

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting
June 13, 2007

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

Guests: Councilwoman Lisa Pullaro, Patrick Kelly

Chairwoman Brenda Cagle called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M. There was no quorum to approve minutes. Brenda introduced guest Patrick Kelly, who is interested in joining the CAC.

TOWN WEB SITE: Councilwoman Lisa Pullaro sends web news directly to Lorraine Wheeler. Lisa said that she mentioned at a Town Board meeting that all Town Committees should have a web page.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT APPLICATION: Brenda Cagle has received an application for the Conservation Easement Tax Abatement Program from Sarah Sweeny of Tivoli. The application did not include a previous deed or map, so Brenda notified her that the CAC would have to table review until they were received. Brenda noted that the Hansen easement has been filed with the County Clerk.

Sheila Buff of Milan CAC has spoken with Brenda about working cooperatively to establish a separate regional land trust to handle easements that may not be wanted by other private land trusts. CAC members agree that it would be a good idea, and also feel that the Planning Board should require letters from land trusts denying interest in an easement before a municipal trust accepts stewardship.

ESTUARY GRANT POSSIBILITY: Brenda Cagle brought information on Hudson River Estuary grants available through the Department of Environmental Conservation. Unfortunately, the grant application deadline for 2007-2008 is June 29, 2007. Matching funds of 25% would have to be allocated by the Town. Five categories of projects may qualify for the grants: Community Interpretive Centers and Education; Local Planning and Inventory and/or Acquisition of Open Space; Community Based Habitat Conservation or Stewardship; Watershed Planning and Implementation; Hudson River Access projects.

Though the time frame for this grant cycle seems unworkable, the CAC discussed local projects that could be considered for the future. The CAC is interested in working with Hudsonia to prepare a Biodiversity Assessment for the Town. Members suggested that Hudsonia might be prepared to submit an application for a grant on behalf of the Town. Brenda Cagle will contact Hudsonia. Another project of interest is an interpretive guide and signs for the wetlands trail from the Recreational Park.

ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES AND PHOTOVOLTAIC GRANT: Laurie Husted reported that she has asked Pat Courtney of New York State Energy Research and Development (NYSERDA) why she can't find a lighting equipment company with the proper energy saving fixtures for the Town Hall. Pat has given her a name of an Orange County firm. For the programmable thermostats and weatherstripping, Councilwoman Lisa Pullaro will ask Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand for the status of the project.

Laurie Husted noted that a decision is needed on who will bid on the photovoltaic project. John Wright from Hudson Valley Clean Energy Systems could write the bid specifications and Pat Courtney has recommended John Calhoun. Laurie will ask Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy if the person writing the bid specifications would be restricted from bidding. Councilwoman Lisa Pullaro noted that if the project needs Town Board approval, it must be brought to a meeting; she will ask Ted about the dollar amounts for the project.

RECYCLING: Zoie Riel reported on the Household Hazardous Waste Day collection. Participation has tripled, with 248 registrants, but Zoie stressed that it is still a small percentage of the households in the Northern Dutchess area. She hopes that next year compact and regular fluorescent light bulbs will be added to the collection. Zoie added that she has found a natural pest control company.

Zoie noted that the Red Hook Chamber of Commerce has been developing a packet of information for new residents. She thought that the Recycling Brochure should be included. Susan Ellis will take some to the Chamber.

GREEN BUILDING WORKSHOP: Brenda Cagle reported that she had no response from Rick Derikart for the “green building workshop,” so she has called Jack Christmann to see if he could do a workshop with the Town Board in August. CAC members discussed inviting local builders with experience in “energy star” building. The CAC has agreed to propose a resolution for the Town to adopt “energy star” and “green building” guidelines.

Zoie informed the CAC that the Hudson Valley Regional Council has adopted and authorized distribution of a resolution encouraging member counties, local governments, businesses and institutions to adopt Green Building guidelines.

TREES: Brenda Cagle will work with Councilwoman Sue Crane on tree projects. Councilwoman Lisa Pullaro noted that at the last Town Board meeting there was discussion of going to bid on developing the connector road from Hannaford to Fisk Street with a 5’ “tree lawn,” and talk about bid specifications. She added that the Community Block Grant funding the road might not allow for planting trees. The Department of Environmental Conservation is taking applications for a tree planting grant in August.

Brenda Cagle announced that there will be a meeting with a landscape architect from the Department of Transportation on Thursday, June 21. The landscape architect will help decide on sites for planting about 40 trees in 2008 under a DOT program. Brenda encouraged any other CAC members to join the meeting. Brenda also noted that work on a tree ordinance is progressing.

INTERMUNICIPAL TASK FORCE: Brenda Cagle noted the meetings at which the Task Force will make presentations to the Town Board and added that the Task Force needs a letter of support for the Traditional Neighborhood Development concept from the CAC. Laurie Husted noted that requirements for “energy star” building should be added.

INTERMUNICIPAL WATERSHED COMMITTEE: Sheila Buff of the Milan CAC asked Brenda Cagle for assistance in forming a committee to discuss watershed issues for the Sawkill Creek, as Milan contains the headwaters. Brenda asked Susan Ellis if she could give Sheila recommendations; Susan will speak with her.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: The July meeting will be cancelled. The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 8, 2007 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary