

**TOWN OF RED HOOK  
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting  
September 12, 2007

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

Chairwoman Brenda Cagle called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M. Several corrections were made to the minutes of the August meeting: Denise Barton noted that for the ICLEI report, the Clean Air/Climate Protection software has not been sent, but must be downloaded. For the Conservation Easements report, the fee for monitoring raw land is \$100 per acre (not \$200), and the County has not proposed funding an Intermunicipal Land Trust. The minutes as amended were approved with a motion made by Mary Ann Johnson and seconded by Owen O'Connor.

**SEWER FEASIBILITY STUDY:** Brenda Cagle reported that Simon Gruber, who has been reviewing the CT MALE report, is questioning the delineation of wetlands on the map for the sewer feasibility study. Mary Ann Johnson and Susan Ellis looked at the Town Water Resources Map, and agreed that the CT Male map did not appear to show the same wetlands delineation. They suggested that the map needs a definition of the sources of information for the wetlands.

**CONSERVATION EASEMENTS:** Brenda Cagle and Susan Ellis attended the Tuesday, September 11 Town Board meeting at which the JAMS conservation easement proposal was discussed. Brenda reported that it was approved with no fee for monitoring. There was disagreement among Town Board members about whether or not a fee was appropriate. CAC members discussed the issue of monitoring easements and fees. Mary Ann Johnson said that monitoring needs to be done for all easements and fees should reflect the cost. She added that lands under conservation easement are exempt from transfer tax under the Community Preservation Act. Susan Ellis noted that for small subdivisions and easements, the fees could be a financial burden. CAC members agreed that there needs to be a joint discussion of the conditions of establishing all Town held conservation easements, including monitoring and fees, so that regulations will be clear and consistent.

Brenda Cagle reported that she had spoken with Lauren Kingman of Milan, who is also a member of the board of Winnakee Land Trust, about the easement procedures on Milan. Lauren Kingman told her that Milan has wording in the contract that the Town can make the contract null and void, and that the Town can transfer the easement to a land trust. Winnakee Land Trust is working on guidelines.

The CAC agreed that it would like to facilitate a workshop to address the need for stewardship and coordination of the easement process. Brenda Cagle will speak with Planning Board Chairwoman Chris Kane. The Town Board also needs to be involved. Brenda will ask Town Attorney Chris Chale to look at the Milan model.

**RECYCLING CENTER REDESIGN:** Brenda Cagle reported that she, Susan Ellis, Councilman Harold Ramsey and Councilwoman Lisa Pullaro had discussed the reconfiguration of the Recycling Center to accommodate construction of a connector road. She noted that Zoie Riel and Recycling Center Manager TJ Hacket had been informed and were making

arrangements for removal of the unused trailers. Other CAC members asked for more information on the alignment of the connector road and Brenda noted that she would send a copy of the plan showing the Recycling Center reconfiguration. Susan Ellis noted that original discussions of the proposed connector road with the Village of Red Hook suggested an alignment from Hannaford Supermarket through Hardscrabble and Anderson developments to Fisk Street near Baxter Road and out to Route 199.

**ENERGY STAR:** Jack Christmann gave a good presentation to the Town Board on Energy Star building programs. The Town Board asked Jack if it would require mandates to accomplish Energy Star goals, or would current needs for reduction of energy costs lead builders to promote it anyway. Jack replied that it would probably need a mandate.

Brenda Cagle tried to contact Nikki Coddington of Greenburgh for more information on their program. CAC members agreed that they would like to have the discussion put on the Town Board agenda and provide a list of codes for review. Owen O'Connor added that he feels that energy star standards would be good for residential/commercial building, but that LEED standards might be appropriate for municipal buildings.

CAC members discussed how to reach businesses with information about energy audits and Energy Star advantages. Denise Barton asked if non-profit groups, such as the Red Hook library could take advantage of the \$100 energy audit. She will contact Karen Sipperly. The CAC will ask Jack Christmann about programs for businesses. The CAC will also work to give information through the Chamber of Commerce.

**ICLEI:** Denise Barton had no further report on the Clean Air Climate/Protection software; she needs a password to download it, and has not received the password yet.

**SOLAR ENERGY:** Mary Ann Johnson and Denise Barton have asked the school district to attend the Northern Dutchess Alliance meeting at Norrie Point on September 24 featuring a discussion on incentives and funding for solar projects for institutions. They reported that the school has been in contact with John Wright of Hudson Valley Clean Energy.

Brenda Cagle reported that the Town Board approved hiring the Town engineer to write specifications for the photovoltaic installation on the Town Hall. Mike Ignatowski asked if there were any drawings or plans that could be displayed on Hardscrabble Day. Neighborhoods Earth Watch will be giving out compact fluorescent bulbs at Hardscrabble Day.

**TREES:** Brenda Cagle met with Councilwoman Sue Crane, Village trustee Brent Kovalchik and the Department of Transportation (DOT). The Town will receive about 50 trees; DOT landscaper Jason Wolfhanger is drawing up a plan for planting.

Brenda Cagle is meeting with Town Attorney Chris Chale to discuss a tree ordinance. Brenda noted that a flag pole has been installed for the Town's Tree City flag.

Brenda Cagle reported that she met with Nancy Guski and Karen Cadorette to discuss the fall tree planting. Recreation Director Doug Strawinski has approved plantings along the new wetland trail at the Recreation Park. Mary Ann Johnson noted that there will be a grand opening of the trail in October.

**BUDGET:** Brenda Cagle is preparing the budget for 2008 and asked CAC members if they had any items to be considered. Laurie Husted noted that there has been a request for a recycling container by the basketball court.

**NYSACC CONFERENCE:** Brenda Cagle announced that the 2007 conference for state CAC's and EMC's will be held in Schenectady on October 19 – 21. The main subject is energy options. CAC members will work on representation.

Brenda Cagle reported that Pat Kelly has been informed that he can't become a member of the CAC, as he holds the position of Clerk of the Planning Board. Brenda has contacted the high school environmental group to see if a student would be interested in becoming a member.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, October 10, 2007 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary