

# 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 October 2, 2014

### I. Roll Call

#### **Present:**

Richard Harper, Chair

Kippy Boyle

Gail Fulton

Mary McTamany

Phil Prinzivalli

Laurence Fleischer (Secretary)

A quorum is present.

### II. Approval of Septmber minutes

Mary McTamany- Motioned to approve September Minutes pending that the name of the consulting firm currently drilling under Brown's Pond be added to the September Minutes.

**The motion passed 5-0.**

### III. Budget Report:

Kippy Boyle stated that she will email Laurence the amount spent this month.

Richard Harper said that he had email copied of the Budget Request Letter to everyone, and mentioned that the letter recommends a City Arborist. Richard Harper read the Arborist Request Letter out loud to the CAC.

All present members of the CAC approved the letter.

Kippy Boyle mentioned that Paul Smith's Forestry College in the Adirondacks had labor statistics showing the annual salaries of Arborists to be between \$28,000 and \$60,000. She also mentioned Syracuse, Yale, and Rutgers Universities are all possible institutions to recruit a potential City Arborist from.

Mary McTamany mentioned that she would do some research too with the University of Maine.

Richard Harper mentioned that we still have a Council Vacancy on the CAC.

Karen McCarthy told the CAC that she emailed the City Manager about filling the vacant CAC council position. She was advised to follow up with Naomi Fay.

Richard Harper asked Mary McTamany if she could be reappointed, as her term as a CAC Council Member is to soon expire.

Mary McTamany responded that she is too busy to remain on the CAC.

Phil Prinzivalli and Gail Fulton stated that they would like to remain on the CAC as Council Members.

Phil Prinzivalli asked about having WiFi at the Heritage Center during CAC meetings.

Laurence Fleischer stated he would meet with the IT department in City Hall to discuss WiFi at the Heritage Center.

Kippy Boyle asked if Laurence Fleischer could also ask IT to fix the CAC email address.

Richard Harper requested that "Chair" be next to his name on the CAC website, and asked Laurence to mention that to the IT Department as well.

Kippy Boyle asked if someone from the IT Department could attend the next CAC meeting.

Richard Harper said that the CAC is waiting for a contract from Davey Tree for the purchase of their software.

Kippy Boyle stated that the contract cannot from Davey Tree cannot be signed until the DEC sends the City of Newburgh a fully executed contract between the DEC and City of Newburgh.

Richard Harper reported that the Davey Tree demonstration was good. The software is similar to iTree, and the information Davey Tree can store and analyze is fantastic. Richard Harper said that he called Andrew Hillman, and that we're going to go with Davey Tree for the tree inventory project. Davey Tree cannot give a full proposal until the CAC has decided on all the attributes we want. Richard Harper also mentioned that Andrew Hillman will be a speaker at the 10/17 tree workshop.

### **Tree Workshop on 10/17**

Kippy Boyle mentioned that attending the tree workshop on 10/17 gives Planning Board Credits. She also said that the City Manager may be the opening speaker at this event.

Phil Prinzivalli stated that since the CAC is cosponsoring the workshop, the CAC should not have to pay.

Kippy Boyle said would press George Garrison to get DPW employees to this workshop.

Phil Prinzivalli stated that if the CAC goes for free, we could support the cost of DPW employees to go.

Richard Harper said that anyone who wants to attend the workshop should attend, and that \$30 should not impede someone from attending.

## **IV. Old Business:**

### **LWRP Update**

Richard Harper congratulated Deidre on becoming Interim City Planner. He asked Deidre if we are completing the LWRP with Zoning, but was told she doesn't know.

Richard Harper said that he and Deidre would meet next week, and that AKRF had in fact responded in detail, comment by comment. The CAC requested that the CAC chair have definitions. AKRF claimed that in July that sent an edited version with added definitions, after it was requested that the CAC Chair have definitions.

Richard Harper stated that he does not recall seeing all these attachments, and that there are 2 dates in July that AKRF responded to Ian's and Jason's comments.

Kippy Boyle asked if there's a more current version.

Richard Harper answered yes, and that more is right with it than is now wrong with it. Richard Harper said that AKRF's responses were inappropriate. That the July 2 version was never posted on the City website, but Jason's/Ian's version was posted on July 8 with no record of AKRF changes.

