

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of meeting
February 12, 2008**

Members present: Chairwoman Brenda Cagle, Susan Ellis, Anne Rubin, Mike Ignatowski, Denise Barton

Guests: Councilwoman Micki Strawinski, Kristina Connolly

Chairwoman Brenda Cagle called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M. Anne Rubin was welcomed as a new member of the CAC. The minutes of the January 9, 2008 meeting and the special meeting on aquifer protection on January 14, 2008 were approved with a motion made by Mike Ignatowski and seconded by Brenda Cagle.

TOWN HALL “GREENING:” The CAC congratulated Brenda Cagle’s report that all the energy conservation features recommended by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) energy audit in 2006 have been completed. Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy has agreed to purchase recycled office paper and already is purchasing other recycled paper products. Ted gave Brenda the name of the Town Hall cleaning service, so that they can be contacted regarding use of “green” cleaning products. Brenda noted that Laurie Husted can give information on products that Bard College has found as “green” substitutes.

SCENIC ROADS: The CAC and Planning Board had reviewed descriptions of scenic roads in various Town documents in 2007, and agreed on a proposed list for consideration for an ordinance. It is now ready for Zoning Review Commission recommendation. Anne Rubin asked if a map showing scenic roads is available; Brenda Cagle noted that one exists, but is outdated.

TREES: Brenda Cagle reported that the application for the recertification of the Town of Red Hook as a “Tree City USA” (first approved in 2007) has been submitted, and received a positive review from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) regional forester. This week the NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) engineer will meet to look at tree planting sites for the NYSDOT Annual Landscape Development Contract Program. The Town was scheduled to receive 15 trees; some owners of sited suggested for plantings do not want the trees, so new locations of suitable commercial areas along state highways must be found,

The Tree Commission is forming; Nancy Guski and Trilby Sieverding have been appointed, and Karen Cadorette has applied. The Tree Commission will take over the work of planting trees and completing “Tree City USA” mandates.

DEC SUMMER ENVIRONMENTAL CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS: Denise Barton reported that the two students chosen to receive the scholarships for one week at DEC summer camp are Ryan Hicks and Jaime-Elena Kent. The scholarship checks need to be mailed by March 1, but Denise has not heard from Business Manager Deb Marks whether or not the VFW has funded the scholarships.

The CAC also discussed the Ruth Oja Scholarship Fund. Last year no student qualified for the scholarship. The Community Foundation of Dutchess, which administers the scholarships, suggested expanding the criteria to include related fields and environmental activities. Brenda Cagle called them

to agree. CAC members also considered the need for future funding of the scholarship, and hopes to get outside help, such as the school environmental clubs to work on fundraising projects, as it is not really a CAC function. Anne Rubin suggested that perhaps a group would consider a fundraiser for Earth Day. Manna Jo Green of Sustainable Hudson Valley has suggested environmental product fairs. Susan Ellis suggested that if groups do not step in, that the CAC should see that the funds be allocated before they revert to the general scholarship pool

AQUIFER ORDINANCE: Anne Rubin spoke with Water Board Chairman Hank Van Parys, who asked why the aquifer protection had to be done by ordinance. Anne noted that she needs to present specific information on Red Hook's aquifers, the physical features and how development activities impact them. She gave an outline of topics that she would cover in a presentation, which she would give to the CAC, and then present to the Town Board. She would include hydrogeology, geologic history, bedrock and glacial deposits, soil types and hydrologic soil groups.

Anne discussed other issues of aquifer protection. Impervious surfaces carry water away from the aquifers, and it is important to consider their impacts in development. Non-point sources of pollution impact the aquifers; Anne suggested that the CAC needs to identify those sources in Red Hook, and what options are available for minimizing or remediating them. She noted that Water Board Chairman Hank Van Parys had stressed the importance of public education about non-point sources of pollution. Anne felt that it would be important to determine the specific vulnerabilities of soil types within Red Hook. She will research the Red Hook Zoning Law to see that activities might need to be regulated. Anne added that any proposed ordinance should be based on science, and consideration of the costs and benefits of regulation, ie. that abatement and remediation are very expensive.

