

Draft

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting
July 10, 2019

Members present: Julia Solomon (acting as Chairwoman for Laurie Husted who was absent), Susan Ellis, Lori Urbin, Denis Collet, Mike Zelic, Steve Appenzeller

Absent: Laurie Husted, Leah Steinberg, Jen Cavanaugh

Guest: Councilwoman Sarah Imboden

CALL TO ORDER / QUORUM: Acting Chairwoman Julia Solomon called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M. A quorum was present.

MINUTES FOR THE MAY 8, 2019 CAC MEETING: Julia Solomon said that Jacob Testa was looking at an option to run for Town Board, not the School Board as noted. The minutes for the May 8 meeting were approved with the amendment by a motion made by Steve Appenzeller and seconded by Mike Zelic.

CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES CERTIFICATION (CSC): Advisor Michelle Gluck submitted information for the Town's application in June. She passed along an invitation for the Town to participate in a 2019 NYSDEC Climate Smart Communities grant proposal for 2020-21. "Climate Action Planning Institute Dutchess County" (CAPI Dutchess). Michelle will attend the August 14, 2019 CAC meeting to discuss the (CAPI Dutchess options for the Town.

CAC members and Councilwoman Sarah Imboden discussed Michelle's letter outlining Town actions needed to pursue the options and complete a Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GHGI) that updates the Town 2008 Climate Action Plan (CAP). There were questions about the volunteer and staff requirements to undertake a 16 month project.

LAND AND WATER – NATURAL RESOURCES EXTRACTION

REGULATIONS : Julia Solomon reported that the Town Board passed a resolution establishing the language defining the protection of Town Natural Resources. In summary, new commercial water extraction will not be permitted. Large scale mining will require a special permit with 200' of buffer from streams or wetlands. Clear cutting or large scale logging will require a special permit.

GREEN BIZ WEBSITE UPDATES : Lori Urbin reported that she is updating the CAC website to put the 2017 businesses detailed as eco-friendly in the archives. She will now do a new set of 7 businesses participating in “DRAWDOWN” improvements, such as reducing use of straws.

ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE : Denis Collet reports

Solar Farm project – A press release has been prepared for the launch of the Town/Village collaboration on a solar farm grant. For energy produced that exceeds the use to be allocated to municipal buildings, there will be a subscription campaign open first to Village residents, then to Town residents. (There may be a waiting list.)

Community Choice Aggregation – There is a tentative date for September 2019 implementation of a CCA program in the Red Hook area.

Problems with choosing an “all renewable” energy supply provider -- Lori Urbin noted that after she had signed on with an “all renewable” provider, her rates went up to 20 cents per kWh. Denis suggested that is a common issue.

Energy storage needed for large solar projects – Denis said to implement storage options for energy output that otherwise just goes back into the grid, the Town should prepare to address zoning issues for large batteries.

REPAIR CAFE – TOWN OF RED HOOK : Steve Appenzeller announced the date of the upcoming Town of Red Hook Repair Cafe as Saturday July 27, 2019 from 10AM – 1PM at the Red Hook Community Center. He asked for CAC volunteers and bakers. Any help with publicity is welcome.

HARDSCRABBLE DAY PLANNING : Red Hook Hardscrabble Day Festival will be held on Saturday September 21, 2019. Julia Solomon asked the CAC members what information handouts, demonstration activities and focus would be supported. Lori Urbin suggested that having an alliance with the High School Environmental Club could generate interest.

ADJOURNMENT : The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 P.M.

NEXT MEETING : Wednesday August 14, 2019 at 7 P.M. at the Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,
Susan H. Ellis, Secretary