

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting
November 14, 2007

Members present: Chairwoman Brenda Cagle, Susan Ellis, Mike Ignatowski, Laurie Husted, Zoie Riel, Owen O'Connor, Denise Barton

Guest : Patrick Kelly

Chairwoman Brenda Cagle called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M. The minutes of the October meeting were approved with a motion made by Denise Barton and seconded by Zoie Riel.

NYSACC CONFERENCE: Denise Barton, Zoie Riel and Susan Ellis attended the 2007 Conference on the Environment sponsored by the New York State Association of Conservation Commissions at Proctors Conference Center in Schenectady on October 19 – 21. Denise reported on a session about outdoor wood burning furnaces. She noted that banning them was not recommended, but problems can be addressed by enforcing opacity standards for emissions, as most do not meet them. The State currently doesn't regulate outdoor wood burning furnace emissions, but the Environmental Protection Agency does.

Denise spoke of the green building seminar, which described the job of performance contractors. These contractors usually work with school and municipal projects to accomplish the most energy efficient design and specifications. Their fees are usually covered by the savings in energy costs. She noted that Mark Phelan from the school district is working with a performance contractor ESC. Zoie Riel asked if the school would do a "green" roof; Denise replied that the school is consulting with the Energy Smart program.

Susan Ellis reported that there were informative sessions on diesel emission reduction programs and incentives for schools, green building tax incentive programs, energy efficiency in municipal water/wastewater treatment systems, the Town of Woodstock initiative to achieve carbon neutrality and the Town of Bedford's carbon emission reduction program. Energy efficient lighting options included the pros and cons of compact fluorescents and LED lighting.

RECYCLING CENTER REDESIGN: On Saturday, October 27, Councilman Harold Ramsey and Councilwoman Lisa Pullaro met with CAC members Brenda Cagle, Zoie Riel, Denise Barton and Susan Ellis, Recycling Manager TJ Hackett and Ruth Oja to review the alignment and impacts of the new connector road on the Recycling Center. TJ Hackett expressed concern about how the compressed site with parking on the other side of the road would work for safety and traffic flow, especially when the road is fully connected. Harold noted that the situation might only be temporary with other options for siting explored when the road actually connects through to Hannaford.

Zoie Riel pointed out that the current construction was a liability issue as there were no signs or protection for the public. There would need to be fencing of the site when the road is completed. Harold said that signs would be put up. Zoie noted that the Recycling Center is a DEC approved site, and that the Town would be advised to notify them of the changes. Denise Barton asked what plans were included for landscaping the reconfigured site. The CAC thanked the Council members for taking the time to discuss the Recycling Center changes.

Zoie Riel asked Recreation Director John Kuhn how the two recycling containers were working next to the snack bar. They are working well, but John feels that there could be areas to use two more. The CAC considered the tennis court and basketball areas, and possibly the pavilion. Brenda Cagle will check the CAC budget to see how much funding is available. Pat Kelly will encourage Village Trustee Ed Blundell to consider areas for recycling containers in the Village.

SEWER FEASIBILITY STUDY: Brenda Cagle reported that Simon Gruber of Orange County has sent the report for independent engineer review and has commented that there are two particular insufficiencies. The study assumes that the entire discharge will be planned for one location, where it would be better to have several. The study also does not give enough emphasis on longterm energy use. Brenda has taken the comments to the Intermunicipal Task Force, and noted that the Village is forging ahead with the sewer proposal, and has done soil tests.

SOLAR ENERGY/ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR THE TOWN HALL: Laurie Husted had no further report on bid responses.

FALL TREE PLANTING: Brenda Cagle reported that about 35 volunteers, including Denise Barton, planted 20 trees on November 3, and 7 the day before. Some were planted on the new wetland trail. She thanked all for an enjoyable and productive day.

ICLEI: Denise Barton reported that she would like to attend a conference in Hartford, Connecticut on November 28, 2007. She asked any other interested CAC members to join her.

Laurie Husted noted that she would not have any money from her budget to fund work/study students at Bard College; Laurie is working on an emissions inventory at Bard.

Mark Phelan from the school district has given Denise data on energy use, and noted that the school is happy to participate. Denise will ask John Clarke of Dutchess County Planning for data on general averages of vehicle miles driven. Denise will ask the Unification Seminary, the Northern Dutchess Christian School and Devereaux for information on their energy use. Denise noted that she may have to use 2004 as the baseline for the emissions inventory.

Zoie Riel has spoken with Susan Simon, the incoming President of the Red Hook Chamber of Commerce, about presenting a program on performance contracting and energy audits. The CAC will plan a winter program and work on bringing small business owners and landlords to the presentation.

TREE ORDINANCE: Brenda Cagle reported that the proposed Tree Ordinance will be on the Town Board workshop agenda for Tuesday, November 20. Brenda and Town Attorney Chris Chale have described the basics of the ordinance, and the Town Board will set a public hearing date. CAC members discussed minor adjustments to the ordinance and unanimously supported submission of the ordinance.

ENERGY STAR ORDINANCE: Brenda Cagle reported that the proposal for an ordinance to require that all new construction be Energy Star certified will be on the Town Board workshop agenda for Tuesday, November 20. CAC members discussed the outline of a cover letter with reasons for recommending the Energy Star requirement:

- 1.) Builders can meet Energy Star requirements using good building practices and commonly available materials at no extra cost.

- 2.) A 30% energy savings can be expected with Energy Star compliance. The lower fuel costs and energy consumption will promote sustainability.
- 3.) The requirement will assist the Town in meeting goals of its ICLEI membership.
- 4.) Mike Ignatowski noted that it would promote the development of energy efficient construction businesses and certified inspectors.
- 5.) The requirement is not a radical departure from the current Town Building Code.

Brenda will draft the cover letter. Owen O'Connor suggested that a date of effect be given to allow contractors time to comply with the regulation; CAC members agreed on a 90 day lead time.

The CAC discussed the form of the ordinance. Denise Barton made a motion, seconded by Owen O'Connor and passed unanimously, that the Town Board be asked to pass an ordinance similar to that of the Town of Greenburgh, which is simple and straightforward. Laurie Husted will ask Pat Courtney Strong, NYSERDA representative, if she can attend the meeting to answer questions.

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS: Brenda Cagle noted that she had a report from Mary Ann Johnson that the Town will consider a contract with Winnakee Land Trust for monitoring Town held easements.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, December 12, 2007 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary