

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**March 13, 2014**

Present: Richard Harper (Chair), C.K. Boyle, Gail Fulton, Mary McTamane  
Phil Prinzivalli, Chad Wade  
Absent: Chuck Thomas  
Attendees: Ian MacDougall (Planning Dept.)  
Peter Smith (Watershed subcommittee)  
John Gebhards, (QCWA)  
Jessica Bacher (Pace)  
George Profous (Region 3 DEC),  
Taylor Palmer, Esq. (Attorney from Drake, Loeb for Crystal Run Rt. 300 Developers)  
Fred Wilson (Ward 1 Resident)  
Fred Fetter (arborist)

1. **Roll Call.** The meeting came to order at 6:30pm. A quorum was present.
2. **Approval of Minutes**
  - Mary McTamane: Motion to Approve January 10, 2014 Minutes
  - Phil Prinzivalli: Motion seconded.
  - VOTE: January 10, 2014 Minutes Approved**
  - Mary McTamane: Motion to Approve February 6, 2014 Minutes
  - Phil Prinzivalli: Motion seconded.
  - VOTE: February 6, 2014 Minutes Approved**
3. **Budget/Invoices.** Invoice for \$24.93 from CK Boyle rolled over to April meeting.
4. **LWRP Status Report:** Ian MacDougall reported on the draft BFJ document which was prepared with a \$150000 matching grant. The grant has been held open for 5/6 years. The Department of State is directing the City to button up the document as it is, send to Albany for closeout review, so that a percentage of the matching funds might be released. Mary: when can we use the revised LWRP? Ian – when it’s adopted and approved by the State. The steps now are:
  - Close-out the grant by April 15 (grants coordinator is assisting Ian with this)
  - Simultaneously revise the draft LWRP into a final version (e.g., remove references to Leland),CAC members expressed concern that important projects are about to commence (such as the Port of Newburgh and Consolidated Iron site). Harbor Management is critical. The CAC is working with a 10-year old LWRP and asked if there is a plan of action, reiterating that the CAC is ready to help. The City might re-hire BFJ to complete the project. Ian suggested that the CAC meet with the City Manager with their concerns. He’ll also call Bonnie at the DOS . He agreed to keep the Chair informed.
5. **Standing Committee Reports.**
  - **Air Quality:** Phil Prinzivalli. No Report
  - **LWRP:** Chuck Thomas, Peter Smith. (See Update above.)CAC members expressed concerns about the Consolidated Iron site RFQ process and need for better communications between City staff and volunteer boards and committees. Jessica Bacher suggested that with an Open Space Inventory, the CAC can interject itself into the process. CAC must demonstrate its usefulness and connect with City Manager and staff that you want to be informed of things.

M. McTamane noted that 9 years ago she interviewed all of the stakeholders for input in the Newburgh Landing dock design so that the public interests were incorporated when rebuilding took place. She did a chart of what the public wanted. This prior public benefit research and institutional

knowledge needs to be incorporated into new Newburgh Landing design plans with the new engineer.

- **Open Space & Natural Resource Inventory:** Chad Wade, Peter Smith.
  - QCWA – John Gehbards reviewed ways to prepare a Natural Resource Inventory. From hiring outside engineering firm (Town of Newburgh), or local input from volunteers, and by each type of resource (as in Goshen). Important for a Council person to be closely involved. Do outreach to all stakeholders from farmers, engineers, planners, community members. Goshen’s plan was used to acquire easements and fee simple properties. Saratoga Springs is an urban example. See the Orange County open space plan. Plenty of examples to guide us. Youth were used for the Recreational category. Metropolitan Conservation Alliance is recommended for overlay districts. In order to get your work adopted, you must have the support of the Mayor, City Manager, or Council. John will be happy to come back to assist whenever CAC asks. Reclaiming is also an urban situation.
  - Chad will have the GIS mapping update in April
- **Parks:** Gail Fulton & Mary McTamanev.
  - Mary revising the full list of City Parks for the April meeting
- **Water Quality:** Chuck Thomas, Peter Smith (neither present)
  - **Crystal Run/Rt. 300 Project:** Revised plans were submitted to Engineering to address first round of comments. Richard reviewed response. Drake, Loeb present, representing Crystal Run. CAC hasn’t been included in further City discussions. What is the date of the next Town of Newburgh public hearing? Drake Loeb Attorney says clear-cutting is approved, based on the first plan. CAC unanimously concerned about clearing and grading going forward. Drake offers to provide information on where the permit is during the process. Drake to provide information to Richard Harper..
- **Urban Forestry:** Phil Prinzivalli & Kippy Boyle.
  - We Informed George Profous (DEC Region 3 Urban Forester) that City could not host a DEC Workshop this Spring.
  - Sidewalk Replacement Program & Permitting: Jessica Bacher reported. Legislation prevents sidewalk permits without recommendation from the CAC. Permits currently are approved in 24 hours. The permit application is being revised. There are possible approaches: 1. CAC could provide recommendations as the permits come in. 2. If applicant is going to Planning Board or ARC, a CAC member could attend the meeting using a threshold e.g., (“if more than 200 feet”) or on smaller-scale projects, CAC can create best practices standards regarding materials, tree pit size, for neighborhoods. PACE can do that for the CAC. Steve Hunter concerned about volume of applications, and repairs.

“Scattered Sidewalk Replacement Program: There’s no inclusion of recommendations for tree planting guidelines, but applicants will still need permits. Ideally you’ll have conversations with Courtney about reviewing the applications. Deadline for Applications is April 11<sup>th</sup>.”

