

Draft

**TOWN OF RED HOOK  
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting  
August 8, 2018

Members present: Chairwoman Laurie Husted, Susan Ellis, Lori Urbin, Julia Solomon, Steve Appenzeller

Guests: Eva Grunblatt, student intern from Bard College working on a grant project to study e-chargers; Town Councilwoman Sarah Imboden (7:15 P.M.)

**CALL TO ORDER / QUORUM :** Chairwoman Laurie Husted called the meeting to order at 7:07 P.M. A quorum was present.

**MINUTES OF THE CAC FOR JULY 11, 2018:** The minutes of the July 11 meeting were approved by a motion made by Steve Appenzeller and seconded by Lori Urbin.

**VOLUNTEERS FOR THE BICYCLE / PEDESTRIAN COUNT:** Laurie Husted called for volunteers to sign up for time slots for the days of September 8 and September 11 -13.

**MATERIALS SUBCOMMITTEE:** Lori Urbin reported on activities in progress with the Materials Subcommittee. They are making an effort to encourage the reduction in use of plastic straws or change to paper.

For Hardscrabble Day, the Subcommittee has a “blue house” mascot to engage children and families in discussion and questions about energy saving issues and encourage sign-ups for the free energy audits offered by Energize NY.

Lori noted that she would like to give recognition to local businesses that use eco-friendly products and will ask if she may take photos of them. Susan Ellis said that many of the local businesses do have some, but need to be encouraged to do more. She added that there is an e-mail from DEC Delivers that gives much information and updates on which products can be recycled, composted or reused.

**COMPOSTING :** Laurie Husted and Steve Appenzeller missed the last composting meeting. A survey of potential users of a composting collection system has been distributed and results are being compiled before the next discussion. Sarah Imboden noted that there is a new round of grants for waste reduction that might be helpful.

**MATERIALS SUBCOMMITTEE – REPAIR CAFE:** In a discussion of updates for the proposal to host Repair Cafes in Red Hook, Lori Urbin noted that she would like to volunteer for the project, but suggested a trial project for 4 times a year might be more feasible. Steve Appenzeller felt that his research indicated that the momentum needs to keep going to gather the necessary support. He will work on a calendar and confirm it with John Wackman who coordinates efforts. Laurie thanked Steve for his work and commitment.

**GRANT TO STUDY CHARGING STATIONS FOR ELECTRIC/HYBRID VEHICLES:**

Laurie Husted introduced Eva Grunblatt, the Bard College intern working on the study, who came to report on her findings. In her research, she found that there appeared to be adequate locations already established or in planning stages to serve the community. It seems that convenient access to chargers might not be keeping people from buying Electric/Hybrid vehicles. She is looking at other possible issues, such as the cost of the vehicles or how much time has to be spent at the location.

Eva noted that the Public Service Commission (PSC) offers a grant for an educational video on the new Hyundai Leaf and will give a \$500 rebate towards purchase. Another suggestion was to have a contest for high school students to create videos to tell how and why electric vehicles are important.

*The CAC thanked Eva for her presentation, and she left the meeting at 8:17 P.M.*

**TOWN WEBSITE:** Councilwoman Sarah Imboden gave a screen display of the newly developed Town Website for the CAC to review. The Town has been working with a company from NYC that does government website design. Sarah Imboden chairs the Communications Committee, which includes Town Bookkeeper Anne Conway, Town Highway Superintendent Theresa Burke, plus volunteers. They have been working on the project since January, and just had two days of training with the design company to prepare for an August 23 launch date.

CAC members asked questions and Laurie Husted asked CAC members to e-mail her five suggestions to be included under the Conservation section of the website. Julia Solomon said that she would be willing to help as an updater.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday September 12, 2018 at 7 P.M. at Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan H. Ellis, Secretary