

Conservation Advisory Council | City of Newburgh, New York

123 Grand Street, Newburgh, New York, 12550

Phone: (845) 569-7366

Council Members:

Richard Harper, Chairman

Gail Fulton

Kippy Boyle

Mary McTamane

Phil Prinzivalli

Chuck Thomas

Chad Wade



Conservation Advisory Council Minutes of Meeting June 5, 2014

I. Roll Call

Present:

Richard Harper, Chair

Gail Fulton

Chad Wade

Phil Prinzivalli

C. Kippy Boyle

Karen McCarthy

Mary McTamane

Chung-Leong Chan

Chuck Thomas

Guests:

George Profous -NYS DEC Region 3 Urban Forester

Ian MacDougall - City Planner

II. Approval of May minutes

The approval of the May 1, 2014 minutes were reviewed. The following corrections were noted: Spelling "Eberlin", "million" on page 1

Mary McTamane moves to approve

Chuck Thomas seconds

All were in favor

III. Budget Report:

Spending:

Mary McTamane purchased keys. Voucher will be submitted by Naomi Fay, Secretary to CAC, for reimbursement.

IV. Old Business:

Kippy Boyle met with IT to update CAC page on the City website. CAC's email is cac@cityofnewburgh-ny.gov

IT – Naomi Fay will follow up with Glen Kurcon regarding wireless router for 123 Grand St. Chad Wade will follow up on getting a reference map for CAC to view.

Kippy Boyle will look into getting foam board

Other Maps that would like to have displayed are: a water map and an open space map.

Tree Inventory Grant

Status: Kippy Boyle emailed Mary McTamaney, alerted Ellen Fillo, The City of Newburgh's Grant Coordinator, and James Slaughter, City of Newburgh Planning and Development Director and is awaiting information on status of grant contract.

The City Manager received email from Arbor Pro, a tree inventory consultant based in California. Arbor Pro contacted the CAC to explain their services and would like to give estimates for inventorying Newburgh trees.

LWRP Local Water Revitalization Update:

At a Broadway Action Plan meeting hosted by Greater Newburgh Partnership on Monday, June 2, 2014, Richard Harper met with James Slaughter, Pace Law, Land Bank and others including Kevin Dwarka, Planner associated with several grant applications and plans that will impact Broadway. Mr. Harper was encouraged by the strong emphasis Mr. Dwarka placed on finalizing the LWRP update.

NOTE: A Resolution was passed by the City Council authorizing the City of Newburgh to go into an agreement with BFJ Planning for professional planning services related to the "clean-up" of the Draft Local Waterfront Revitalization plan. The effort by BFJ is simply to place the City of Newburgh in a position to have the New York Department of State (DOS) release reimbursement funds currently being withheld from the City. On Tuesday, June 3rd, Richard Harper followed up with James Slaughter for the estimated date of completion by BFJ.

Richard Harper expressed his concern and comments regarding the timeline and how inconsistent the LWRP is with the zoning plan. He was also encouraged that the new City Manager, Michael Ciaravino, has prior experience with a deep water port and also understands the importance of updating the LWRP. Richard Harper noted that this is very positive feedback and the CAC will be an active player in getting the LWRP updated.

Ian MacDougall

BFJ is working on the project and estimated to be complete in 2 weeks. The City is also working on all the closing documents that were sent to the Department of State. Ian MacDougall will forward copies to CAC members and also noted that it is imperative to get document to the State in order to close grant out to make it easy enough to pick up at a later date.

Re-Zoning:

Richard Harper reviewed draft zoning code and made formal comments as both a resident and chairman of CAC which he to the City Council.

Richard Harper suggested that if any board members have a question, they should write it down as a comment. You can view the Draft Zoning Code on the City's website at

www.cityofnewburgh-ny.gov.

Ian MacDougall also noted that by law the zoning code should comply with the approved and adopted Land Use Plan. Comments should be referenced with this information in mind. Ian MacDougall will collect comments during the public meetings and public comment period and compile them as part of the public record. Mr. MacDougall said there have been two (2) zoning ordinance public presentations by AKRF, the zoning consultant. In Mr. MacDougall's opinion, AKRF talked more about methodology than specifically what was changed from the previous ordinance to the proposed ordinance. The CAC members were strongly encouraged to read the draft rezoning document and express their concerns. Public meetings, and therefore the public record, should be open until late June to July.

