

**TOWN OF RED HOOK  
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting  
April 8, 2009

Members present: Chairwoman Brenda Cagle, Denis Collet, Susan Ellis, Dr. Jane Ferguson, Denise Barton

Guest: Councilwoman Micki Strawinski

Chairwoman Brenda Cagle called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M. Susan Ellis noted as a clarification of the minutes of the March meeting under Recycling, that Zoie Riel asked the CAC members if the CAC would develop a proposal for a composting project. The minutes of the March meeting were approved as amended, with a motion made by Denis Collet and seconded by Jane Ferguson.

**BRUSH DUMPING:** Brenda Cagle reported that she has spoken with Recreation Park Director John Kuhn about the problem with brush dumping, as he had to have his crew clean up the Recreation Park wetlands trail. John is very interested in a town wide solution for residential areas that need a way to dispose of their brush. CAC members discussed whether or not it might be possible to open Town property on Route 199 for residents to dispose of brush, or contact the Village to see if arrangements could be made to use the Village brush disposal area. The CAC considered that permitting and monitoring would probably be needed. Jane Ferguson will draft a proposal of alternatives for the Town Board to consider.

**PHOTOVOLTAIC METER DISPLAY:** Brenda Cagle thanked Denis Collet, Doug and Andrew Strawinski for wiring the PV display. Denis noted that Woogs O'Keefe also assisted and that they were only waiting for the background poster to activate the display.

**ENERGY STAR ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARINGS:** There will be one more session of open public hearing on the proposed Energy Star Ordinance at the April 14 Town Board meeting, after which the Town Board will vote on the proposal. Brenda Cagle thanked all those who spoke in support of the ordinance at the three previous sessions. Councilwoman Micki Strawinski said that she appreciated that the CAC had done much due diligence on the subject.

Denis Collet noted that the concerns about added cost are just not true, and asked how prepared the CAC is to follow through with the ordinance and with education of builders. Brenda Cagle has given packets to the Building Inspector for the builders. She noted that Rick Derikart of New York Energy Smart Community Services Group would be willing to come within two weeks to speak with builders about the technical specifications of building Energy Star qualified homes. Denis Collet suggested that the CAC needs more information on available HERS raters.

Brenda Cagle contacted the Town of Clarkstown's Building Inspector who will fax their application forms for building permits with Energy Star requirements. She also noted that the Village of New Paltz passed an Energy Star ordinance in December 2008. She will call to ask for information about their ordinance.

Brenda asked about increased costs if ventilation systems are required for Energy Star compliant construction. Denise Barton and Denis Collet spoke of two types of systems that could be used – energy recovery ventilation and a heat recovery system. The type and cost of the system needed depends upon how well the house is sealed from air infiltration. Denis noted that the building codes already require 20 air exchanges per hour.

**RECYCLING:** Brenda Cagle noted that the Rent, Repair and Reuse brochure is not completed. CAC members will continue to work to update it.

Micki Strawinski reported that she had a call from Recycling Center Director T J Hackett about potholes at the Center. She said that Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand has done some grading, but more areas need work. She also had a resident express dissatisfaction with the traffic flow at the Center.

**RUTH OJA ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP:** Brenda Cagle noted that she has called the Community Foundation and has no further information on any applicants.

Brenda added that Ruth Oja has been chosen for the honor of Senior Achievement Award 2009 by the Dutchess County Office for the Aging, and will be recognized at a luncheon on May 18, 2009 at Villa Borghese. Reservations are \$25 if made by April 25.

**EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES:** Denis Collet reported that he left a message for Debra Beam at the High School for student volunteers for Earth Day activities, but has received no reply. Brenda Cagle noted that Marsha Graham from Hannafords Supermarket expressed interest in participating in some activity for the day. Hannafords will be giving out reusable bags. CAC members suggested that Hannafords and IGA could help with some food for volunteers.

There will be a composting display at Mac's Farm and Garden World – AGWAY. Denise Barton noted that Gardeners' Supply sells cornstarch compost bags.

**MAY EVENTS:** The Town Tree Committee has already organized a water garden project. Eleanor Friery, Anne Rubin and Nancy Guski have arranged for Master Gardener Judy Wolf from Cooperative Extension to speak about rain gardens at the Town Hall on Saturday May 16 at 2 P.M.

Brenda Cagle reported that on May 6, 2009, the Tree Committee will be planting trees at the Recreation Park under the Trees for Tributaries Program. Volunteers are needed to help with the planting.

On May 23, 2009 at 2 P.M., Hudson Talbott, the author of River of Dreams, will be speaking at the Village Hall.

Brenda Cagle noted that the Master Gardener would be given a stipend of \$50, and the author a stipend of \$150. She asked if the CAC would agree to pay half of these costs. Susan Ellis made a motion, seconded by Jane Ferguson and approved unanimously, for the CAC to pay \$100 out of the budget towards these programs.

**ICLEI (LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR SUSTAINABILITY):** Denise Barton reported that she and intern Lindsay Chapman would be attending the Northeast Mid-Atlantic Workshop on May 15, 2009.

**SCENIC ROADS:** Brenda Cagle reported that with the Intermunicipal Task Force, Planning Consultant Michele Greig has worked on writing an ordinance for scenic roads. However, the Task Force is finding that the CAC designated too many roads as Scenic Roads. The Town of Amenia uses rural siting guidelines. Michele suggested that the CAC pay special attention to viewsheds and review proposed designations.

**HISTORIC STRUCTURES SURVEY:** Brenda Cagle has spoken with Barry Gurland about putting his house on the Historic Structures Map. It is one of the oldest houses in the Town and was included in the survey, but somehow missed on the map.

**“GREEN SPOTS:”** The Tree Committee has worked on an outreach program to kindergarteners to the tune of “Three Blind Mice” – “We love our trees.” Ted Saad taped the song and activities, such as counting tree rings.

Laurie Husted spoke with PANDA station manager Kathy Hammer, who likes the idea of “green spots.” Ted Saad would be available to shoot episodes.

**WEBSITE:** Denise Barton noted that the website lists projects for which the CAC needs volunteers. Brenda Cagle said that Dick Wambach has been responsive to including CAC information. Denis Collet asked if the CAC could request that Dick Wambach run an analysis of the number of hits on the CAC site. Brenda Cagle noted that the larger projects of the CAC are usually on the first page; the CAC might need a separate web page for a better idea of the response.

**WETLANDS:** Denise Barton asked if there had been any activity in wetlands projects. Brenda Cagle replied that the Town of Rhinebeck is close to passing a Wetlands Ordinance.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary