

**TOWN OF RED HOOK  
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of meeting  
July 9, 2008**

Members present: Chairwoman Brenda Cagle, Mike Ignatowski, Zoie Riel, Dr. Jane Ferguson, Denise Barton, Susan Ellis

Chairwoman Brenda Cagle called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M. The minutes of the June meeting were approved with a motion made by Zoie Riel and seconded by Denise Barton.

Brenda Cagle announced that there is State legislation that increases net metering credits to commercial, school and municipal energy systems that produce excess energy (which can be sold to utilities); previously, only small residential systems could qualify.

**GREEN BUILDING INCENTIVES:** Brenda Cagle also noted that there is new State legislation with “Green Building” incentives. She added that Dave Seymour has built an Energy Star certified home. She and Laurie Husted will speak with him about the details and how the how it compared to other construction experiences.

**DUTCHESS COUNTY ENERGY ALLIANCE:** Denise Barton reported that the Dutchess County Energy Alliance looks to be a promising resource in reducing energy usage and carbon emissions. It follows the Cambridge Model, which covers all areas of energy usage. They will offer low cost or no interest loans for qualifying projects to reduce energy consumption.

**RECYCLING CENTER:** Councilwoman Micki Strawinski arranged a meeting with Brenda Cagle, Zoie Riel and a Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) representative to check the progress of the reconfiguration of the Recycling Center. Denise Barton joined them. They agreed that progress had been made, but that idling of the garbage trucks and entrance security were still concerns to be addressed.

Zoie suggested having a promotional event for recyclers at the Recycling Center, with a survey or questionnaire about the changes at the site. She will contact Councilwoman Micki Strawinski to work out a date and a plan.

**NEW HIGHWAY GARAGE SITE PROPOSALS:** Brenda Cagle has sent a memo to the Town Board to ask that a hydrogeologist be consulted about any sites seriously considered. She also asked Supervisor Sue Crane if a contamination study would be done if the Town Hall property is chosen. Sue answered that one would if the Town Engineer says that it is required. Brenda has put a call in to Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand to ask his point of view, and about what possible contaminants have been used or stored at the current site.

Denise Barton asked if any new Highway Garage siting would trigger a SEQR review, and whether or not the Town Board could be Lead Agency. Brenda will speak with Mary Ann Johnson. Denise also suggested that there should be written procedures. She noted that there is an international standards organization (ISO14001), which is an environmental management system with a written standard of goals and procedures. Guidelines are voluntary and auditable, either by

hiring of an outside agency or self certification with an internal audit. CAC members asked if any other municipalities are doing it.

Dr. Jane Ferguson asked what the Highway Department is currently doing about hazardous materials. Materials safety data sheets would be a source of information. Mike Ignatowski suggested that the CAC should emphasize that if the Highway Garage is built on the current Town Hall property, it should be done in the least disruptive manner and protective of the aquifer. CAC members further discussed potential hazardous waste contamination. Zoie Riel considered that the Dutchess County Water and Wastewater Agency, or the Dutchess County Health Department might have some oversight. Denise Barton asked if the County Department of Public Works would arrange for hazardous waste collection for municipalities.

**ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT:** Brenda Cagle attended a workshop on ecosystem management. She reported that it was very informative, emphasizing stakeholder involvement, scientific basis, measurable targets and adaptive practices. Brenda learned that the Town of Shwangunk found that the biodiversity manual provided an adequate guide, rather than expending funds on a biodiversity assessment. Brenda noted that Mary Ann Johnson has given the opinion that both are valuable, but the assessment is better, as it is site specific.

**ICLEI (Climate Control):** Denise Barton reported that John Maserjian from Central Hudson gave her information on energy usage for municipal buildings, but his numbers are higher than those that she calculated from all the municipal bills.

Denise noted that there is another web seminar on July 25 and 26; she asked Rohan Parikh if he would be interested in following it. He thought that he could.

Denise will ask ICLEI if she can download their information on the Town computer, so that work could be done at the Town Hall. Brenda offered to do the download if Denise gets permission. Denise added that the Beta Version on line is not available until fall. She will look for a contact in Tivoli to help with their information.

**OTHER:** Brenda Cagle suggested that the CAC revisit the outdoor furnace program. Denise Barton noted that manufacturers are improving the design.

Brenda Cagle reported that Sheila Buff of Milan is still interested in speaking with the CAC about forming SAND as a group to work on watershed management.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary