

**TOWN OF RED HOOK  
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting  
October 10, 2007

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

Guest: Councilwoman Lisa Pullaro

Acting Chairwoman Mary Ann Johnson called the meeting to order at 7 P.M. Mary Ann noted a correction of the minutes of the September meeting under the TREES report; she said that there was discussion of a grand opening of the wetlands trail, but no firm date. The minutes of the September meeting were approved as amended with a motion made by Denise Barton and seconded by Owen O'Connor.

**CONSERVATION EASEMENTS:** Mary Ann Johnson reported that the Northern Dutchess Alliance meeting to be held on October 18, 2007 at 9:30 A.M. would feature George Rodenhausen speaking on options for enforcement of conservation easements. She encouraged other CAC members to attend. Mary Ann added that Amenia, Clinton and Dover are looking at holding easements, and Milan already is. Councilwoman Lisa Pullaro asked if Milan is charging fees for enforcement; Mary Ann replied that there is a fee schedule. Lisa asked about what monitoring is required. These issues will be discussed at the NDA meeting.

**RECYCLING AND RECYCLING CENTER REDESIGN:** Councilwoman Lisa Pullaro offered to arrange a Saturday meeting at the Recycling Center to walk through with Councilman Harold Ramsey, CAC members and Recycling Center Manager T J Hackett. This will give a clearer understanding of how the Recycling Center redesign and the connector road will relate to one another. The connector road construction is part of the Community Block Grant for 2007.

There has been a request from the Recreation Commission for a recycling container to put at the basketball court at the Recreational Park. Laurie Husted will follow up with Zoie Riel about purchasing another container. She asked if there was any feedback on how the two already in use are working, as they are located close together.

**ENERGY STAR:** The CAC discussed recommending regulations for Energy Star compliance to the Town Board and having a date on the Town Board agenda. Owen O'Connor proposed that the CAC recommendation be that all new municipal, residential or institutional buildings be required to meet Energy Star standards. LEED standards could be encouraged. Councilwoman Lisa Pullaro noted that the recommended regulations should be reviewed by Town Attorney Chris Chale. Mary Ann asked Lisa about dates for the Town Board agenda; the CAC decided to ask for November 20. Several CAC members will attend the NYSACC 2007 Conference on the Environment on October 19 – 21, and will be able to discuss information and resources at the November CAC meeting before finalizing recommendations.

**ICLEI:** Denise Barton reported that she finally has been able to download the software for the Clean Air/Climate Protection data survey. She also signed up for two "webinars," but they were not

all successful. She will be looking for Bard College students who might help collect data. Denise asked whether or not work-study students could be paid; Laurie Husted said that she might be able to support some funding through her budget at the college. Laurie noted that ICLEI should provide resources for grants. Owen O'Connor offered to help work on some of the data.

Mary Ann Johnson asked about the baseline year for data. Denise noted that the default baseline year is 2000, but that another year could be chosen. Mary Ann suggested that the data should include energy use of all municipal buildings, schools and firehouses. Mileage figures are not so easy to collect, but the census should be able to provide an average of commuting miles.

To proceed with the survey, the CAC needs data seekers, worksheets and an itemized list of buildings (grouping buildings where possible is recommended, such as all the Town buildings.)

**SCHOOL/SOLAR EFFORTS:** Mary Ann Johnson noted that the school had no representative at the NDA presentation on solar options, but Denise Barton said that Mark Phelan asked for a summary. School Superintendent Paul Finch said that Mark Phelan has worked with solar energy and is aware of the issues. Denise will check the school district website.

**SCENIC ROADS:** Mary Ann Johnson reported that Michele Greig of GrREENPLAN is finalizing the descriptions of the scenic roads to be designated for zoning. Mary Ann is working on the map. The Zoning Review Committee is waiting for the information from Michele Greig before presenting it to the Town Board. The CAC needs to make a table to document the descriptions. Owen O'Connor asked if the CAC could do the roads individually, but Mary Ann thought that it would not be sufficient. CAC members reviewed the descriptions at the end of the meeting to see if any adjustments needed to be made, and agreed on the final wording.

**FLAG LOT SUBDIVISIONS:** Mary Ann Johnson noted that the Zoning Board of Appeals was reviewing a request for a variance of a flag lot to reduce the width of the flag frontage so that the lot could be subdivided. CAC members discussed the need for a policy regarding the approval of such a variance and agreed that it could not comment on this particular variance without information on the impacts of the potential subdivision. Councilwoman Lisa Pullaro suggested that the CAC ask to be on the mailing list of the ZBA; CAC members agreed to ask Chairwoman Brenda Cagle to draft a memo to the boards to ask that the CAC be included in their distribution. The CAC will need to determine under what circumstances it want to review applications.

**CHANGE OF MEETING DATE:** The CAC has received a request from Linda Keeling to change its meeting date so that it does not coincide with the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting, and make residents choose to attend one or the other. CAC members proposed other dates, but members had conflicts with some, and others conflict with other committee meetings. Mary Ann will notify Linda that an alternate meeting date could not be agreed upon.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, November 14, 2007 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary