

Draft

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting
May 8, 2019

Members present: Chairwoman Laurie Husted, Susan Ellis, Steve Appenzeller, Denis Collet, Leah Steinberg, Jen Cavanaugh, Lori Urbin, Julia Solomon

Absent: Mike Zelic

Guests: Councilwoman Sarah Imboden, Supervisor Robert McKeon

1. Ben Hoen, advisor and liaison to Red Hook schools solar project, a public referendum on the school budget vote on May 21, 2019.
2. Jacob Testa, school board candidate

CALL TO ORDER / QUORUM : Lori Urbin made a motion, seconded by Julia Solomon, to proceed with the business, as a quorum was present.

POSTING OF CAC MINUTES: Susan Ellis noted that she has been given different answers to the process for posting minutes on the Town website. Sarah Imboden and Julia Solomon will work it out.

**MEMO TO RED HOOK GREENWAY & TRAILS COMMITTEE RE:
HUCKLEBUSH RAILROAD HISTORY PRESERVATION:** Laurie Husted included a memo requested from Susan Ellis in the meeting agenda

MEMO to Red Hook GREENWAY & TRAILS COMMITTEE:

The Town of Red Hook CAC has had an interest in the preservation and acknowledgment of the history of the Hucklebush Railroad through the Town. Does your Committee have plans or right-of-way documentation that show this information?

The CAC supported the inclusion of a road name, signage and identification of the connections to bordering property for the Hoffman Residential Development (now Traditions of Red Hook). The developers are doing what they can.

The Town Planning Board is reviewing a two lot subdivision for MCA Acres which will include a conservation easement on a parcel which was crossed by the Hucklebush Line.

They are negotiating the terms and placement of the easement. The actual rail line location on the property will take an effort to determine, as years of farming have disturbed the area.

The Red Hook CAC would like to know if you and the GREENWAY & Trails Committee will be commenting on the proposal for MCA Acres II.

Sincerely,
Laurie Husted CAC Chairwoman / she

TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE: Supervisor McKeon announced that the Complete Streets Program will have the assistance of Brenda Cagle to research and move forward a local program.

EMPIRE STATE TRAIL UPDATE (EST): Supervisor McKeon gave an update of considerations for the EST. Proposed are speed humps (not bumps) on River Road through Bard College. Other issues are “sign pollution” and Scenic Road concerns.

CHARGE READY E-V STATIONS: Denis Collet reports that a NYS Energy Research & Development (NYSERDA) Grant to install 2 E-V charging ports on Town Hall campus is awaiting signage information.

DRAWDOWN ECOCHALLENGE MARCH 13, 2019 AT ELMENDORPH INN: the first presentation of the Drawdown Ecochallenge brought together Bard students, Red Hook School Students and community members to discuss issues of climate change and how to address them. Laurie Husted, Steve Appenzeller, Mike Zelig, Lori Urbin and Jen Cavanaugh made teams with a goal of determining how to simplify the endless possible activities to consider.

WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES: Supervisor McKeon reported that the Town is still working on approval of local water resource legislation.

APPLE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL MAY 10, 2019: The festival will be held from 10 AM to 4 PM, with set-up at 9:30 AM. Julia S. and Leah S. will take care of the CAC display for the morning, and Steve A. and Lori U. will do the afternoon.

Ben Hoen joined the meeting at 7:55 PM to give an update on the Red Hook Schools solar installation proposal on the May 21 school budget vote.

RED HOOK SCHOOL SOLAR PROPOSITION ON MAY 21 SCHOOL BUDGET:

Ben Hoen said that he had news from NY State that was not so positive. The School can't go forward without a positive vote. There would either be no deal or no money. The school is in contract with the New York Power authority (NPA).

Councilwoman Sarah Imboden left the meeting at 8:35 PM.

RED HOOK COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION (CCA): Denis Collet reported for the Energy Subcommittee that the Town has joined six other area communities to have the ability to offer 100% renewal energy to participants. Central Hudson remains the distributor.

VILLAGE WELL FIELD COMMUNITY SOLAR FARM: The Town and RH Village are working together, and the funding grant money is in process of approval to establish a solar farm on the Village well field land. Denis C. noted that the Village is Lead Agency, as the proposal will be on Village property. The Town has done groundwork of Request for Proposal (RFP) negotiations with an option to purchase the system after a 7 year contract with the installer/manager. It will be adequately fenced.

Denis added that as the system will provide power to municipal buildings, it will be an important component of disaster resiliency and recovery. **Dennis C. requested a letter from the CAC to stress the importance of meeting contract and grant timelines.**

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 PM.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday June 12, 2019 at 7 PM at Town Hall