

Draft

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting
April 11, 2018

Members present: Chairwoman Laurie Husted, Susan Ellis, Lori Urbin, Julia Solomon, Steve Appenzeller, Mike Zelic, Jen Cavanaugh

Absent: Denis Collet

Guest: John Wackman – organizer and volunteer at Hudson Valley Repair Cafes.
Councilwoman Sarah Imboden

CALL TO ORDER / QUORUM : Chairwoman Laurie Husted called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. A quorum was present.

MINUTES FOR THE CAC MEETINGS OF FEBRUARY 14, AND MARCH 14, 2018: Laurie Husted made a motion, seconded by Mike Zelic and approved to accept the CAC minutes from those meetings.

REPAIR CAFE PRESENTATION: The CAC welcomed John Wackman as guest speaker for options to join the Repair Cafe and information on the process of becoming involved. John summarized the origin of repair cafes in Holland, with a subsequent growth in Hudson Valley to an average of 20.

Host sites may be churches, libraries, or community centers that are accessible and can accommodate power needs and space requirements. There must be a designated contact person to handle inquiries for a few months ahead. John added that the best repair candidates are retired professionals with a passion for what they wish to share. An event should plan a 3 – 4 hour time frame.

Steve Appenzeller has spent time with John Wackman at some events and suggested his presentation to the CAC. He asked what percentage of attendees are returns. John said that there were some, and some brought friends.

Laurie Husted asked if John works with Chambers of Commerce. John explained that the Repair Cafe Foundation was organized under the auspices of Chambers of Commerce. The Foundation owns the name and requires a donation to set up with a

starter kit. The contract agreement for hosting a Repair Cafe location would need to be a document defining the obligations of the parties involved – the hosting facility, Town officials and local supporting volunteers.

Laurie Husted asked if the CAC could have a limited involvement, but not take the whole responsibility, as it is involved in several major grant projects. Reaching out to the High School technical programs and making a presentation to the Robotics Club were suggested as ways the CAC could assist. Laurie and Steve Appenzeller would support the program. The Senior Citizens' Group at the Community Center may be a source of “fixers.” Steve will talk with the Community Center.

RECYCLING AT THE RECREATIONAL PARK: Recreation Program Director John Kuhn has had much difficulty with vandalism and contamination of recycling bins at the Park. Laurie asked Mike Zelig if he would take some photos of the trash bins at the Recreational Center to see if a potential solution could be identified. Mike agreed.

RUTH OJA ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP : Jen Cavanaugh reported that Anna Dolen, co-founder of the Red Hook Environmental Science Club was unanimously endorsed by the CAC for the scholarship.

Sarah Imboden joined the meeting at 8:08 P.M.

COMMUNITY COMPOSTING COMPANY (CCC): Eileen Banyra met with Lori Urbin and Steve Appenzeller on April 7, 2018 to present information about the potential of offering to the Town and Villages a composting collection service. Eileen outlined some of the possible models CCC could offer for Town consideration. She noted that there are farmers who would like to host a composting operation. They are not allowed by New York State, as a composting operation is currently considered a manufacturing operation, and therefore creates a land use issue.

A successful composting operation requires extensive education to explain the benefits. Reduction of the cost of personal garbage disposal is not the usual motivator; diverting waste from the landfill is. Composting operations can provide municipalities a way to use leaves and wood chips from fallen trees.

Eileen suggested a next step would be a conversation with Rhinebeck Village Mayor Gary Basset and Cathy O'Connor of Tivoli Village, who are both in discussions with CCC. If a centralized drop-off could be established at the Town Transfer Station, some of the costs could be covered by the Municipal Waste Reduction and Recycling Program of grants that covers “composting facilities and equipment.”

SUSTAINABILITY: Councilwoman Sarah Imboden reported that the Town Board is looking to emphasize sustainability as a characteristic defining the Town. They want to update the Town website. From a presentation of suggestions, the Town has created a layout section. The desired result is to really reorganize the the website information.

Lori Urbin left the meeting at 8:55 P.M.

EXTRACTION WORKING GROUP: Julia Solomon reported that the Group has been meeting weekly to review the Zoning Code in relation to timber harvesting, soil mining and water collection / withdrawal. The Moratorium expires in August, so any updates to the Code must be completed by then. The Group has consulted with Greenplan and the Town Attorney for evaluation of recommendations. Julia shared some preliminary information for discussion by the CAC. The CAC requested to have another opportunity to discuss a more complete draft of recommendations at the CAC May meeting before they are shared with the Town Board.

PLANNING REVIEWS : Mike Zelig gave a brief report on Planning activities.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary