

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

May 5, 2016 – 6:30pm

1. Roll Call

Present: Richard Harper, Kippy Boyle, Phil Prinzivalli,
Karen McCarthy, Deborah Dresser, Eliana Diaz (Secretary)

Excused: Chuck Thomas,

Guest: George Profus
Marcel Barrick, Manager Downing Park Greenhouse Project

2. Approval of minutes from May 5, 2016

Motion by Kippy Boyle to approve minutes from April 7

Motion Seconded: Karen McCarthy

The motion unanimously passed

3. Budget Report/Invoices:

There is a balance of \$9,535 in the budget. There was a donation of \$185 for shade trees and Kippy has an invoice for \$125 for photocopying for the Urban Farm Fair.

4. Site Plan Reviews:

No site plans to be reviewed this month

5. Old Business

Chad requested an update on any additional volunteer hours since last April. The numbers from this year were lower since last year's hours were a compilation of two years. There may need to be more detailed information on the update Kippy sent to Chad.

a) Newburgh Waterfront Updates:

i. Newburgh Landing Rehabilitation/Design

There are no updates on this topic.

ii. South Street Park

The cleanup is scheduled for May 7th. Ali and Kippy have worked on the grant for \$400,000.

iii. Fishing Pier

The location has no streetscape and people continuously park there.

iv. People's Park

DPW is putting item four which will begin where the rowing club meets towards the gate and to the boat launch. If chips were requested then DPW could provide them.

b) Revise By-Laws to include more members

Kippy recommended Marcel to become a member of the CAC, she suggests he draft a letter of interest to join the CAC. It was mentioned that if Marcel joins and fills in Richards position he would carry out Richards term otherwise another member would have to fill Richards's position within the CAC. The bylaws which are available online state that the CAC membership is set at 7 members. The CAC is bound by the local law which established and created the CAC, however State Law might be different.

c) Sidewalk and Street Tree Pit Standards and Specifications George Profus is waiting on feedback from the City Assistant Engineer Chad Wade. George has information from other municipalities regarding the issue at hand.

6. New Business

a) Arbor Day Report 4/29/2016

Nine trees were planted, Phil is waiting for a reply from DPW staff to give a timeline for when the remaining six trees can be planted. The current water restrictions in the City were said to not affect the watering of trees. The soil condition of the old trees were discussed and it was stated that the new trees will have better soil and better watering.

b) Urban Farming Fair Report, April 30, 2016

The Urban Farm Fair was a successful event. Karen set up with community gardens. Kippy set up on a corner and DPW placed chips on the Ann Street parking lot. There were many people who came to the CAC table and signed up to learn how to make their own rain barrels. Tool sharpening was done for free and other events similar to the Urban Farm Fair will be held at other locations seeing how this is a positive experience for the community in Newburgh. There will be rain water barrel classes on June 4th, Phil would like to know how many rain barrels we may need from Pepsi Cola. Phil was appointed as the contact person with Marcel for the rain barrels, Karen voiced she wanted to participate in the rain barrels classes. Deborah and Marcel are to coordinate to possibly have rain barrel workshops and tool sharpening at the same time.

7. Subcommittee Reports

a) LWRP Update

Council has approved the funds for \$35,000.

b) Open Space/NRI

On May 11th Laura, Laurence and Richard are scheduled to meet. Gail and Phil volunteered to meet with Richard and join the meeting.

c) Watershed

Richard asked Jason the City Engineer if the Silver Stream Gates were still open and flowing to Washington Lake. This was confirmed by Jason in a lengthy email to Richard, in summary the gates were still open to provide adequate testing. The Quassaick Creek and the CAC were going to have a presentation about water conservation at the council work session but with the emergency situation it seems redundant. Kippy believes that the CAC

played a key role in finding the pollutant in the water. Richard will draft a statement on behalf of the CAC in support of the City Manager and City Staff.

d) Air Quality

There are no updates on this topic.

e) Urban Forestry

- **Site Visits March**

Phil went by Robinson Avenue between Gidney & South Street where trees were run over

- **TD Bank Grant Application – status report Re: Utility Vehicle, Press Release, etc.**

The CAC will have to let go of their first choice for a vehicle and inform the dealer that we are still looking for a vehicle that will accommodate our needs. The loop Phase I is finished by Central Hudson, the next part is more difficult because it requires entrance into people's homes. It was mentioned that the tree planting will have to be held off until September when the work by Central Hudson is finalized.

- **Tree Inventory Closeout**

It has been reviewed by George Profus, however he has questions on Google Earth and GIS, Laurence needs to be reached to address these questions.

- **Status of Tree Trimmer**

There is a new tree trimmer, he was helping plant trees on Arbor Day.

f) Parks

A member of the CAC should visit Tyrone Crabb Park and Hasbrouck Heights and report by the June meeting. It was suggested that a park overseer would be good to have for each park, perhaps a group of neighbor and friends. Karen is to get in touch with councilwoman Mejia to discuss this idea.

8. Ongoing Environmental Concerns

a. Consolidated Iron Site

Scenic Hudson is doing a piece on this. There is no schedule specifying how often the site will be opened.

b. Ferry docking site after June lease expiration

There are no updates on this topic.

c. Broadway Demonstration Project

Richard will contact the land bank

d. Streetscaping project along Liberty St.

Planters were not mentioned as part of the plans, Kippy wrote an email to Ali asking if the patrons of Liberty Street had not been consulted on outlook of landscaping. Kippy would like there to be visual continuity. Richard and Kippy received an email from Jessica Ridgeway regarding extra funds that could potentially be available for the CAC, there was no mention of the amount in the email. Depending on the amount of funding available it was suggested that the funds could be used for the purchasing of trees and planting. The CAC needs to provide a rough estimate of how much funds they would need by May 6th.

e. Pilgrim Pipeline

There was a demonstration along the thru way on May Day and a stop to the pipeline has been issued in Massachusetts.

f. Quassaick Creek

Richard spoke in the Scenic Hudson paper about the greenway in snake hill.

g. Energy Sustainability

There was an inquiry from kate Schmidt who wanted to know if the CAC would be interested in solarizing Newburgh. The CAC may be interested in co-chairing a meeting regarding this with the ARC.

9. Calendar of Upcoming Events

- NYS Urban Forestry Conference – July 14-16

10. May Volunteer Hours

Any volunteer hours must be reported to Kippy.

Motion to Adjourn: **Deborah Dresser**

Motion Seconded: **Richard Harper**

Vote: **Unanimously Approved**

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00p.m.

Project Reviews by CAC in 2016

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| 198 South Robinson Ave. Special Use Permit comments to PB | |
| 39A-B Johnston Street- Site Plan Rural Ulster Preservation Company (RUPCO) | |
| 2 Nicoll Street- Mike Starace | |

Project Reviews by CAC in 2015

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| 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/I-87; CAC Ltr 8/20/15 | |

Project Reviews by CAC in 2014

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|------------------------------|---|
| 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. |