

Conservation Advisory Council | City of Newburgh, New York

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Phone: (845) 569-7366

Council Members:

Richard Harper, Chairman

Gail Fulton

Kippy Boyle

Mary McTamane

Phil Prinzivalli

Chuck Thomas

Karen McCarthy



Conservation Advisory Council Minutes of Meeting December 4, 2014

I. Roll Call

Present:

Richard Harper, Chair

Gail Fulton

Kippy Boyle

Karen McCarthy

Phil Prinzivalli

Laurence Fleischer (Secretary)

A quorum is present.

Absent were Mary McTamane and Chuck Thomas

Guests Present

Glenn Gidaly – Barton & Loguidice

Animal Hughes

Jan Allen

Joshua Smith – IDA

Peter Smith – Planning Board and QCWA

II. Approval of November minutes

Motion to approve November Minutes.

The motion passed 5-0.

III. Budget Report:

Richard Harper stated that 1, 2, Tree was paid in October, 2014, and Stone Supply was paid in November, 2014.

Phil Prinzivalli asked what the total cost for Orange Nursery was.

Richard Harper responded \$744.

Richard Harper asked about the wireless router status.

Laurence Fleischer responded that the IT department has placed the order and that we are waiting for it to arrive in the mail.

Richard Harper and Kippy Boyle discussed the boards' secretary/gatekeeper proposal for 2015. It was explained that the council did not fully understand the role of this "gatekeeper" position who is supposed to have construction expertise, and be able to direct people (and their application) to the appropriate commissions/boards, etc.

Kippy Boyle offered to draft a letter regarding this, and to send it to Richard Harper.

Phil Prinzivalli asked about the status of a lap top. Wasn't the City supposed to provide one to the CAC? (*The legislation forming the CAC speaks directly to this and states that the CAC will be provided such equipment.*)

Richard Harper responded that the Comptroller stated that the City generally does not supply equipment to "volunteer" boards.

WWTP

Peter Smith and Animal Hughes discussed the City of Newburgh's Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) and the sewer partnership between the City of Newburgh and the Town of Newburgh. The City of Newburgh pays 60% of the operating costs, while the town pays 40%. The WWTP is 50 years old, and costs about \$2 million per year to run. This cost should only be \$750,000 however. Parcels that are big projects (i.e. greater than 3,000 gallons of sewage contribution per day), are supposed to notify the municipality prior to construction.

Peter Smith asked if the Town storm sewers are going to the WWTP.

Animal Hughes replied no.

Animal Hughes stated that attention should be brought to the Corporation Counsel and the Engineering Department that the WWTP is limited to 12 million gallons per day. The City should build a 50-million gallons per day plant. One third of the Town's sewage goes to the City of Newburgh's WWTP. The Town is growing, increasing the sewer

demand. This means more sewage ends up in the Hudson River, too, mentioning a number of non-working regulator valves contributing to this river discharge issue. The zoning and planning boards in the Town and the City don't communicate, and until Jason and Chad arrived, the Corporation Counsel and Engineering departments didn't communicate.

Glenn Gidaly stated that there is a lack of asset management. Regular maintenance is not taking place at the WWTP. There are so many complex issues affecting this.

Peter Smith asked if there is a point at which the useful life of the WWTP is over.

Glenn Gidaly answered yes, and that it's already passed that point.

Animal Hughes stated that this must be communicated now, and it must be shown how urgent this is.

Glenn Gidaly stated that the current interest rates on municipal bonds are lowest right now, and that the City is also eligible for outside funding, and that a grant for stormwater/wastewater on Broadway and Grand was just awarded.

Animal Hughes mentioned that the City of Newburgh is the number one eligible recipient for the environmental justice grant, but cooperation with the Town is needed, and that sewer separation from the Town is necessary sooner than later. New York City is going to cut the City of Newburgh off from the aquifer in 34 months. The City of Newburgh produces 9 million gallons of sewage per day.

Richard Harper stated that the CAC toured the WWTP, and noted that it doesn't require a big rainstorm to overflow. Larry Murphy, of the managing contractor, told the CAC the first thing that should be done is separate the storm sewer from the sanitary sewer.

Animal Hughes stated that the WWTP capacity is supposed to be 12 million gallons per day, but in reality it is only 8 million gallons per day without extra tanks. He also stated that a half inch of rain on 3 acres of land yields 1 million gallons of water.

Richard Harper stated that it seemed no one in Engineering, City Council, or Corporation Counsel noticed bogus numbers in the Environmental Assessment Form addressing the potential impact of the proposed Zoning Update. Richard stated that the CAC should take on a more active role in pursuing this issue.

Kippy Boyle stated that this discussion has grown from greening Broadway and measuring storm runoff on Broadway to this.

Animal Hughes stated that many municipalities' Engineering Departments are suffering the same way Newburgh is.

Animal Hughes departed the meeting and thanked everyone for their time.

Glenn Gidaly stated that the City is under the DEC Long Term Control Plan, essentially meaning the state is saying to Newburgh “you will fix this.” The City’s Engineering department is very focused on this. Philadelphia, PA is the leader in the USA for the Green Innovation Grant Program.

