

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting
July 8, 2009

Members present: Chairwoman Brenda Cagle, Susan Ellis, Anne Rubin, Mike Ignatowski, Denis Collet

Guests: Research associate Molly Williams, intern Lindsay Chapman

Chairwoman Brenda Cagle called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M. Brenda Cagle noted two corrections to the minutes of the June meeting – that under the Watershed Awareness Month, she was the only Red Hook CAC representative that met with the Rhinebeck group, and that under “Green Spot,” Susan Simon is willing to film any “Green Spot” presented by the CAC. The minutes of the June meeting were approved as amended with a motion made by Denis Collet and seconded by Anne Rubin.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE SURVEY: Brenda Cagle asked CAC members to discuss questions on a survey sent by the Town Economic Development Task Force. The various opinions of CAC members were compiled into an agreed response:

- 1.) What does your committee believe “economic development” means as it relates to the community of Red Hook? *Important points were that “economic development” should provide meaningful jobs, and increase and diversify the tax base in an economically and environmentally sustainable manner.*
- 2.) Your committee has a particular focus or mission. Is economic development as you defined it relevant to this mission, and if so, how? *The CAC agreed that economic development is relevant to the mission of environmental conservation. An example is that the CAC’s promotion of Energy Star requirements will lead to creation of “green jobs” in the construction and compliance fields.*
- 3.) What does your committee feel the role of the Economic Development Committee should be, and what responsibilities should the EDC be accountable for? *The EDC should be proactive in bringing new businesses to Town – businesses that are consistent with the goals of the Town’s planning documents, including the proposed Centers and Greenspaces Plan, and consistent with the mission of the CAC. The EDC should help new businesses navigate the permitting process. The EDC should work with other Town committees and the Villages to ensure that coordinated commercial development occurs.*
- 4.) What are the opportunities and challenges the Red Hook community faces in relation to economic development as your committee has defined it? *There is an opportunity to promote green and sustainable development. A challenge will be to change thinking of planning from short term benefits to long term goals for the well-being of the Town. Anne Rubin noted that planning for maintaining water quality will avoid costs of remediation.*
- 5.) How can the EDC assist your committee with its mission? *The EDC can assist the CAC by maintaining communication and collaboration. The committee can help us seek out and understand the financing mechanisms available for community-wide sustainability initiatives.*

WATERSHED AWARENESS MONTH PROJECT: The Red Hook CAC will be joining with the Rhinebeck CAC and Winnakee Land Trust to lead events for Watershed Awareness Month at Mazzarella Park in Rhinebeck on July 18, 2009. The Red Hook CAC project will be to work with children to create “toad abodes” and discuss the importance of toads in the environment. Brenda asked who could commit time to the event. Anne Rubin and Molly Williams volunteered. They will need a supply of damaged clay pots and photos of suggested designs,

BRINGING SUSTAINABLE ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE TO THE HUDSON VALLEY: The conference was held at Vassar College on June 30, 2009. Red Hook CAC members and residents attending were Brenda Cagle, Laurie Husted, Denis Collet, Susan Ellis, Denise Barton, Mike Taylor, Councilman Robert McKeon and County Legislator Tom Mansfield. Denis Collet spoke of the topics covered in the conference. David Dell, a founder of IDEA (Independent Dutchess Energy Alliance), discussed the group’s mission to promote energy efficiency, with a goal of 1 billion dollars of savings in the county. IDEA is chartered by the County legislature to stimulate energy savings, and Molly Williams noted that she is a member.

Denis reported that Dorrian Dale discussed the Babylon Green Homes Project, which has been the only community program to fund weatherization projects. The Long Island Green Homes Project completed over 300 retrofits in one year that reduced airflow by an average of 29%. Molly Williams asked how many houses in that time frame had renovations, and not just weatherization? She noted that one can’t manage what one can’t measure.

Tom Kacandes of Prism Solar Technologies gave an update on renewable energy – solar, wind and geothermal. He noted that the cost of solar panels is being reduced, but the costs of configuration, labor and installation are not cheaper.

Sephir Hamilton gave the perspective of Central Hudson on renewable energy. Denis Collet felt that his message was mixed, that he was trying to say that subsidizing solar energy is not sustainable.

Libby Murphy described her work as a Compton Mentor Fellow researching Tidal Power. She gave a positive case for the potential of developing water turbine farms in the Long Island Sound and East River with minimal environmental impact.

Brenda Cagle noted that Pat Courtney Strong is willing to come to speak with the Town Board about energy audits and Brenda suggested that the Community Action Agency be asked to speak about other available weatherization programs. The CAC discussed a schedule for the session and felt that late August or after Labor Day would be a good time. The CAC considered ways to publicize the presentation.

SCENIC ROADS: Brenda Cagle brought the latest draft of a Scenic Roads Ordinance and asked the CAC members to compare it with the Town of Amenia Rural Siting Principles. They legislate an 800’ corridor on some roads and a 500’ corridor on others. Anne Rubin noted that she likes the Rural Siting Principles.

ICLEI: Lindsay Chapman reported that she has most of the data for the Town facilities entered in the ICLEI program. A volunteer, Andrus, is collecting data for Tivoli. Lindsay needs the figures from the Highway Superintendent and the Recycling Director. Lindsay also noted that she could use software for an Excel spreadsheet.

“GREEN SPOTS:” Brenda Cagle reported that 3 “Green Spots” have been done so far by Brenda and Laurie Husted. The next time slot is July 14, 2009. Anne Rubin said that she could write up a tip for watershed awareness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Brenda Cagle announced that SEQR regulations are being updated and that the CAC will pay attention to review them.

The emerald ash borer is showing presence in the area

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, August 12, 2009 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis Secretary