

**TOWN OF RED HOOK  
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting  
January 14, 2009

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

Guests: Councilwoman Micki Strawinski, Councilman Robert McKeon, guest speaker Sheila Buff, Rohan Parikh, Molly Williams, Denis Collet

Chairwoman Brenda Cagle called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. She welcomed the visit from Rohan Parikh, who joins the CAC when he can, and introduced Molly Williams and Denis Collet, who have expressed interest in membership. Brenda noted that any resident interested in becoming a member of a Town committee must submit a letter of interest to the Town Board describing their background and interests. Molly is a student in the Environmental Policy Program at Bard College. Denis writes for "About Town" and is involved with work on renewable energy systems with Hudson Valley Clean Energy.

**MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2008 MEETING:** Denise Barton wanted to make clear that the CAC agreed to choose two campers regardless of gender for the DEC Summer Camp scholarships because it would allow for choosing the best applicants. Susan Ellis noted that before the DEC allowed campers to choose location and time slots, the CAC was specifically reserved for only one girl and one boy. Anne Rubin added that she wanted to note that the original Model Water Ordinance did not contain a wetlands component, but that a revision would. The minutes of the December 2008 meeting were approved as amended with a motion made by Zoie Riel and seconded by Jane Ferguson.

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION SUMMER CAMP**

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** Denise Barton reported that 4 applications have been received for the scholarships, but the deadline is not over yet. She has to notify the State by early February, so she suggested that she e-mail all CAC members for selection. Denise added that the VFW has agreed to fund the two camp slots, though the cost has increased to \$325 each.

**RECYCLING:** Brenda Cagle has asked Zoie Riel if she would chair a subcommittee on recycling outreach. Zoie noted that the CAC needs to do outreach on sustainability, and she is willing to chair a subcommittee if she has help. Brenda noted that a "green hook" has been taken from the Red Hook symbol and wondered whether or not permission would be needed to use it for recycling outreach. CAC members thought that it is a matter of public domain. Susan Ellis suggested that Zoie develop a specific proposal for outreach that the CAC could support. Zoie will do this.

Brenda Cagle said that recycling information is not on the CAC website as yet, that more specifics are needed about "Where to recycle everything in Red Hook." She will pass information on ideas to Zoie. Susan Ellis noted that Denise had e-mailed information on a program by Aveda for recycling plastic bottle tops, and perhaps that could be researched. Brenda suggested asking to expand T.J. Hackett's job description at the Recycling Center to include computers. Micki Strawinski noted that County Legislator Tom Mansfield has spoken with T.J. about signage at the Recycling Center, and T.J. is supposed to put in a request to the Town Board.

**STREAM ALLIANCE OF NORTHERN DUTCHESS (SAND):** Brenda Cagle introduced Milan activist Sheila Buff, who has been working to form the watershed protection group SAND. Sheila noted that the watersheds of Northern Dutchess are one of the only areas left in the county that are not covered by a protection group. The watersheds include Sawkill Creek, Stony Creek, Fallkill Creek, Landsman Kill and Mudder Kill. Sheila reported that the Hudson River Estuary Program for Streams and Tributaries assisted the Town of Rhinebeck with a project to plant over 200 trees to stabilize the Landsman Kill's banks at the Lion's Club Park and prevent flooding.

Sheila noted that the model for watershed organizations has been the Wappingers Creek Intermunicipal Council. She would like to keep SAND an entirely community volunteer program. She has been working with Winnakee Land Trust (Lucy Hayden) to have a group with a bank account that could manage any funds granted for projects. Sheila is making a presentation to the Board of Trustees of Winnakee in February. Sheila noted that Anne Rubin and John Swartz have volunteered to work on SAND, and she would like 6 to 8 people. She asked if the CAC would approach the Recreation Board for a volunteer, and Brenda Cagle suggested that a member of the Water Board be asked to join.

Dutchess County will hold Watershed Month for July. Sheila suggested that a goal would be to have SAND running and ready to participate. Cornell Cooperative Extension would send an instructor to work with children on age appropriate stream activities. The CAC thanked Sheila for doing the organizing work and coming to speak with the CAC.