Gail Fulton asked if anyone is going to build another Diner out by Hampton.

Kippy Boyle replied it’s bought/owned by the Jehovah Witness Church.

Peter Smith stated that it is his understanding that the former Hampton Inn is to be used as residences by Jehovah Witnesses.

IV. Old Business:

Tree Inventory

Richard Harper stated that the \$25,000 tree inventory grant discussed at the Urban Forestry subcommittee meeting is for inventorying 5,000 sites, plus the management software. To survey/inventory the entire city (estimated as approximately 8500 sites) would require another \$18,000 to \$20,000 out of the CAC budget.

Kippy Boyle stated that before the contract with Davey Tree (Davey Resource Group) can be signed, the CAC needs to first have the signed documents back from the DEC. The CAC still does not have them back yet. Kippy Boyle said she is hoping to get the contract in the next few weeks.

LWRP Update

Richard Harper stated that he still doesn’t know the LWRP status, and hasn’t heard anything more from Deidre Glen.

Fishing Pier

Richard Harper stated that the 1st Street Park Fishing Pier has no current update to report.

Kippy Boyle stated that an 18 wheeler has been parked by the fishing pier for 3 weeks now. A City Department should ask Billy Joe’s to move the truck and not wait until we’re ready to make improvements.

Richard Harper stated that he will send an email to the City Manager, the City Engineer, Assistant Engineer, and the City Manager’s Executive Assistant regarding this.

Year End Report

Richard Harper stated that the CAC is required to give a yearend report to the City Council.

Kippy Boyle volunteered to help put the yearend report together.

Richard Harper stated that he would like this to be a written document.

Parks

Richard Harper stated that there is nothing new to report at this time.

Natural Resource Inventory

Richard Harper stated that Chuck Thomas is working on the RFQ/RFP for the Natural Resource Inventory.

Peter Smith stated that he has been working at the north coast of Muchattoes Lake, trying to acquire land for the City surrounding the lake from property owners. Peter Smith also asked if the storm water runoff from the Armory could be used for a rain garden. Peter Smith also stated that he has been working with Riverkeeper, and has learned that there is entococcus all over the watershed, and that the numbers in silver stream are huge.

Kippy Boyle asked if there has been any follow up on the Crystal Run building. She would like to take photos during construction. Can the CAC enter the site?

Peter Smith replied to ask Jason Morris.

Air Quality

Phil Prinzivalli stated that Simon Gruber is supposed to partner with air quality, but he is currently ill. Phil Prinzivalli also asked if anything can be done about the odor around the WWTP.

Kippy Boyle asked if Phil Prinzivalli could find a direct link to DEC's air quality complaints so someone can file a complaint.

Karen McCarthy stated that there will be a holiday party tomorrow at Downing Park.

Kippy Boyle stated that NYSERDA is doing a presentation at SUNY campuses on micro grids and solar energy. There was an event today at SUNY Binghamton where the head of NYSERDA spoke. The next presentation will occur at SUNY Purchase on January 12 or

13, 2015. Kippy Boyle stated that she signed up for it. If there is an opportunity to promote sustainability, the CAC should promote it.

Richard Harper agreed that the CAC should be more vocal promoting this, regarding the CAC's projects.

Joshua Smith stated that new bus route is to begin next week. This contributes to clean air, and it will also be FREE.

New Aerial Imagery

Laurence Fleischer asked the CAC to consider using leftover funds from 2014 to purchase new Orthoimagery at 3-inch resolution for the City of Newburgh, which the GIS program in the Engineering Department does not have enough funds to cover. Laurence Fleischer stated that he had presented the opportunity to purchase this Orthoimagery at a discounted rate due to the company, Access Geographic, currently doing work for other municipalities in the area. The total cost is \$12,820. The City Manager and Comptroller informed Laurence Fleischer that there is not enough money allocated in the 2014 or 2015 budgets to pay for this new imagery.

Laurence Fleischer presented the benefits of having new Orthoimagery, and summarized some of the uses and benefits to the City of having this higher resolution imagery.

The CAC asked if they would have access to this imagery.

Laurence Fleischer stated yes, that the CAC will have access to a PDF file containing this new Orthoimagery, and that it can be displayed, panned, and zoomed at all future CAC meetings once the final product has been delivered from the consultant.

A motion was made to transfer \$12,820 from the CAC Other Services budget line to the Engineering Department's GIS Software Maintenance budget line, for the purpose of purchasing new Orthoimagery for the City of Newburgh at 3-inch resolution from the consultant, Access Geographic.

The motion passed 5-0.

Peter Smith stated that #5 Scobie Drive has been coming to the Planning Board regularly, and everything is ready for the final vote this month.

Peter Smith asked what the status is on the Zoning and LWRP updates.

Richard Harper responded that Deidre Glen is working on a report for the City Council.

**Karen McCarthy motioned to adjourn the meeting.
Kippy Boyle seconded.**

The motion passed 5-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:30.

Next meeting January 8, 2015.