V. Subcommittee Reports:

Urban Forestry – Greening Broadway Grant:

The Greening Broadway Grant is funding to plant 25 trees along Broadway. The contract came to City Manager's office addressed to Richard Herbek and was never executed. George Profous, Urban Forester from the NYS DEC Region 3 office, said the City is in jeopardy of losing the grant. The City of Newburgh received a letter from Mr. Davies, Director of Division of Lands and Forest for the NYS Department of Conservation, stating that funding has been officially withdrawn. **Richard Harper will follow up to find out the status.** Ellen Fillo has been alerted about the grant withdrawal. Kevin Dwarka brought up contact with Mr. Profous, DEC Forester, to discuss sustainable planting opportunities associated with Broadway.

City Manager Michael Ciaravino instructed James Slaughter, Planning and Development Director, to draft a letter responding to Mr. Davies.

Richard Harper followed up with Mr. Slaughter on June 3, 2014.

Mr. Profous, from the DEC, noted that a response was appropriate to acknowledge the receipt of the grant withdrawal notification, and explain that the City now has a Grants Coordinator and a City Manager, who supports these efforts, and that these grants will be followed up and executed in a more professional and accountable manner from now on.

Kippy Boyle will try to do a site walk of Broadway and will send an email to coordinate dates to schedule.

Phil Prinzivalli and Darren Stridiron, a new member of school board, are coordinating efforts with the sub-committee of Urban Forestry, the school system and the local library to collaborate on efforts associated with urban forestry education projects.

The City Manager has asked the CAC for recommended improvements to the front of City Hall at 83 Broadway.

123 Grand St. Lobby: Kippy Boyle volunteered to coordinate the painting of the lobby and have Laurence from GIS create a map of the City of Newburgh to display. Mary McTamanev will be available to the City Manager to give simple suggestions to make the lobby more presentable.

VI. New Business:

a. 2015 Budget – City Arborist – Richard Harper suggested that the board should start thinking about proposing that a City Arborist be budgeted into the 2015 budget in order to have someone dedicated to tree maintenance. The DEC is providing guidance to municipalities in the budget workshops.

Kippy Boyle will research starting salaries for Urban Foresters and also find out what experience is necessary for this type of position. Mr. Profous gave examples of starting salaries in NYC to be approximately from \$55,000 to \$60,000 for a City Arborist.

He added that the DEC is exploring options to possibly put City Arborist into a grant program either to create a position or to provide training to an existing employee. Another option would be to have the City Arborist as a shared position with other nearby municipalities. It was noted that City of Poughkeepsie has a DPW crew just for trees.

Natural Resource Inventory

The budget for Natural Resource is \$30,000. Mary McTamaney noted that we will need to expend what is in the budget or it might not be allocated next year.

b. Procurement Procedures: Richard Harper had a meeting with John Aber and Liz Garrison in the Comptroller's office on City procurement policy, noting the thresholds determining the need to go through a bidding process.

(See attached for the Procurement Policy).

Richard Harper raised various questions: What companies are considered "Professional Services", and are tree inventory companies in this category? How do we move forward to hire these companies? Do we want to have one or several of the interested and qualified consultants make presentations to the CAC? CAC may be required to put out RFP's. The goal is to hire a company within 2 months. **Chad Wade will contact Laurence for GIS request based on the spreadsheet of inventory elements provided by Pace; Naomi will assist.**

c. Environmental Position Statement – bomb trains hauling oil - increased freight traffic on the rail system along the Hudson River. It was suggested the CAC request the City Council to issue a position statement regarding the bomb trains that are hauling oil. Richard Harper asked the CAC members to research the issue and list their comments, questions, and suggestions.

Regarding the proposal by Global oil to significantly enlarge their storage and transfer capabilities and facilities at the Hudson waterfront, the City of Newburgh is listed as an "Interested Agency" for SEQRA, so we should be included in distribution of plans from the Town of New Windsor.

What is the requirement? **Chad Wade will research the law.**

Mary McTamaney was present at the recent meeting hosted by Scenic Hudson at the library regarding the bomb train issue. She noted that River Keeper and Scenic Hudson were uninformed as to the actual quantity and frequency of the travel of bomb trains.

Public hearing for Albany Port ends Aug. 1st. It was suggested that it is not too late nor are we too far removed geographically to submit comments. The CAC will start putting thoughts together to present to the City Council regarding the CAC's environmental position statement on this subject.

VII. Subcommittee Reports:

b. 3 Waterfront Parks: Newburgh Landing, South St. and First St.

Ian MacDougall reported: The City of Newburgh has a \$348,600 matching grant. The City has bonded money for these projects and money has been allocated for each park. This grant lapsed in Jan. 2014. City Staff are working to extend contract with the Department of State (DOS). It was noted that the scope of work has changed on the Newburgh Landing Pier and the First St. Fishing Pier due to extensive ice damage.

The Newburgh Landing and the First St. Fishing Pier have been officially closed to the public by the City Engineer. The original grant was to draft a concept study of the pier. The new scope of work will include a more detailed feasibility study and explore the different options to replace the Pier.

City Staff submitted a new progress report to DOS. The City has issued a RFP for the feasibility study on the Newburgh Landing Pier. The City will need to put out the bid to do repairs on the First St. Pier. An advisory committee is being formed. City Engineer, Jason Morris, and City Planner, Ian MacDougall, are asking for a representative from the CAC to be part of this advisory committee. Mary McTamaney and Gail Fulton, of the Parks Subcommittee, will be CAC representatives.

Summary of three projects:

Design for South St. – Scenic Hudson Concept Plan

Repairs for the Fishing Pier – Construction of road – Fishing Pier Design

Feasibility study for the Newburgh Landing Pier

Ian MacDougall will send copies of the revised site plans for First St. and timeline to the CAC.

Mary McTamaney asked the following questions regarding the River Rose:

Has the 10 year lease expired?

Is there another contract for the dock?

How does this impact the new construction of the Newburgh Landing?

Mary McTamaney noted that the dock that the River Rose uses is in the way of other activities.

Ian MacDougall will look into the lease. Mary McTamaney noted that the prior Waterfront Advisory Council reviewed this application for a commercial vessel and recommended against it, but somehow this was never received by the Planning Board.

b. Parks - Tyrone Crabb Park

The park has a combination of funding: state, bond, general fund and CDBG monies.

The City Council has rejected all of the latest bids and the City of Newburgh will do the park in house by DPW ~~and~~

State monies will be used for the green space and the plaza.

Bond money and other monies could proceed to complete the park.

Archaeology will be on site during the construction for monitoring. This is a State Requirement for receiving monies from the grant only.

Present at Tyrone Crabb Park meeting held earlier this week: Mary McTamaney, Karen Mejia, Courtney Kain, Michelle Basch, from ARC, and other members of the CDBG committee.

NOTE: Eberlin and Eberlin was the engineering consultant on this project.

Watershed – Inter-municipal Agreements:

Richard will contact Peter Smith with questions about what has already been discussed and accomplished, and possibly the CAC’s recommendation. Drainage of storm water in drinking watershed needs to be addressed.

Air quality – Phil Prinzivalli will do research on bomb trains and Global Oil proposal.

Kippy Boyle suggested that we have links to NYS and Orange County Departments of Health and other agencies of interest on the CAC webpage. Phil Prinzivalli received permission to add a link to NYSDEC.

Upcoming events:

PACE streamlining – instead of workshop meeting with boards and city staff, the draft forms will be posted online.

There was a suggestion to send an email to Jessica Bacher to clarify the process asking when CAC will be involved.

Hudsonia Training – 6 or 7 members are taking this training; next class is on Tues. 6:30 to 10:30pm

CAC Consultation Projects: Correspondence from Planning Board Secretary Margaret Hall will now be sent to the new secretary of the CAC, Naomi Fay, for logging receipt and coordinating application distribution and notice to CAC members. Item is to be placed on upcoming CAC meeting agenda for review. NOTE: By law, CAC recommendation is to follow within thirty (30) days of request submittal by referring agency.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 9:35pm

Next meeting July 3, 2014.