Anne Rubin suggested that an action item to tie into work with SAND would be to become a Groundwater Guardian Community. The Groundwater Foundation offers tools for presentations of education and ideas to reach out to businesses, schools and agriculture. To become a Groundwater Guardian Community, the Town must do one project per year – a result oriented activity (ROA). There are specific programs for schools, golf courses and parks available. Check [www.groundwater.org](http://www.groundwater.org) for information.

**NYSERDA PHOTOVOLTAIC GRANT FOLLOW-UP:** Laurie Husted has asked CAC members to report on their efforts for outreach education for the Photovoltaic Project, information that she needs to report to NYSERDA by the end of the month. Susan Ellis reported that she has had response from the Village that they would include a small paragraph with their water bill newsletter. She is waiting for reply from the Water Board and Central Hudson.

Brenda Cagle reported that there had been discussion of setting up a student team from the "Who Cares Club" to read the photovoltaic meters and record the progress of energy production. However, Supervisor Sue Crane has concerns about the proposal to run a wire from the meter in the basement to a display unit on the bulletin board to show real time data. Denis Collet offered to ask Hudson Valley Clean Energy for suggestions.

Zoie Riel noted that she needed other contacts in the school. Mary Pat Budd, Middle School science teacher and coordinator of "Who Cares Club" will speak at the February CAC meeting. Rohan Parikh said that his high school biology teacher was Deborah Beam, and he would be willing to contact the science faculty.

**ICLEI – CLIMATE CHANGE:** Bard student Lindsey Chapman would be available to start work on carbon emissions data in May, but she is really looking for a full time internship with 4 months funding, and the CAC cannot offer pay. Denise Barton and Brenda Cagle will work outside of CAC meetings. Brenda noted that Supervisor Crane does not support the \$600 membership for ICLEI.

Anne Rubin asked if any Bard students would be willing to work on small projects; she and Molly Williams will look into the possibility.

**ENERGY STAR ORDINANCE PROPOSAL:** Brenda Cagle reported that the Energy Star Ordinance proposal will be on the Town Board agenda for January 28. The language is based on the Town of Greenburgh ordinance, but has an added requirement for mechanical ventilation. Councilman Robert McKeon would like the program to address weatherization and energy projects.

**SCENIC ROADS:** Brenda Cagle reported that Bill O'Neill has suggested that scenic roads be included in the Gateway work of the Intermunicipal Task Force.

**INTERMUNICIPAL TASK FORCE:** Brenda Cagle reported that the Centers and Greenspaces Plan is now on the Town website. John Clark and Bill O'Neill gave a presentation of the Plan to the Town Board. Councilman Robert McKeon noted that the plan includes an 8,000 acre Agricultural Business District that would help preserve agriculture. Prevention of loss and impacts is much better than remediation.

**HUDSONIA BIODIVERSITY STUDY CLASS:** Brenda Cagle reported that there are 11 members of the class working on Red Hook. They chose a study area of about 2500 acres, but Hudsonia wanted it cut to 1000 acres. It is now about 1200 – 1300 acres.

**ZONING REVIEW COMMITTEE:** Anne Rubin reported on a presentation for low impact design of parking lots. The Zoning Review Committee is looking at zoning for parking lots and current best management practices. The goal is to develop standards for parking lots including how much vegetation should be required, etc.

**AQUIFER ORDINANCE:** Councilman Robert McKeon asked when the CAC would be ready to propose an Aquifer Ordinance? Anne Rubin replied that Russell Urban Meade would customize an ordinance for about \$6,000. A new ordinance would combine wetland protection and address groundwater-surface water interaction. Russell is working with Scott Chase of the County Water and Wastewater Agency to develop a county model, which based on the Town of Amenia's ordinance. Anne would like to make sure that the information is available and to go forward, especially in the work of the Task Force, as Russell has recommended. Brenda Cagle summarized that we have been waiting because of cost and because Russell is modifying the ordinance.

**OTHER:** Rohan Parikh asked if there were a list of the accepted conservation easements and their tenure. Councilman Robert McKeon answered that a listing had not been put together yet, but that the minimum term was 8 years.

Brenda Cagle has purchased two books on the Importance of Biodiversity. The CAC discussed where they should be held for public use, and decided that one should be kept at Town Hall and one put in the Red Hook Public Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, February 11, 2009 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary