

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting
September 9, 2009

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

Guests: Councilwoman Micki Strawinski, Councilman Robert McKeon, intern Lindsay Chapman, Professor Catherine O'Reilly of Bard College

Chairwoman Brenda Cagle called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M. The minutes of the August meeting were approved with a motion made by Denis Collett and seconded by Brenda Cagle.

2010 CAC BUDGET: Brenda Cagle met with Rose Rider to discuss the amount the CAC would request for the 2010 budget. Rose has asked all the Town Departments to prepare a budget with a 10% cut. Rose said that \$2400 is probably fine for the CAC. Brenda has asked why the \$650 for the Environmental Summer Camp is taken out of the CAC budget, but not returned to the CAC, when it is customarily donated by the VFW. Susan Ellis asked if the money from the VFW is received before it needs to be sent to the State, why it should be taken from the CAC budget at all.

Councilwoman Micki Strawinski noted that there is no need for the CAC to go to the Town Board to request money for the ICLEI membership if it is in the CAC budget. CAC members had felt that it was a courtesy to do so.

BIODIVERSITY GRANT FROM HUDSONIA: Brenda Cagle announced that Hudsonia will be discussing a \$1,000 biodiversity grant at the meeting of the Biodiversity class on Thursday. She suggested focusing on a project for water resources next year and that perhaps Karen Schneller-MacDonald would help.

CONFERENCES: Councilman Robert McKeon noted that there will be a conference on solar financing at Pace University, and suggested that the CAC send Lindsay Chapman if she is available. The cost for a student is \$25.

Brenda Cagle asked if any CAC members and/or Lindsay would be interested in attending the annual NYSACC/NYSEMC conference at Watkins Glen in November. There was no firm commitment, but Denis Collet expressed interest. Lindsay and others might have interest depending upon how many the CAC can send. Brenda suggested that it might be possible to car pool with other area attendees.

LONG ISLAND GREEN HOMES MODEL: Laurie Husted discussed investigating the possibility of promoting a similar weatherization project and asked if Denis Collet would be willing to head a project. Denis said that he would not be comfortable trying to be a spokesperson for cost savings of such a project and had questions about how to do funding. He added that such a project would need a business plan and that Dutchess County Community Action has a program (WRAP) headed by Ken Burgess to help low income homeowners with weatherization. Susan Ellis

suggested that it might be better to work with an established program and help residents to access it.

Denis noted that he is more knowledgeable about solar programs and would work on a project for solar installations, stating that the real value to a home from the solar installation is the net gain of energy. Councilman Robert McKeon said that the State has mechanisms to set up special use districts for such a project. Susan Ellis suggested that in order to propose such a project, the Town would need to establish figures for the number of residents eligible, costs of installation and administration fees for funding.

CLEAN-UP DAY SEPTEMBER 19: Brenda Cagle announced that another roadside clean-up day sponsored by the Town will be held on Saturday, September 19, meeting at 1 P. M. at the High School. Brenda has been told that Camp Ramapo has children available for projects, and will ask if that is an activity they could help with.

HARDSCRABBLE DAY TABLES AND INFORMATION, SEPTEMBER 26: Brenda Cagle reported that the CAC has purchased 5 recycling frames and 100 bags. Village Trustee Ed Blundell will put them in strategic locations for bottles and cans. The CAC will have 4 water refill stations noted on the Hardscrabble flyer. Lindsay noted that she could get large water coolers from Bard College.

At the main CAC table in front of the Prudential building, there will be a water taste testing and a refill cooler. The CAC will show the video of the cost and waste caused by using bottled water. Brenda Cagle asked who could help with the table and water stations on Saturday, September 26 from 10 AM to 3 or 4 PM. Susan Ellis said that she might be able; Denise Barton said that she, and perhaps her husband and son could help.

WATER RESOURCES: Brenda Cagle introduced Professor Catherine O'Reilly who has worked on stream monitoring projects and written about the "Suburban Stream Syndrome." She asked Catherine what her focus might be for next year, and how the CAC could coordinate with that. Catherine replied that she hopes to continue the stream monitoring to see the changes in water quality over 10 years.

ICLEI: Intern Lindsay Chapman reported that she had found some stumbling blocks in acquiring data, as she had wanted real data on each vehicle used for the Villages, but was only getting combined data. She is close to finished with the data collection, having all for the Town buildings and ¼ of the electric for the pump house. She asked if the pump house is manned, and needs to know what kind of pump they are using. If usage is at least 330 megawatt hours/year total, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) offers a flex-time grant.

Laurie Husted noted that there is a pilot program for conversion to LED lights in parking lots. The Electric Power Research Institute (ESRI) is working with Central Hudson and will consider a pilot project at Bard College or Red Hook High School.

Brenda Cagle asked Lindsay Chapman if she found the ICLEI membership worthwhile. Lindsay replied that she had used it some. Lindsay would like to plan to make a presentation of the baseline inventory done for the ICLEI project to the Town Board.

GREEN SPOTS: Lindsay Chapman reported that she is waiting to see if there any volunteers step up at Bard College to do “Green Spots” on PANDA.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION: Brenda Cagle made a reminder that on September 18 – 20 from 10 A.M. – 4 P.M. there would be an electronics collection at the Fairgrounds at a cost of \$10/carload.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary