

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Town of Red Hook Conservation Advisory Council**  
**Wednesday September 9, 2020**  
**7pm via Zoom**

Members present: Laurie Husted (Chair), Steven Appenzeller, Leah Steinberg, Susan Ellis, Lori Urbin, Julia Solomon, Mike Zelig, Jen Cavanaugh, Denis Collet, Jacob Testa (Town Board Liaison)

Guests: Cara Humphrey, Columbia County resident; Jude Alexis ([stuff4hire.com](http://stuff4hire.com))

- The meeting was opened at 8:00 PM
- Minutes from the August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting were accepted (Motion Jen C., Second Leah S.)
  
- CAC's [Virtual Hardscrabble Day](#) (Saturday September 12) participation was discussed
- CAC has been assigned three presentation slots:
  - 11:20 AM - 11:40 AM: Exploring Compost Part 1 with Jeff Urbin – making backyard bins from salvaged materials using a borrowed tool from stuff4hire
  - 2:00pm-2:20pm: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle Right, Red Hook! a trip to the Town Recycle Yard hosted by Jen C and representatives from Taste Budd's Cafe and the Ozone
  - 3:20 PM - 3:40 PM: Exploring Compost Part 2 with Jeff Urbin – how it's done... the completed bins will be presented, and then the RHHS Env Club takes composting to the HS!
  
- Laurie H. and Jacob T. met Jude Alexis at the Red Hook Economic Development Committee recently and invited him to present his new Red Hook based, sustainability focused business to the CAC. After introductions to the CAC members, guest Jude Alexis from stuff4hire provided a brief overview of his online platform that facilitates lending and borrowing of household items such as tools. People can lend out seldom used items (estimates are that annual purchases of single use goods amount to \$1.2 trillion). Lenders have the opportunity to earn fees for their rentals, borrowers can reduce consumption (and the associated carbon footprint) by using something their neighbors already have, and the sense of community can be enhanced through these transactions. The CAC membership appreciated the sustainability aspects of this business model and invited Jude to participate in virtual Hardscrabble as a tool lender to support compost bin construction.
- Steve A. reported on early stage conversations between the Red Hook Education Foundation and the Rhinebeck Science Foundation to sponsor or support Covid safe sustainability learning opportunities for local students. Steve will report back with additional detail as more details become available.
- Steve A. provided a brief update on Saw Kill Watershed Community activities. The SKWC is looking for ways to expand community involvement during the current environment while in person meetings are not possible.
- Continuing on the topic of Materials, it was reported that there was no interest from Todd Baright in an offer to build a backyard compost system for one of his apartment units on E. Market Street.
- Mike Z. reported that there was no Planning Board meeting in September and accordingly, there is no update
- Laurie H. reported on the Sustainable Community Certification Program through Audobon. Progress has been made on several focus areas where interviews have commenced and/or are being scheduled. Recreation was just completed this week – additional comments welcome. Key Focus Areas for the certification process remaining: Housing, Public Health, Planning/ Zoning
- Denis C. provided an Energy update. Streetlight conversions are scheduled to begin this week. Planning tasks for lighting updates to the Highway Garage that can save between \$5,000 - \$10,000 in annual utility costs are underway.
- The meeting ended at 8:00 PM