

**TOWN OF RED HOOK  
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting  
December 10, 2008

Members present: Chairwoman Brenda Cagle, Susan Ellis, Anne Rubin, Mary Ann Johnson, Denise Barton, Zoie Riel, Mike Ignatowski

Acting as Chairwoman while Brenda Cagle was delayed, Susan Ellis called the meeting to order at 7:40 P.M.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Zoie Riel noted that for the October minutes, the report on Recycling should read that the Dutchess County Resource Recovery Agency (DCRRA), not Dutchess County was responsible for giving notice to waste haulers to collect plastics numbered 3, 5 and 7. With a motion made by Zoie Riel and seconded by Mary Ann Johnson, the October minutes were approved as amended.

Anne Rubin noted that in the November minutes, her statement on wetlands intended to say that performance standards should be used in concert with prescriptive language to allow for best management practices to be adjusted to reflect changing technology. With a motion made by Denise Barton and seconded by Zoie Riel, the minutes of the November meeting were approved as amended.

**PROPOSED BIODIVERSITY STUDIES:** Anne Rubin reported that she has spoken with Sheila Buff of Milan, who indicated that Milan would be interested in working on a joint biodiversity project. At a seminar on watershed management at Columbia-Greene College, Anne also met a Germantown Planning Board member who expressed interest in working on a cooperative project.

Gretchen Stevens of Hudsonia told Anne that she would help with the application due December 30 for the course on Biodiversity Assessment Training. The course would require a commitment of 4 hours a month for 10 months, plus about 4 hours a week for homework and meetings. The \$1000 cost could be covered by a grant. Mary Ann Johnson and Susan Ellis took a biodiversity training course in 2003, and reported that it was very valuable in showing how to describe the habitat of an area and assess potential conservation measures. The Biodiversity Assessment Training program application requires a resolution of support from either the Town Board, or the Planning Board. Brenda Cagle suggested that the CAC go ahead with the application.

CAC members discussed who might be willing to commit the time to the biodiversity training. Anne noted that Hudsonia would like a team of 5 – 10 people. Charlie Laing of the Planning Board has expressed interest. Other suggestions were Karen Schneller McDonald, who has reviewed habitat assessments for Milan with their CAC, and Nancy Guski of the Tree Committee. Brenda Cagle noted that another town had teacher/student participation. Anne Rubin suggested Ellen Jouret Epstein of the Columbia Land Conservancy.

Susan Ellis suggested that biodiversity study projects might qualify for a Hudson River Estuary Grant (if any are available next year) from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), especially if it is presented as a cooperative project between towns and counties. Anne Rubin noted that Andrew Meyer, speaking at a Millbrook seminar, indicated that doing the assessment training often leads towns to receive grants. Susan Ellis suggested that while the cost of a full Biodiversity Assessment for the Town might be

prohibitive, qualifying for a \$25,000 grant might make feasible a study of the watershed corridors, or a portion thereof.

**SUPERVISOR'S MEETING ON TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION IN 2009:** Brenda Cagle reported that she met with Supervisor Sue Crane to discuss topics of concern for 2009. Supervisor Crane emphasized that frugality would be most important for 2009.

Brenda noted that a completion of Scenic Roads legislation would require finalizing the code, and that it would be better to adopt the code and the map at the same time.

Brenda told Supervisor Crane that the CAC is concerned about wetlands protection, as the Town does not have a wetlands law. She noted that a water resource protection ordinance recommended by hydrogeologist Russell Urban Meade includes a wetlands component. It would cost about \$6,000 to adopt a water ordinance. Anne Rubin asked that 5 criteria for determining wetlands buffers be included in any water resource protection. Mary Ann Johnson recommended that without expending funds, it would be better to concentrate on educating the Planning Board on water resource protection.

Brenda was informed that the Parks and Recreation crew has pulled 3 truckloads of brush from the end of the wetlands trail on Apple Ring. CAC members discussed how to educate residents. If there were a Wetlands Law, they could be required to remove it.

Anne Rubin asked if onsite septic maintenance could be included as a topic for 2009. She noted that a group named Groundwater Guardian could offer assistance.

The proposal for an Energy Star ordinance will likely move forward.

**ICLEI:** Denise Barton asked whether or not the CAC should renew membership in ICLEI. It is \$600 a year, but if the CAC is still getting information and support, then it is good to keep it. Denise noted that she can't devote as much time to the data work and would welcome a student intern. Supervisor Sue Crane is interested in partnering with Bard College on the ICLEI work. Zoie Riel will speak with Bard College, and asked what would be needed. Denise would like help with data collection and entry verification.

**DEC ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMER CAMP:** Denise Barton reported that the applications have come. The cost is now \$325 per week. Denise spoke with the VFW, and they will probably cover the cost. Denise will get the applications to the school and proposed that this year the CAC choose two students with the best applications, regardless of gender, as camp slots are now chosen by the camper.

Brenda Cagle announced that the Centers and Greenspaces Plan would be presented to the Town Board on January 6, 2009

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 P.M. Brenda Cagle noted that she would like to invite teacher Mary Pat Budd to the January of February meeting.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary