

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting
August 12, 2009

Members present: Chairwoman Brenda Cagle, Laurie Husted, Susan Ellis, Dr. Jane Ferguson, Anne Rubin, Mike Ignatowski, Denis Collet

Guests: Councilwoman Micki Strawinski, Councilman Robert McKeon, intern Lindsay Chapman

Chairwoman Brenda Cagle called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M. Susan Ellis noted a correction in the spelling of Dorian Dale in the Sustainable Energy Infrastructure conference report in the minutes of the July meeting. The minutes of the July 8 meeting were approved with the correction, by a motion made by Jane Ferguson and seconded by Anne Rubin.

ICLEI: Lindsay Chapman reported that she has gathered the data on energy use from the Town of Red Hook facilities, and was prepared to print a report, but needs the figure for the refrigerants collected at the Recycling Center. She noted that the Village of Tivoli data is not completed yet. Mary Elisa Blundell is working on the data from the Village of Red Hook. They hope to finish compiling the figures by the end of August, to cover the years 2004 – 2008.

Laurie Husted asked Lindsay if she had a sense that officials will be ready to continue tracking future usage, and recommended that the data be structured so that it would not all be done at the end of the year. Using an excel spread sheet would keep the information separate and current. Lindsay agreed that officials could be encouraged to set up a system to continue the data organization so that comparative energy usage will be shown.

Laurie Husted noted that there is another round of New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) grants for stand alone renewable energy projects or “green” fleets. She asked Lindsay if she could “google” the ICLEI site to see if it has information on LED or solar lighting for ball fields. Lindsay will check.

SCENIC ROADS: The Planning Board has discussed the proposed Scenic Roads Overlay District, and whether to have a Scenic Roads Review Committee or have the CAC as the review committee. Brenda Cagle reported that the Intermunicipal Task Force feels that the Planning Board should be responsible for review. Planning Board Chairwoman Chris Kane gave three options for handling scenic roads – to leave descriptions as they are, to categorize roads and to prioritize roads.

Brenda Cagle noted that for houses proposed to be built on existing lots, there is currently no mechanism for review. Planning Consultant Michele Greig proposed that the Building Inspector and CAC do a joint review. The Planning Board thought that since the CAC is advisory, the Planning Board should treat an existing lot as a minor site plan review. This should only take one meeting, and the CAC could be the review committee.

CAC members discussed what the CAC role should be. Anne Rubin noted that it is not each road by itself, but the complex of roads that is important. Susan Ellis asked what criteria the CAC would use to categorize roads; it is important to be as objective as possible. Brenda Cagle asked if the CAC could agree on the minor subdivision site plan review requirement for existing parcels, which members did agree to. Denis Collet noted that a site plan, survey and pertinent information about the structure to be built would be needed for any review. Brenda Cagle would like the CAC to be involved in the process as proposed, but agreed that the CAC would need maps and information, as well as more time than the 14 days proposed. All agreed that 31 days would be sufficient. CAC members also would like to see an addition in Red Hook's Zoning Code similar to site plan regulations to the Town of Amenia Code for excavating, filling and clear cutting.

COMMUNITY WEATHERIZATION PROGRAMS: Councilman Robert McKeon reported that there is interest in asking Pat Courtney Strong of NYSERDA and Ken Burgess of the Community Action Weatherization Program to speak with the Town Board about helping residents who qualify for existing energy savings programs. CAC members discussed how to publicize a program on weatherization; an ad or notice in the Hudson Valley Sampler would be one way. Robert suggested the date of September 8 at 8 P.M. for the Town Board presentation.

Robert and Denis Collet presented the idea of having a survey of residents about possible programs that they would like to see to assist them in saving energy. One suggestion was to use "survey monkey," an online survey tool; another was to see if it could be a student project.

SUBURBAN STREAM SYNDROME: Brenda Cagle presented information from Kathrine O'Reilly's publication on the Suburban Stream Syndrome, which details data and conclusions about the effects of low density development on the small watersheds of northern Dutchess County. Katherine would like to speak at a CAC meeting; Councilman Robert McKeon also would like her to speak to the Town Board.

GREEN SPOTS: Brenda Cagle reported that the CAC needs a more sustainable way to do them, perhaps asking if high school students would make them a project. Lindsay Chapman will ask at Bard College, too. Brenda noted that the CAC needs one for September 1.

ENERGY STAR: Brenda Cagle reported that efforts are still moving forward to have a presentation on Energy Star standards for builders.

ZERO WASTE PROGRAM: Brenda Cagle reported that she and Zoie Riel had attended a program on zero waste in Rhinebeck.

WATERSHED AWARENESS PROGRAM: Anne Rubin reported on the "toad abode" project. She and Molly Williams worked with the children. Anne noted that the children were quite young, and they had needed to think about broken pots. She also added that it was not a large group at the location, and a venue with more traffic would have been better.

HARDSCRABBLE DAY: Brenda Cagle has spoken with Village Trustee Ed Blundell about Hardscrabble Day, and he would be interested in having the CAC do a recycling project. Brenda suggested that the CAC could buy frames and bags to have recycling containers for participants at the festival

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, September 9, 2009 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary