

**TOWN OF RED HOOK  
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting  
December 12, 2007

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

Guests: David Smallwood and Anne Rubin, introduced as interested in CAC membership

Chairwoman Brenda Cagle called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M. Several corrections to the minutes of the November meeting were noted. Denise Barton noted that for outdoor wood burning furnaces, the State does recommend banning, and is working on emissions standards. For the Recycling Center redesign, the CAC thanked Town Board members for their time. Brenda Cagle spoke with Chamber of Commerce President Susan Simon about a program on energy audits for small businesses. The minutes of the November meeting as amended were approved with a motion made by Owen O'Connor and seconded by Laurie Husted.

**ENERGY CONSERVATION AND PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS AT THE TOWN HALL:**

Laurie Husted reported that the Town Board unanimously approved lighting upgrades, energy conservation measures and solar panels for the Town Hall. She added that the Town Board approved \$6,000 for the bid specifications, in addition to the \$10,000 grant from NYSERDA. Laurie recognized the diligent work of Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy in managing to bring the bid specifications in just under \$7,000.

**RECYCLING CENTER:** Denise Barton stated the Recycling Center was in disarray. Brenda Cagle has e-mailed Councilman Harold Ramsey. Peter Setaro of Morris Associates has replied that paving should be worked on December 12, and finished soon. He is in contact with Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand.

**ENERGY STAR PROPOSAL TO THE TOWN BOARD:** Brenda Cagle reported that the presentation to the Town Board for the proposal to require Energy Star compliance for all new construction was well received. Town Board members had questions about the effect of the proposal on costs to builders and buyers. Brenda noted that Building Inspector Steve Cole has expressed concern for increased costs to buyers. CAC response was that good construction practices should produce Energy Star compliance, while not significantly increasing building costs. Buyers should gain enough energy savings to accommodate any increase in costs. The Town Board would like a comparison of the difference between State Energy Star standards and current Town building code requirements.

Brenda added that architect Steve Cornacchini is willing to speak with the Town Board about his experiences as an Energy Star builder. Zoie Riel added that "Healthy Homes" considerations should also be part of the building package. CAC members recognize that incentives, such as NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority) grants and rebates, or low cost loans are important.

**TREE ORDINANCE:** Brenda Cagle reported that the public hearing for the Tree Ordinance was positive. The Town Board left it open for a week for public comment. There was concern that the statement that the proposal shall include trees proposed to be removed would be an extra burden .

Brenda reported that there is \$1,425 left in the budget for Trees and Rural Roads. She proposed that the new Tree Commission be able to buy books to reference for their work.

**RECYCLING CONTAINERS FOR RECREATIONAL PARK:** Zoie Riel has been given a price of \$1,245 for two additional recycling containers for the Recreational Park. She has been in contact with Director John Kuhn about them.

**WETLANDS:** Brenda Cagle reported that there has been dumping in the wetlands by the Recreational Park trail. She noted a November Planning Board comment that it would be nice to have a Wetlands Law. Mary Ann Johnson suggested that the Wetlands Law being prepared for Rhinebeck would be a good model. Susan Ellis noted that the Town of Pawling has been successful for many years with their Wetlands Law. Brenda added that there is a new National Wetlands Inventory.

**TRAILS:** Brenda announced that the Trails Committee Chairperson is looking at details for signs on the wetlands trail and grant money for the trail. Doug Strawinski and Mike Ignatowski are looking at long term choices for trees compatible with forecast climate changes.

**CONSERVATION EASEMENTS:** Mary Ann Johnson reported that the County has approved \$75,000 to develop an Intermunicipal Land Trust. Winnakee Land Trust has offered to hold easements. The County is pursuing a GREENWAY grant for the project. Five municipalities (Hyde Park, Clinton, Milan, Rhinebeck and Red Hook) have agreed to budget money for conservation analysis before subdivision approval. The Northern Dutchess Alliance is looking to have a joint meeting with the municipalities. Mary Ann added that there is a need to develop negotiation strategies and address the issue of costs and enforcement. Planning Consultant Michele Greig has drafted criteria for evaluating easements.

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION SUMMER CAMP**

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** Denise Barton reported that the applications for scholarship recipients need to go out. The DEC begins accepting applications on February 9, 2008. **CAC members agreed to meet on Wednesday, January 30, 2008** to choose the two recipients of scholarships to DEC summer camp.

**ICLEI/CLIMATE CHANGE:** Denise Barton reported that the Hartford Conference on Climate change in November was good, but very advanced. Owen O'Connor has helped Denise get some data from the Town's energy use. Denise is working on the inventory baseline and would like to go back to the year 2000.

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PROGRAM ON ENERGY STAR AUDITS:** CAC members discussed a presenting a program to the Chamber to reach businesses with energy conservation programs. Jack Christmann could speak on energy audits. Zoie Riel could discuss electronics recycling. The CAC also hopes to involve the banks with energy loans and NYSERDA to discuss programs to help businesses.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, January 9, 2008 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan H. Ellis, Secretary