

# Conservation Advisory Council | City of Newburgh, New York

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## Council Members:

Richard Harper, Chairman

Kippy Boyle

Deborah Dresser

Gail Fulton

Karen McCarthy

Phil Prinzivalli

Chuck Thomas



## Conservation Advisory Council

### Minutes of Meeting

December 3, 2015 – 6:30pm

#### 1. Roll Call

**Present: Richard Harper, Kippy Boyle, Gail Fulton, Phil Prinzivalli, Karen McCarthy  
Deborah Dresser, Chuck Thomas, Eliana Diaz (Secretary)**

**Guest: Marcel Barrick, Manager Downing Park Greenhouse Project  
Natalie McKinstrie, Previous Waterfront Advisory Committee and CAC Secretary**

#### 2. Approval of minutes from November 5, 2015

Motion by Karen McCarthy to approve minutes from November 5<sup>th</sup>

Motion Seconded: Kippy Boyle

The motion unanimously passed

#### 3. Budget Report/Invoices

It was stated that there is about \$3000 left in the CAC budget to spend before the end of the year. Out of those funds \$140 are committed to the Google Earth Training attended on 11/19/15 and \$140 are committed to the Roots to Wire workshop attended on 11/13/15. After some discussion on the topic it was decided to allocate part of the remaining funds to the Biodiversity Report.

Motion by Deborah Dresser to allocate an additional \$750 to finalize the Biodiversity Report

Motion Seconded: Kippy Boyle

The motion passed 6-0

A discussion was held regarding purchasing trees for spring planting. This was deemed a good option to allocate additional remaining funds.

Motion by Deborah Dresser to allocate \$1500 to order trees for spring planting

Motion Seconded: Karen McCarthy

The motion passed 6-0

A discussion was held regarding the need to have additional copies of the Tree Inventory Management Plan distributed to departments such as D.P.W, Planning and Development and Engineering.

Motion by Deborah Dresser to allocate \$510 to order three sets of the Tree Inventory Management Plan

Motion Seconded: Gail Fulton

The motion passed 6-0

#### 4. **Old Business:**

##### a) **Expiring terms of four CAC members**

Richard drafted a memo on behalf of the CAC members whose terms expired requesting to be reappointed to the CAC. This memo is to be forwarded by the CAC secretary to Mayor Kennedy, City Council and other corresponding parties.

##### b) **Newburgh Waterfront Updates:**

###### i. **Newburgh Landing**

There is nothing new to report on this topic.

###### ii. **South Street Park**

A discussion was held regarding previous approaches made by members of the CAC to Planning and Development as well as Engineering in reference to the use of the park.

###### iii. **Fishing Pier**

There is nothing new to report on this topic

##### c) **Tree Inventory Grant Closeout**

Kippy has spoken to Katie Mack and they have agreed to continue work on this grant as soon as the other grants are finalized.

#### 5. **New Business**

##### a) **TD Grant Opportunity from Arbor Day Foundation**

The TD Grant Opportunity is due by the end of the day on Monday 12/7/15. Kippy acknowledged the help she received from fellow CAC members Gail and Karen in an effort to collect necessary information efficiently. Kippy and Deborah will finalize details on the Grant so that it can be submitted.

##### b) **Accepted Best Practices in Sidewalk Repair & Installation Involving Trees**

A discussion was held regarding best practices in sidewalk repair and installation involving trees. It was stated that there are alternative ways in which you can construct or repair a sidewalk that has been impacted by roots without having to take the tree down. It was mentioned that an issue for implementing best practices is that the Codes Department has not formally approved the developed best practices for using alternative sidewalk repair such as the ones in the New York City code and other municipal codes. It was discussed that the best way to approach this matter is by bringing it up to Planning and Development as well as Engineering so that they can address this issue with the Codes Department.

##### c) **Letters of Support by CAC for Watershed Grant Applications by CUNY**

Simon Gruber along with CUNY is applying for two grants and need an updated letter of support. A previously drafted letter of support will be updated and revised so that everything is up to date.

Motion by Chuck Thomas to provide updated letters of support for the grants Simon Gruber and CUNY are applying.

