

TOWN OF COPAKE

CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – 02/28/15

Meeting called to order at 6:10 PM. 9:02am. Attendants: Edgar Masters, Heidi Bock, Brian Boom and TB liaison Susan Winchell-Sweeney.

Motion made to approve November minutes made by Masters, seconded by Boom, all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS: Review of the notes from the meeting with Candice Balmer in November. [Candice Balmer of RCAP Solutions provided technical assistance and support with Hillsdale's application for funds, etc. for their wastewater system. Presentation delivered by Balmer on issues of wastewater treatment and alternatives to municipal wastewater.]

Based on information provided by Balmer, all were in agreement that approaching the TB or raising the issue of wastewater treatment would be problematic and likely ineffective at this point in time. Wastewater management districts (monitoring versus putting pipes in the ground), education for property owners and sanitation surveys were also discussed. Bock will contact East Chatham for a copy of their sanitation survey for review by the CAC.

NEW BUSINESS: Hudson River PCB clean-up resolution discussed; [request received from Cleanwater.org]:

"...a resolution addressing PCB contamination and remediation in the Hudson River and the need for a more thorough removal of PCBs from the Hudson River. If adopted your municipality or organization will call upon General Electric (GE) to enter into a mutually-beneficial agreement with EPA, the Trustees, and/or any other relevant parties to ensure the following will occur before the existing dredging and dewatering infrastructure is dismantled to:

1. Dredge all areas of PCB-contaminated sediments in River Sections 2 and 3 that would require cleanup under the applicable-standards in River Section 1, including, at minimum, the 136 acres identified by the federal Trustees;
2. Conduct any additional necessary removal of soils and sediments in PCB-contaminated "hot spots" in and around the Upper Hudson River, including cleanup of the Champlain Canal to ensure full use of the canal by deep draft shipping vessels; and
3. Complete a thorough analysis and robust cleanup of the Hudson River, including the floodplains and the Old Champlain Canal, in order to restore the River to its full health and value as a natural and economic resource.

...During what could be the last year of the required PCB cleanup, we are asking General Electric to create a voluntary agreement with state and federal authorities to complete a more extensive cleanup of the 40 mile stretch in the upper Hudson, including dredging the navigational channel to allow full use of the river by commercial shipping vessels and ensuring thorough remediation of the floodplains and backwaters -- before GE decommissions its processing facilities. **We are looking for 100 municipalities and organizations to pass this measure.** This Resolution has already been passed the Hudson-Hoosic Rivers (HHRP) Partnership, a coalition of

municipalities and organizations in the Upper Hudson River. Upriver communities are asking the support of municipalities in the Mid and Lower Hudson to ensure a world class clean-up of the Hudson River and to speak with a unified voice to make sure what needs to be done is accomplished before GE concludes its work. So far the Ulster County Legislature, the Cities of Beacon and Newburgh, the Towns of New Windsor, Olive and Rhinebeck, and the Village of Saugerties have joined the Partnership in adopting the **RESOLUTION REGARDING THE REMOVAL OF PCBs FROM THE HUDSON RIVER** (attached). We thank those municipalities who have taken the lead on this important issue, and are working closely with many others who are currently considering taking this action. Many of you passed the original resolution in 2001, calling for the PCB cleanup. Now is the time to be sure it is done well to ensure rapid recovery and to restore full use of the river by commercial shipping vessels and for recreational use.”

Consensus by CAC members is to make no recommendation to the Copake Town Board for or against passing the resolution.

Next meeting scheduled for Saturday, April 18th. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 am.