

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting
January 9, 2008

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

Guests: County Legislator Tom Mansfield; Kristina Connolly and Anne Rubin, both of whom have submitted letters of interest in membership on the CAC

Chairwoman Brenda Cagle called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. She introduced Tom Mansfield, newly elected County Legislator. Tom will serve on the Environmental Committee, and noted that for January, the committee will propose that the legislature pass a resolution to require all supermarkets to have containers to collect plastic bags. He added that it is a small start, but the committee looks forward to developing other initiatives.

For the minutes of the December 2007 meeting, Mike Ignatowski noted that under Trails, he and Doug Strawinski have not researched trees compatible with climate change; he thought that Anne Rubin had introduced the subject as a question. The minutes of the December 2007 meeting were approved as amended, with a motion made by Zoie Riel and seconded by Owen O'Connor.

MEMBERSHIP: Brenda Cagle noted that the Town Board requested that by Friday, the CAC give them the name of a proposed member to fill the one vacancy on the CAC. Anne Rubin was welcomed as a returning guest, and Kristina Connolly was introduced as a graduate student at Bard College. CAC members asked Anne and Kristina about their environmental interests. Anne is helping Denise with the climate change inventory and is interested in recycling initiatives. Kristina is studying environmental policy and is interested in water quality and energy issues, including impacts of road salts. CAC members hope that regardless of which candidate fills the vacancy, all who have expressed interest will join in project work.

SUBCOMMITTEES: Supervisor Sue Crane has asked the CAC to be the umbrella organization for Open Space, Agriculture, Trails and Trees committees and to designate other appropriate subcommittees headed by members. Chairpersons of subcommittees and committees will be expected to report to the Town Board on the first Tuesday of the month. CAC members discussed how the structure would work for the group and generally feel that the committees that are currently functioning separately should continue to do so – Agriculture and Open Space, Trees and Trails. More communication or liaisons would be helpful, but the CAC has numerous other projects and business. CAC discussed as subcommittees within the CAC: Energy Conservation, Climate Change, Recycling and Water Resources. Susan Ellis noted that there is interest in forming a watershed protection alliance, which would be intermunicipal.

The CAC needs more feedback about expectations for the working of the subcommittee structure. The CAC would welcome any additional help from residents interested in specific projects. Zoie Riel noted that she works with interns from Marist College, who receive credit for their time; she asked Laurie

Husted if Bard College would grant work credit, if it would not pay interns. Laurie suggested that Zoie speak with the Dean of the College, and said that she could post notices for students.

AQUIFER PROTECTION: The need for a new Highway Department garage, and Centers and Green Spaces recommendations for future development bring concerns for protection of the aquifer. Brenda Cagle asked that the CAC consider proposing an Aquifer Ordinance based on the recommendations of hydrogeologist Russell Urban Mead. Anne Rubin asked what needs to be done. Brenda suggested beginning with a comparison of the current Town regulations with the Dutchess County model. Anne will work on that. Mike Ignatowski stated that the CAC needs to define what benefits and goals it is trying to achieve. Anne noted that it should be project related.

The CAC agreed to hold a meeting on aquifer protection on Monday, January 14 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall, and to ask Water Board Chairman Hank Van Parys to attend.

RECYCLING: Brenda Cagle asked if the Recycling Brochure should be updated. Zoie Riel will work on that. Zoie noted that the Town has received a Notice of Violation from the Department of Environmental Conservation regarding the Recycling Center. CAC members discussed difficulties with the site configuration and the road work.

ENERGY STAR: Brenda Cagle reported that she has taken the Energy Star specifications to Building Inspector Bob Fennell and Zoning Code Enforcement Officer Steve Cole. Steve feels that it is a good idea and will give Councilman Jim Ross a comparison of the specs with the Town Code, and get the Town Engineer involved. The CAC will plan to meet with them and move forward. Laurie Husted will meet with Steve Cole on Friday, January 11, and the CAC will work to present an Energy Star proposal for February.

TREES: Brenda Cagle reported that the Tree Ordinance is still in public hearing.

OPEN SPACE: Owen O'Connor asked if one of the CAC 2008 goals is to do an Open Space Index. The CAC discussed the difference between the Open Space Inventory and an Open Space Index. Maintaining an Open space Index is one of the requirements under state enabling legislation for CAC's. The CAC will work with the Agriculture and Open Space Committee to put one together. Brenda noted that one of the functions of the Community Preservation Board, which deals with conservation easements, is to prioritize areas for open space. Laurie Husted said that Bill Maple from Bard College would be a good resource for how to use an Open Space Index. The CAC will research which County CAC's have an open space Index and which are Conservation Boards. The CAC will speak with Supervisor about becoming a Conservation Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,
Susan H. Ellis, Secretary