

Draft

**TOWN OF RED HOOK  
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of meeting  
September 12, 2018

Members present : Jen Cavanaugh acting as Chair, as Laurie Husted had a conflict with a Micro Hydro Power presentation obligation at Bard College, Susan Ellis, Mike Zelig, Steve Appenzeller, Julia Solomon, Denis Collet, Lori Urbin (7:15 P.M.)

**GUESTS:** Tara Sullivan, concerned citizen with a focus on the state of the Saw Kill Watershed quality, as it may be impacted by sewage from a “factory farm” on the west side of Route 9 where it crosses the Saw Kill Creek.

Michelle Gluck, Climate Smart Communities Certification Program

**CALL TO ORDER / QUORUM:** Acting Chair Jen Cavanaugh got a key to open the Town Hall and called the meeting to order at 7:13 P.M. A quorum was present.

**ENERGIZE RED HOOK SUBCOMMITTEE:** Lori Urbin reported that the Subcommittee had a “meet the Energy Superhero” display for Friday Night Lights to encourage sign-ups for energy audits and resources to reduce energy loss for residential owners. It was a success with 10 new sign-ups. Lori plans to repeat the outreach at Hardscrabble Day, with the help of Julia, and adding a House costume to demonstrate energy loss areas.

**“GREEN BIZ” - RECYCLING MATERIALS SUBCOMMITTEE:** Lori Urbin showed photos of biodegradable products used at Taste Budd's Cafe, Annabelle's Bakery and Red Hook Natural Foods. She wants to start a conversation with other Village businesses about how they can implement cost conscious eco-friendly choices in their use of take-out, serving and packaging materials. Straws are a current issue.

**CONCERNED CITIZENS AGAINST FACTORY FARMING (CCRAFF):** Jen Cavanaugh introduced Tara Sullivan, co founder of CCRAFF, who had requested time at the CAC meeting to discuss concerns about the smells and potential pollution from sewage produced by Del's Dairy Farm on Route 9 North. Tara described her attempts to learn more about the level of impacts and how to mitigate them.

Jen Cavanaugh and CAC members asked Tara what she thought the CAC could offer for CCRAFF. As an advisory council to the Town, the CAC usually reviews proposals that are requested by Town officials. Agricultural businesses are regulated by NY State

Agriculture and Markets with oversight by the DEC. The CAC suggested that Tara do more research with them. Tara added that the DEC has said that Del's Dairy Farm is compliant with current regulations.

Jen Cavanaugh and the CAC thanked Tara Sullivan for presenting her concerns and said that she should update any further information she gathers.

*Tara left the meeting.*

*Michelle Gluck of the CCE CSC Program joined the meeting.*

**CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES CERTIFICATION PROGRAM UPDATE FOR THE TOWN OF RED HOOK:** Jen Cavanaugh did introductions and gave Michelle Gluck the floor to discuss the status of her work for the Town of Red Hook. Michelle is coordinating the Program through the Cooperative Extension (CCEDC). She has done more research on what actions have been completed to give points towards approval of certification, with a goal of two weeks to determine the level of points.

Michelle wants the Town to form a working group to take over maintenance of the Program. Julia Solomon noted that no one on the CAC or Town level has offered to be a curator of a website.

CAC members mentioned other Town actions that are proposed, but could not say that they would be completed in the time frame. The CAC thanked Michelle for her update.

*Michele Gluck left the meeting.*

**MATERIALS SUBCOMMITTEE – COMPOSTING:** Steve Appenzeller reported that the survey of potential subscribers for a Composting Program brought together a show of interest that indicates that further coordination is warranted.

**WATERSHED PROTECTION:** Jen Cavanaugh reported that Karen Schneller-McDonald spoke with her to ask for creation of an ad hoc committee to determine what legislation might be proposed for watershed protection.

**ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE:** Denis Collet has been in discussion with Dandelion Inc., who has funding from NYSERDA to support project the size of a solar roof on the Highway Garage.

The Town Hall solar roof panel project looks as if it will proceed. Denis does have concerns about the Community Solar farm as there are issues of the impact of visibility to neighbors.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday October 10 at 7 P.M. at Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Ellis Secretary