

**TOWN OF RED HOOK  
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting  
May 14, 2008

Members present: Denise Barton, Dr. Jane Ferguson, Mike Ignatowski, Susan Ellis, Anne Rubin

Guest: Councilwoman Micki Strawinski

Denise Barton, acting as Chairwoman in the absence of Brenda Cagle, called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. Councilwoman Micki Strawinski noted that Dr. Jane Ferguson has been officially appointed a member of the CAC; CAC members congratulated and welcomed Jane. The minutes of the April meeting were approved with a motion made by Mike Ignatowski and seconded by Dr. Ferguson.

**RUTH OJA ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP:** CAC members reviewed and approved the application of Lucia Von Reusner for the scholarship. The CAC was pleased with her qualifications and that she would pursue environmental studies at Cornell University. CAC members filled out the form for the Community Foundation to grant the scholarship.

This is the first time that the scholarship has been awarded, as there were no applications last year. The CAC discussed possible reasons and means for increasing awareness and interest. Dr. Jane Ferguson asked if the scholarship could be extended beyond freshman year. That would not be allowed currently, but the Community Foundation could be asked if it could be amended.

**EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES:** Denise Barton reported on Earth Day activities. At the Town Hall, Les Cagle gave information on biodiesel; students had various displays; the Tree Committee gave out seedlings; Awesome Farms and Keep Farming Committee had displays on local agriculture; and Neighborhood Earthwatch had a table. Village Green and other Tree Committee members planted along Village and Town streets. Denise noted a lot of positive feedback.

Susan Ellis reported that the Energy Conservation program with Pat Courtney Strong of New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) was not well attended, perhaps because it was located in the Village Hall and not with all the Town Hall activities. Brenda Cagle and the other members of the planting team did attend, so at least the Village officials gained information on programs that might assist the Village energy use. Denise Barton also noted that the author presentation at the Village Hall did not have a large response.

**SCENIC ROADS:** Denise Barton reported that Michele Greig, Planning Consultant with Greenplan, has replied that she would be happy to work on wording for inclusion of the Scenic Roads Overlay in Zoning.

**PROPOSED HIGHWAY GARAGE:** Anne Rubin noted that Brenda Cagle has mentioned chipburners as a source of heat, and that "green" building features are intended to be a part of the proposal. Denise Barton reported that she has received some information from Soil and Water Conservation Director Ed Hoxie. The Soil and Water Conservation District wants to build new offices using chip burners. Susan Ellis asked if the chip burners could supply all the heating needs of the building.

Councilwoman Micki Strawinski mentioned some of the options for the construction of the Highway Garage. The CAC agrees that it is important to incorporate “green” building features. Denise Barton asked if LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) would be considered. Denise added that utilities are expanding the “net metering” feature to allow schools and municipalities with photovoltaic or energy producing systems to sell excess energy to the utilities. Micki noted that one of the contractors in consideration, Morton Builders, has experience with radiant floor heating.

**AQUIFER PROTECTION PRESENTATION:** Anne Rubin reported that she and Katrina Connolly met to integrate images and maps into the power point presentation; they are also condensing it. Anne asked Dr. Jane Ferguson about the health issues of waterborne illnesses. Jane noted that pharmacokinetics, the breakdown of pharmaceutical chemicals that are excreted, there are many differences. Anne will get some examples from Jane. Anne noted that Federal and State testing parameters for pharmaceuticals are very lax. June 3, 2008 is the proposed schedule for presentation to the Town Board.

**ZONING REVIEW COMMITTEE:** Anne Rubin is taking Brenda Cagle’s place as liaison to the Zoning Review Committee. She attended their meeting and wants to give information on “green” parking lots. Anne noted that in the Town of Warwick, 15% green space is required in parking lots. Reducing run-off also is a requirement for parking lot design.

**HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY GRANT:** Applications for Hudson River Estuary Grants are due by the end of June. Councilwoman Micki Strawinski will ask about possible grant writing assistance at Bard College. CAC members discussed possible projects and decided that using Hudsonia to do a biodiversity assessment would be the most beneficial and most likely to qualify, as the Town of Rhinebeck has already used a grant for their survey. Dr. Jane Ferguson asked if we could get a copy of the application for Rhinebeck, as a guideline. The grants require matching contributions, either funds or services. CAC members discussed what the Town might be able to contribute. Denise Barton will contact Hudsonia for more information.

**PHOTOVOLTAIC PROJECT:** Denise Barton reported that bid requests are out for the photovoltaic project on the Town Hall. They are being handled by Morris Associates..

**RECYCLING:** Councilwoman Micki Strawinski reported that there has been a change in personnel and some of the traffic issues are relieved with the exit connection. Denise Barton asked about securing the site, one of the requirements of DEC.

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

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, June 11, 2008 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted

Susan H, Ellis, Secretary