George Profous reviewed the Sidewalk Replacement Application. He recommends adding: “The property will be inspected for Street Tree Compatibility”. “Area allows for street tree” – yes or no. “Street Trees appropriately placed improve property values, provide shade and prevent pollution”. Drawings or photos should be added as guides Visualized planting space requirement, define tree pit standards (gave NYC samples) and look at costs. Pervious cobblestones is less expensive than cement. CAC has role at the permitting stage. Recommendations need to be attached to sidewalk permits. To say “we expect ” these improvements shows the City’s commitment. Courtney Kain should be informed of the updated recommendation: There would be separate standards for Broadway. Jessica Bacher says staff is meeting with GNP, TOD etc to develop standards. CAC expressed surprise that we haven’t been included in such discussions.

Phil P asked how this impacts our Greening Broadway Grant? The County study didn't include looking at sidewalk width. Ian Mc: the transportation study was just on Broadway and very rudimentary. TOD complete streets. \$4.75 million dollars in TIP. Where is the plan? Richard H: We want a sustained effort. We can help guide these converging programs. We need to reach some milestones within a year so that we can move forward. Mary: Looking at the physical draft site plans will help envision.

George Profous will meet with the Urban Forestry committee to prepare a short list of tree species which can be recommended to applicants to simplify their choices. PACE will develop threshold recommendations. Send research recommendations to Jessica for their Yale intern to research. Compile useful photos and illustrations.

- April 25<sup>th</sup> Arbor Day: 4 sites selected: 272 Montgomery St., Clinton Park, The Armory, Ann Street Municipal Lot. London Planes have been ordered. Two more needed. Checklist for Arbor Day plantings needed.
- **Watershed:** Peter Smith, Chuck Thomas (neither present). See Rte. 300 discussion above.

## 6. Old Business.

- Office Space & Support: Agree to use 123 Grand as a mailbox address. Mary will investigate spaces for the April meeting Richard suggests preparing a proposal for the City Manager.
- Map Revisions. Chad will have for April meeting.
- Secretarial Services: Corporation Counsel says it must be a part-time employment position. CAC unanimously believes this is a misinterpretation. Richard will take this up with the City Manager.
- CAC letters to City departments. Mary distributed a draft letter to Jessica for final. Jessica will review again for April. The email will go to departments and other committees to ensure they're aware of the CAC, its structure and its responsibilities
- PACE Streamlines Forms. Jessica is meeting with Chief Vatter/Steve Hunter on March 19<sup>th</sup> for the first reviews. Standard recommendations will be due in May. June 7<sup>th</sup> is a training program for Boards and Staff, followed by final changes. ARC and Coastal Assessment Forms are being done in April. Kippy asked why sidewalk forms are last, since work will be happening shortly? All Right-of-Way forms are being consolidated and will be on the website.
- Special Meetings With Pace: Spring plantings, sidewalk replacements, and façade programs are overlapping with the outdated process. Jessica will suggest CAC be added to the site plan stamps for referral. Chad will also note at Planning Meetings. Richard will coordinate with Jessica to set a schedule for the 'streamlining' meetings.
- Web Page. Review page and make more suggestions. Add Photos. Email address

## 7. New Business

- Hudsonia Biodiversity Training. Chad sent the application and we are waiting for their response.
- Port of Newburgh. Consensus of Board is that we should pursue the Pubic Benefits possibilities, such as a right-of-way along Quassaick Creek, trail markers, road repair when Port is done, etc. Parkland, Rowing Club, Harbor Management, Quassaick trail all City quality of life benefits.. Lobby the City Council. Consistency Review will still be required, and Planning Board approval required.
- Request for Business Cards: Phil suggested.

7. Broadway Improvement Project. There are several programs -- Main Street, Façade Improvement, Greening Broadway that should be leveraged. City hasn't responded to our requests to leverage.. Jessica asked if Greening Broadway could also be in the Land Bank revitalization streets? Unlikely: this Grant is to show improvements to Broadway. STC reviewed the original Land Bank plans with DEC and made recommendations for that area. We're very encouraged that Region 3 DEC representative George Profous is taking a strong interest in our best use of funds, time, volunteers.

There was a general discussion about the need for better communication...emails go unanswered by staff. Action: Phil will re-send emails to DPW explaining the state's reporting requirements and why the 2013 tree removal list is necessary. Jessica volunteered to be a conduit to encourage DPW to attend STC portion of meetings.

8. E-design presentation report from Chad. 5 categories of properties where green infrastructure might be introduced. Brief overview of what green infrastructure is, projects done by e-designs (ABC Carpets in the Bronx, Underwear factory in Poughkeepsie). This grant is specifically to reduce CSW.

9. General Information/Upcoming Events

- 4/4 Tree Risk Assessment Workshop in Carmel
- 4/22 Earth Day
- 4/25 Arbor Day
- 5/10 Riverkeeper
- 6/7 PACE streamlining meeting with Boards and City Staff

K. Boyle: Motion to adjourn

C. Wade: Motion seconded

**Vote: Unanimously approved**

The Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm

**NEXT MEETING – APRIL 3, 6:30 pm. The 2014 Meeting Schedule will be posted online.**

## URBAN FORESTRY STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING – Held 5:45 pm 3/13/2014

### **405 Broadway Shell Station Discussion:**

Chad presented plans. Need Recommendations. Phil/Kippy did on-site with photos. Discussion of possibility of larger tree pit sites. Fred: concern problem of corner/trucks turning/. Large or small, because of corner traffic and signs.. a few suggestions under 25. Can pervious paving be used around tree pits?

Jessica: new legislation requires that Buildings can't issue sidewalk permits without CAC review and recommendation. Doesn't require owner to attend meetings. Chad: Planning Board already approved plans.....Chad will write letter, recommend permeable paving assuming 3 5x5 pits per Richard.

Arbor Day: Prepare Checklist, confirm sites, order trees, coordinate with DPW.