

**Town of Red Hook Town Board
Public Hearing September 6, 2005**

A public hearing on the Conservation Easement Law was held September 6, 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

Also present: Deputy Supervisor William O'Neill and Town Attorney Albert Trezza

Supervisor Blum Bump opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m. with the reading of the legal notice.

Supervisor Blum Bump said all of those present will be given the opportunity to ask questions and than after all the questions were asked the board will try to answer the questions.

Douglas Moat...questioned the impact this will have on the taxes not only the Easement Law but Central Hudson.

Bruce Williams...are we going to be able to vote on this law?

Lou Dondero...questioned if the residents in the Villages were expected to pay for this Easement Law.

Mary Ann Johnson said this will be a slow process and there will be a cost.

Chairman Robert McKeon said the minimum length of time went from 5 years to 8 years. If anyone so desires they can obtain from him any information about the law.

Susan Ellis, Member of the CAC...yes we all have a tax concern but we are looking to save open space.

Councilman Ramsey said he is in favor of the law as \$22.00 a year tax burden will help slow growth and this is just another tool to help do that.

Councilwoman Bordewich...we have wetland maps to show us whether or not this can be developed and as Harold said this law is just a tool to slow growth. We can also choose not to grant a proposal when it is presented to the Town.

Councilman Ross...the taxes from this will be spread around to every taxpayer. Wetlands will be taken into account. A fee table will be attached and criteria will be followed by the Planning Board, Conservation Advisory Council and the Town Board as well as our Town Attorney.

Supervisor Blum Bump said this law was considered by our Open Space Plan when it was adopted in 2000. Changes to the law were made by our Town Attorney and our advisory attorney. There are two ways to look at this law for land use planning

-the increase to our tax growth would be moderate

-positive approach would be slow down growth and increase to our taxes.

Marcy Appell resident questioned if this land would go before a surveyor.

Robert McKeon said it may already be on a tax map and not have to be surveyed.

Councilwoman Bordewich said what we are trying to do is encourage landowners not to sell to developers.

Attorney Trezza explained that property owners who agreed to 8 years would receive 40% reduction, 10 years 50%, 12 years 60% and 15 years or more 75%. With a 5 year roll back penalty plus interest.

Motion by Supervisor Blum Bump, seconded by Councilman Ross and carried closing the public hearing at 8:10 p.m.

Town Clerk

Margaret E. Doty