

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting
June 11, 2009

Members present: Chairwoman Brenda Cagle, Denise Barton, Dr. Jane Ferguson; Zoie Riel; Susan Ellis, Anne Rubin; Laurie Husted

Guest Rohan Parikh

Chairwoman Brenda Cagle called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M. Denise Barton noted that for the May minutes, it was reported that Planning Consultant Michele Greig would work on the wording for scenic roads, but not specifically by Denise. Anne Rubin added a correction for the Aquifer Protection section that the Federal and State testing parameters were limited. The minutes of the May meeting were approved as amended, with a motion made by Denise Barton and seconded by Anne Rubin.

AQUIFER PROTECTION PRESENTATION TO THE TOWN BOARD: CAC members noted that the presentation generated significant interest with the Town Board and public, who had many thoughtful questions. The CAC thanked Anne Rubin for all the work that she and Kristina Connolly did to prepare and present the report. Anne thanked the CAC members for comments and support.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY: Zoie Riel reported on the June 6, 2008 Household Hazardous Waste pick-up at the Red Hook Recycling Center. She noted that the number of participants was 226, whereas last year the number was about 270. There were a lot of electronics, but fewer chemicals. CAC members discussed possible reasons; perhaps some of the same people were coming, but had already previously brought stored hazardous waste. Zoie still considered that many residents were not sufficiently aware or motivated to participate.

CAC members discussed strategies for increasing participation. Anne Rubin noted that homeowners are liable if they improperly store hazardous chemicals, and they cause pollution. She added that it is not unusual to see uncovered or unprotected containers. Susan Ellis suggested that perhaps there could be a program to offer storage units for safe storage, similar to the program of selling composting units at a reasonable price. Anne preferred that the CAC work to stress “greener” alternatives. The CAC also considered whether it could promote block groups for collection to bring to the Hazardous Waste Day; Zoie said that it would increase efficiency and still cost the same registration.

ENERGY STAR PROGRAM FOR CONTRACTORS: Brenda Cagle reported that she spoke with Zoning Enforcement Officer Steve Cole about the CAC holding a program for educating contractors about Energy Star initiatives. Steve felt that it is too late to plan one for this season, as contractors already would be too busy. Laurie Husted noted that clients are pressing contractors for energy saving initiatives, and Susan Ellis suggested that as the economy has slowed construction, contractors might find Energy Star alternatives to be competitive. Laurie suggested that the CAC ask Steve Cole and Building Inspector Bob Fennell to give applicants an Energy Star handout, which she will work on.

RECYCLING CENTER: Zoie Riel reported that the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will have a meeting with her and Councilwoman Micki Strawinski on June 23, 2008 to discuss the final redesign options. Brenda Cagle noted that at the committee report session of the Town Board meeting, she asked of the site would be secured. Councilwoman Micki Strawinski assured that it would.

RUTH OJA ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP: Brenda Cagle noted that Ruth Oja would prefer that the scholarship be limited to public or home schooled students. Susan Ellis pointed out that this year's recipient chose to attend Millbrook School because Red Hook did not offer advanced placement environmental science.

HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM GRANT: Denise Barton reported that she spoke with Gretchen Stevens of Hudsonia about finding sources of funding for a biodiversity study of the Town. The cost for one of Red Hook would be about \$107,000. Gretchen noted that the maximum grant for the Hudson River Estuary Program is \$60,000, and the largest that she has seen was \$42,000. Brenda Cagle and Denise Barton recommend preparing for application next year. Brenda spoke with Drayton Grant about Rhinebeck's biodiversity study; Rhinebeck had a \$30,000 matching grant, but not from the Estuary Program.

ZONING REVIEW COMMITTEE: Anne Rubin has been officially appointed as a member of the Zoning Review Committee. Anne reported on a Stormwater Conference presented by the Westchester Soil and Water Conservation District. Attendees visited a 3 – 6 million dollar parking lot for the Westchester County Center. The contract regraded the lot, added vegetative cells, special curb cuts and landscaping controls for the flow path and rate of stormwater runoff. Zoie Riel asked how they would handle plowing; Anne said that it would be an issue. Anne noted that NEMO (Non-Point Source Education for Municipal Officials, a national network) has a new office for the Hudson Valley, and will have a representative contact her.

Anne reported that Sam Phelan is working on parking lots and impervious areas; he asked her to comment on the Town of Warwick zoning regarding parking areas. Anne suggested that pervious pavement might not be the best idea for areas of Red Hook over the aquifer recharge zones, due to high water tables and potential for pollution of the aquifer.

Town Engineer Dan Wheeler gave Anne a copy of a plan for extension of sidewalks on the west side of Route 9. Anne asked how to work with the Town Attorney and liability issues.

HIGHWAY GARAGE SITING PROPOSALS: Brenda Cagle brought maps showing the water resource features of five considered sites for a new highway garage: the current Town Hall property, a parcel next to the State Department of Transportation site on Rokeby Road, a parcel adjacent to the Village Highway Garage site on Firehouse Lane and two Village and Town properties on Route 199. CAC members discussed environmental and location considerations for the sites, as well as how to relate the siting of the Recycling Center.

Anne Rubin said that she would look at the wellhead protection manual to see if the recommended buffer is 1000'. She noted that the flow of the aquifer under the Village is to the northeast, and that a Highway Garage would be better sited outside of the aquifer divide, due to the potential infiltration of oils, chemicals and salts used at the garage. She felt that the

proximity to well sources and lack of review of what is in the soils under the sites were limitations to the current garage site and the Village Firehouse Lane properties.

Brenda Cagle noted that on Tuesday, June 17, Councilwoman Micki Strawinski will meet with Jim Pinheiro of the DEC Habitats Office at the Rokeby Road site, and encouraged other CAC members to attend. Anne Rubin suggested that the Town ask Russel Urban Meade to give a hydrogeological report on the Town Hall site and the Rokeby Road site. Zoie Riel noted that the State is proposing Resource Parks and will ask what proposed plans are and how the State expects Towns to fit in. Anne and Zoie will give information to Susan Ellis to write up a memo for the Town Board, including the observations from the site meeting on Tuesday.

Other considerations about the sites were that the Town property on Route 199 is too far out of the Village. The Village Route 199 property has wetlands. The Rokeby Road site has considerable wetlands, and the neighboring properties are already polluted. The Recycling Center might work at the Rokeby Road site, and does use Highway Department support, but CAC members feel that it needs a central location.

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

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, July 9, 2008 At 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary