

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting
September 11, 2019

Members present: Mike Zelig (acting as Chair in the absence of Chairwoman Laurie Husted, who had a conflicting meeting), Susan Ellis, Lori Urbin, Leah Steinberg, Julia Solomon, Steve Appenzeller, Jen Cavanaugh, Denis Collet

Guests: Tessa Husted, Co-President of the Red Hook High School Environmental Club and Eleanor Solomon

Guest Speaker: Nate Nardi-Cyrus, Conservation and Land Use Specialist, Hudson River Estuary Program/Cornell University

CALL TO ORDER / QUORUM : Acting Chair Mike Zelig called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. A quorum was present.

PRESENTATION BY NATE NARDI-CYRUS : Mike Zelig led a round of introductions. Nate opened with an announcement of a workshop for recognizing habitats in the field and discussing considerations related to land development and habitat conservation. The second session is Friday September 20 from 2 - 5 PM in Cornwall, NY. Nate encouraged available CAC members to register as soon as possible.

The workshop will include using maps and aerial photographs to help interpret the landscape and quality indicators for important habitats. Nate added that it is necessary to identify what a municipality has in order to prioritize how to plan, protect and manage its resources. He said that Red Hook is well on its way.

To answer a question about the need to update Natural Resource Inventory maps, Nate suggested that some information may not have changed. However, presenting the information in an easy to access format will help educate landowners.

Julia Solomon asked if the adobe layers on the NRI program can be turned on and off to show how resource qualities impact each other. Nate replied yes. Jen Cavanaugh asked how often data layers should be updated. Nate replied ~ every 10 years. That would tie into timing of Comprehensive Plan review.

The Hudson River Estuary Program will offer some grants up to \$50,000 with a 15% Town match. Nate closed by adding that Hudson River Valley GREENWAY and Climate Smart Community grants are another option, as well as getting bids from consultants to handle them.

The CAC thanked Nate Nardi-Cyrus, who left the meeting at 7:45 P.M.

HARDSCRABBLE DAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2019 - PLANS FOR CAC TO STAFF A TABLE: Lori Urbin asked what CAC members had time available to staff a table and what information, displays or projects they would choose to focus on. She said that Sun Common will have a space set up with its information on the Red Hook's Community Solar Array (CSA) initiative. Denis Collet noted that Sun Common may be happy to be joined by the students/CAC members to add interest to their presentation.

TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE :

Bicycle/pedestrian counts : The counts were completed in September, and Chairwoman Laurie Husted relayed thanks to the volunteers.

Bus Shelter : Leah Steinberg reported that she still has no reply from the County.

Electric charging stations at the Town Hall : Denis Collet reported that the Town is in the last stages of getting out a RFP. A contract is needed by November 1, or the grant funds will be reallocated.

Electric vans : no update.

ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE: DENIS COLLET

CDG – Community Distributed Generation : Central Hudson and NYSEERDA programs to promote renewable generation to reduce electric costs are available.

LED Street Light Conversion program is on hold.

CCA - Community Choice Aggregation : A CCA option is planned to be offered in October. (It is another way to combine group purchasing power of electricity and gas)

MINUTES OF CAC MEETING ON AUGUST 14, 2019: There were no corrections or additions to the draft minutes of the meeting on August 14. They were approved with a motion made by Mike Zelig and seconded by Steve Appenzeller.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, October 9, 2019 at 7 P.M. at Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis, Secretary