Kristina Connolly will help Anne. They will ask for information on how Amenia is benefiting from its ordinance. Anne suggested working on handouts or a power point presentation, Kristina favored a power point presentation and suggested that the CAC might be able to use a classroom at Bard College. Anne asked if there is a larger version of the soils map than the one used in the Russell Urban Mead report; Brenda Cagle will find out.

ENERGY STAR BUILDING: Brenda Cagle gave a report from Laurie Husted that she had met with Building Inspector Bob Fennell and Zoning Enforcement Officer Steve Cole on Tuesday and spoken with Architect Steve Cornacchini. They all agreed with the proposal for requiring Energy Star compliant building. The CAC has modeled its recommendations on the Energy Star requirements of the Town of Greenburgh. Brenda also spoke with Steve Cole, who suggested a meeting with local builders at which Steve Cornacchini would speak about his experience with Energy Star building. The CAC could facilitate local training sessions. Steve Cole suggested a weekday afternoon session soon, while building is slow due to winter weather. He will provide contact information for builders. The CAC will also ask Councilman Jim Ross to be involved. Denise Barton asked what kind of credit the builders would get for attending the training.

Brenda Cagle will ask Laurie Husted to handle the builders' meeting and the Chamber of Commerce presentation. Brenda Cagle left a message with Pastor Tom Thielman, who is arranging the March meeting for the Chamber, to set up the small business energy audit presentation. The CAC agreed that it might help to ask some of the presenters at the March 14 Conference on Energy at Dutchess Community College to participate. Laurie Husted has asked Susan Simon if she would tape the conference for PANDA.

ICLEI: Denise Barton noted that it is worthwhile for the Town to continue membership in ICLEI. In the future, their data base will be migrated to a web-based platform. Denise, Anne Rubin and Owen O'Connor have gone through data for fuel usage and energy usage for the Town Departments. Denise has asked Purchasing Agent Ted Kudzy if he will track future energy use on the 11 Town accounts with Central Hudson. She will ask Ted and Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand for vehicle use data, such as aggregate use, number of vehicles and age.

Denise hopes to do future work on municipal data for the Village of Red Hook, and that they will provide a volunteer. Brenda Cagle asked Denise if she needs more help; Anne Rubin offered to try to give more time.

EARTH DAY: Brenda Cagle reported that Nancy Guski has arranged for author Barbara Bash to speak, and has suggested a project for students to paint store fronts with Earth Day themes. Brenda and Denise Barton have asked if Hudsonia would participate in a program. Horticulturist Amy Foster from Bard College was planning a tour for Friday, but might change to Saturday to coincide with the Earth Day activities. Brenda suggested that Paula Schoonmaker and Kristina Connolly might act as co-coordinators. Mike Ignatowski offered to be contact person to arrange for activities for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Brenda hopes that the new Tree Commission will continue the tradition of giving away tree seedlings.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT: Brenda Cagle and Anne Rubin attended a meeting of the Intermunicipal Task Force, at which engineer Ed Clerico spoke. The Village is considering having him work with their engineer on the sewage treatment proposal. C.T.Male had recommended subsurface dispersion as one of three options to consider. Ed Clerico suggested installation of a double sewer line, so that discharge could be dispersed throughout the aquifer, and that the wastewater should be treated to the highest level.

HABITAT MAPPING: Brenda Cagle and Denise Barton spoke with Hudsonia about habitat mapping, which would cost \$80,000 to \$100,000. The CAC needs to speak with other communities to see how it has worked for them and see if joint projects would qualify for more funding. The Hudson River Estuarine Program has funded up to 30% of some projects.

Brenda Cagle announced that the Cooperative Extension Environmental Program is holding a CAC Roundtable on February 27, 2008, and hopes that other CAC members will attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary