transfer of two acres to accommodate the neighbors' need for an adequate pool site, while leaving a large enough parcel to qualify for conservation easement tax abatement status. The Planning Board has preferred to agree to a larger transfer to keep the hayfield in one parcel.

The CAC also recommended review of the Town conservation easement policies. Town Attorney Chris Chale has suggested a procedure for conservation easements considered by the Town. Brenda Cagle noted that of the proposed easements reviewed by the CAC in 2006, only three have been filed with the County Clerk.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT WORKSHOP: Mary Ann Johnson reported that she had discussed the idea of a workshop on conservation easements with the Northern Dutchess Alliance, to include the NDL, Winnakee Land Trust, Dutchess Land Conservancy, the Intermunicipal Task Force, and the Towns of Milan and Amenia. The idea would be to create a mechanism to remove conservation easements from the political arena. Dutchess County Planning Chairman, Roger Akeley is very supportive. Mary Ann Johnson noted that stewardship should be addressed, and that the Town can't do it cheaper than the land conservancies. Design of developments is the key up front. Land trusts need to be involved at the beginning to indicate what they are willing to protect.

WEBSITE IDEAS: Town Board liaison Lisa Pullaro has informed Brenda Cagle that the Town website is all set for the CAC to contribute information. Mary Ann Johnson suggested tips for the average person to make small steps to reduce global warming. Other suggestions were to include the Arbor Day photos, an ICLEI home page, links to Neighborhood Earth Watch and Sustainable Hudson Valley, and trail information. Brenda will discuss with Councilwoman Lisa Pullaro.

GREEN BUILDING WORKSHOP: Brenda Cagle reported that Rick Derikart is willing to do the workshop, but needs administrative approval and the support of NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority). CAC members suggested considering Jack Christman for the workshop. Brenda has given Rick Derikart the Town Board meeting dates for June and July. The CAC agreed that if he can't do it by July that other plans should be pursued.

ARBOR DAY ACTIVITIES: Mary Ann Johnson reported that the maple sugaring and tree identification with the kindergarten class was well received. Elizabeth Wilkins did the parts of the trees. Susan Ellis noted that the Gazette-Advertiser had done a nice photo and article.

Denise Barton reported that the seedling give away at the Recycling Center was all done within three hours. T. J. Hackett was a big help. Denise noted that recipients appreciated the seedlings and also requested more shade tree and evergreen varieties.

Brenda Cagle reported that 80 seedling were planted on the Recreational Park trail by 6 volunteers, including the Trail Committee. A neighbor expressed concern about flooding, so the Committee will plan to plant more trees as a buffer and flood reduction measure.

TREE ORDINANCE: Brenda Cagle noted that the proposal for a tree ordinance is not progressing. She asked if any other CAC members would join a subcommittee to help. Work needs to be done to form a Tree Commission, develop a Town Wide Forestry Management Plan and do an inventory. CAC members agreed that it would be important to require permits for work on trees within Town rights-of-way, that Central Hudson can't always ignore.

ICLEI MEMBERSHIP: Denise Barton reported that the ICLEI membership is completed so that the CAC can download the software to do climate control assessments. The CAC has no data yet.

The CAC discussed asking a Bard College scientist who is a member of the International Panel on Climate Control to give a presentation on technical issues of global warming and what people can do. Mike Ignatowski suggested that in the Fall, it would coincide with peak oil prices.

BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENT: Brenda Cagle reported that there is a Hudsonia sponsored course for biodiversity assessment in August. Susan Ellis noted that she and Mary Ann Johnson, among others, had taken the course and would recommend it for any CAC member whether or not the CAC actually conducts specific assessments. Knowledge of the process and the environmental information shared are both valuable. Brenda Cagle, Owen O'Connor and Denise Barton will make an appointment with Hudsonia to discuss working on a grant for biodiversity assessment studies for the Town.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY: Denise Barton reported that the time slots for the Household Hazardous Waste Day collection at the Red Hook Recycling Center on Saturday, June 3, 2007 are nearly filled.

DEC ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMER CAMP: Denise Barton reported that the students who will be attending DEC environmental summer camp are all set to go, though Declan had to take his second choice.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL: Susan Ellis noted that the CAC needs to designate a representative for the newly reforming EMC, and that while she would like to attend, she could not commit to being the representative. The EMC will be meeting on Thursday, May 24, and she already has another commitment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, June 13, 2007 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary