

## Workshop

A workshop of the Red Hook Town Board was held October 18, 2005 with the following in attendance:

Supervisor – Marirose Blum Bump  
Councilman – James Ross  
Councilwoman – Sue Crane  
Councilwoman – Jean Bordewich  
Councilman – Harold Ramsey  
Town Clerk – Margaret E. Doty  
Assistant Budget Officer – Debra Marks  
CPA – Ted Eglit

Supervisor Blum Bump opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Chairman of the Disaster Preparedness Committee John Douglas said in the future he would like to be notified in advance when a meeting is cancelled as it was his understanding he and his committee was to make a presentation tonight and now we find out it has been cancelled.

Supervisor Blum Bump said to please accept her apology for not notifying him and that it is the Board's intent to pass the Disaster Plan in December.

Mr. Douglas requested a letter be sent to him informing him and his committee exactly when and what is expected of them.

Supervisor Blum Bump read a statement regarding the Acquisition of the Central Hudson Lands by eminent domain.

With this resolution I am urging the Red Hook Town Board to take the legal step initiating the process for this very important purpose: the negotiations for the purchase of Central Hudson Lands. This resolution simply allows the Town to begin the negotiations process and it requires Central Hudson to negotiate with us. It is my intent that when the public purposes are met the remainder of the land would go back on the tax rolls.

There is no public referendum at this time because the Town has not yet decided to purchase the parcels. This resolution simply allows us to begin the process and to start negotiations with Central Hudson.

Supervisor Blum Bump recognizes Robert McKeon Chairman of the Agriculture and Open Space Advisory Committee who said his committee recommendations with regard to the corridor commonly referred to as the "Central Hudson" lands. The committee unanimously recommends the Town purchase the entire corridor based upon its consistency with the Comprehensive Plan and Open Space plan's objectives. The policy objective is the Conservation of the Community's Natural Environment, including the protection of the unique natural features and the wise use of its land resources.

The Town must purchase the lands to preserve the farmlands known as the "breadbasket" from Guski Road to Route 9 and remove development from these parcels.

Trails already included on this property in our adopted Open Space Plan should be explored and implemented only after a proper field research by a qualified engineer.

The Town Board should publicly commit to offer for sale these parcels back to the farmers at the appraised value after the development that is removed on an easement permitting only acceptable farming and conservation practices is placed upon the lands.

Conservation Advisory Council Chairman Ruth Oja feels we should go back to Central Hudson to purchase the land. We would not be serving the public if we couldn't purchase the lands, the Trails and Recreation would justify the Town Board going to eminent domain as this is an opportunity that we should not miss.

Kim Barkie, member of the Conservation Advisory Committee feels Red Hook would greatly benefit from having trails as it could connect with Bard and Tivoli.

This would be an opportunity to have trails that would be a great resource to everyone in the Town. Try to purchase the land and if not than use eminent domain.

The Recreation Task Force researched and reviewed fourteen parcels, all the properties posed some development difficulties but after analysis two parcels remained for consideration. Central Hudson property 37 acres at a cost of half a million and Sky Park 100.9 acres at one and one half million dollars.

Land search for recreation should be an ongoing process for the Town until it is found.

Councilwoman Bordewich...I support the Resolution to create the opportunity for Central Hudson to come to the table and negotiate with the Town.

Councilwoman Crane said Central Hudson should negotiate with us if we are going to purchase lands.

Councilman Ramsey asked if we know if these people signed already with Central Hudson. 75% or more were willing to give us trails. We shouldn't be acting as middle man selling land back to the farmers. See no reason for us to condemn the lands.

Councilwoman Bordewich said it's about time we went ahead with this. If we do not vote now we are going to lose the opportunity.

Councilwoman Crane said we are not going to take the land from private owners.

Supervisor Blum Bump...we will lose every opportunity if we do not pursue eminent domain.

Councilwoman Bordewich said we need to control development and right now we don't have the tool to control.

Supervisor Blum Bump said at this time we need to review our 2006 Budget and introduced Assistant Budget Officer Debra Marks and our CPA Ted Eglit.

Debra Marks reviewed the budget by going line for line giving everyone the opportunity to ask questions.

Highway Superintendent Wayne Hildenbrand presented his 2006 Budget and answered questions from the Board members.

Supervisor Blum Bump declared the meeting closed and will resume tomorrow.  
Motion by Supervisor Blum Bump, seconded by Councilwoman Bordewich declaring the workshop closed at 10:00 p.m.

Town Clerk

Margaret E. Doty