Motion Seconded: Kippy Boyle

The motion passed 6-0

## 6. Subcommittee Reports

### a) LWRP Update

It was stated that the funds for the LWRP are allocated within a large CFA grant therefore there will probably be no updates until January on this matter.

### b) Parks

There are no updates on this topic.

### c) Open Space/NRI

Chuck will continue working on this item

### d) Watershed

The DEC Launched a Municipal Sewage System Asset Management Pilot Program which the engineering department has informed that the City of Newburgh is pursuing. This item has been placed on the agenda for the next City Council meeting.

### e) Air Quality

There are no updates on this topic.

### f) Urban Forestry

- **Report on Releaf Workshop: Roots to Wires, 11/13/15**

A discussion was held regarding the process of how to gather and dispose of leaves. It was stated that last year Phil sent an email to D.P.W. in relation to this however, there was never any response obtained. Once again Phil has re-distributed the email, this time the brochures obtained at the roots to wires workshop will be circulated and Richard is to draft a memo on behalf of the CAC to be sent to Planning and Development, Engineering and other City Staff regarding best practices for gathering and disposing of leaves.

- **Site Visits**

274 Montgomery Street was the site visited and it was stated that the neighbors there want to do selective clearing and trimming. Private property owners want to reclaim a view of the river. City council have passed a resolution to authorize the City Manager to allow their arborists to go on to city owned property and mark the trees they feel should be taken down or trimmed, afterwards the CAC will assess the selection made. This process could perhaps become a model for which a protocol can be developed for how the process works. A discussion was held regarding the need of an arborist on City staff. It was stated that Newburgh is not unique to the absence of an arborist on staff. Research is to be done in order to verify whether other towns or cities in the past have had arborists on staff.

## 7. Ongoing Environmental Concerns

### a. Broadway Demonstration Project

No updates

### b. Consolidated Iron Site

Clarification is still being waited on regarding this topic

### c. Ferry docking site after December lease expiration

No updates, however concerns were voiced regarding iron that is spread out as well as repair and construction being done near the ferry docking site. Richard is to inquire about this issue with Planning and Development and Engineering.

**8. Calendar of Upcoming Events**

On December 6, 2015 at 5:30pm there will be a unify community event, there will be the lighting of a Menorah and a Christmas tree on Downing Park. There will be a showing of Sustaining This Place at the Downing Film Center on December 7, 2015 at a cost of \$6 per person. On January 19, 2016 at 6:00PM there will be SEQRA training in City Council Chambers.

**9. September, October, November 2015 Volunteer Hours**

Any volunteer hours must be reported to Kippy.

**General Discussion**

Marcel Barrick, Manager of Downing Park Greenhouse Project provided updates on the greenhouse activities. There was a discussion regarding the foundation which was initially aimed to be placed before the winter, however this will have to be done during the spring in an effort to find a contractor who will work with the Land bank. In the meantime there is cleaning being done throughout the area where the work is to be done. There are plans to possibly meet with the D.E.C as a means to use the available space for the broader ecological work. Future plans for Earth Day were also discussed regarding opportunities to educate the community about trees and the environment.

Motion to Adjourn: **Chuck Thomas**  
Motion Seconded: **Karen McCarthy**  
Vote: **Unanimously Approved**  
Meeting Adjourned at 8:25p.m.

**Project Reviews by CAC in 2015**

First St. Fishing Pier; Comments to Engineering 6/8/15	Habitat Newburgh- Ann St. at Johnston, four units; CAC ltr 9/04/15
Safe Harbors Park- Broadway at Liberty; comments to PB 8/12/15	Habitat Newburgh – 123 Washington Street – street trees
T/Newburgh Matrix Development in City Watershed- 17K/l-87; CAC Ltr 8/20/15	

**Project Reviews by CAC in 2014**

Shell Gas Station (405 Bway)	Independent living
Rt 300- Crystal Run	Re-Zoning/ LWRP Update
Water Tower Replacement	Newburgh Landing/ South St./ Fishing Pier
Torches	Tyrone Crabb Park Planting List
#5 Scobie Drive	North Montgomery St.