Richard Harper stated that Deidre will try to get the LWRP zoning finished.

## **V. New Business**

### **Tree Maintenance**

Kippy Boyle said that Fred Feder is working with 1-2 Tree, and is scheduled October 9 and October 10, 2014 to work on the north side of Washington's Headquarters, and one side of Liberty Street. Phil Prinzivalli will be the correspondent during this work. A thorough email was sent confirming that these dates are okay.

### **Hudsonia Biodiversity Training**

Richard Harper said that the students will give their presentations in New Paltz on October 6, 2014. Hudsonia Biodiversity Training will give their final report to the DEC at their offices in New Paltz. The CAC is required to make an annual report to the City Council, and Richard Harper added that the CAC has a lot to report.

### **Scobie Drive**

Richard Harper asked if we have had an official referral from the Planning Board.

Kippy Boyle answered that the CAC has not yet seen completed plans and therefore should wait to take any action.

Mary McTamany stated that Gidneytown Creek is not the CAC's problem because the CAC is working with the 1999 LWRP.

Kippy Boyle asked what happened with the conversation with Jessica at Pace University regarding a CAC stamp.

Richard Harper said he would contact the building department to follow up with the request for copies of the Scobie Drive site plan.

Mary McTamany said that the CAC is ready and willing to give its opinion when the CAC receives all the plans and documents related to the Scobie Drive project.

Phil Prinzivalli and Mary McTamany asked if the CAC needs to comment on an email about removing the Consolidated Iron Site from the Superfund Watch List before October 30, 2014.

Kippy Boyle and Richard Harper also asked if the CAC needs to comment.

Mary McTamany suggested that the CAC's response be "we are pleased to hear this."

Richard Harper asked if the CAC should propose a statement.

Mary McTamany stated that the United States EPA wants to remove the Superfund Status from the Consolidated Iron site, and requests public comment.

Phil Prinziavalli asked who will be responsible for managing the Consolidated Iron site. Who protects it? Who protects the monitoring wells.

### **Parks**

Mary McTamany said she has visited Tyrone Crabb Park many times, but cannot get any adequate information from Courtney Kain regarding the project.

Kippy Boyle asked if Karen Mejia responded to Mary McTamany's email. Mary McTamany replied yes, adding that Karen Mejia is upset that the park is still being criticized.

Mary McTamany stated that she was there when the "great compromise" was reached. She is alarmed now that the location of the playground portion of the park is located at the front of the park. She also stated that she's very upset that George Garrison is pouring blacktop in the park. Both Karen Mejia and Courtney Kain said that they did the best they could with the constraints from the archaeologists.

Mary McTamany stated that she also very upset about the new benches in Tyrone Crabb park, that they're too far apart from each other around the circle in the park, and that they are the same wood benches that have been set on fire by kids on an another park in the City of Newburgh.

Richard Harper asked if the CAC wants to intervene in the Tyrone Crabb Park construction.

Mary McTamany said the CAC should make a statement expressing their disappointment.

Richard Harper stated that the impervious park surface conflicts with the CAC's green infrastructure mission.

Mary McTamany stated that she would draft this letter/statement regarding the CAC's disappointment with the Tyrone Crabb Park construction.

Phil Prinziavalli stated that he noticed a lot of residents blacktopping their driveways and sidewalks. He asked if the Codes department is approving this.

Kippy Boyle asked if she should email the Codes department about this blacktopping issue.

Kipple Boyle also noted that the business known as *Bliss Kitchen* has blacktopped the entire sidewalk at the corner of 9W and S. William Street in the City of Newburgh. Kippy Boyle asked if permits are being issued for blacktopping.

Phil Prinziavalli asked if blacktop created more runoff pollution because it is petroleum based.

### **Air Quality**

Mary McTamany said that she had talked to the Assistant Fire Chief in the City of Newburgh about any news on the oil burning facility on the Hudson River. She asked if they are counting train cars passing through. She also noted that there are an increased number of “bomb trains” and hence danger.

Richard Harper stated that a citizens group had a first meeting to address the port of Newburgh issue, and that another meeting is scheduled on October 16, 2014. The contact is Deborah Dresser.

Mary McTamany stated that the Consolidated Iron site in the City of Newburgh was run by the Laskin family, and that the third generation of this family is running a scrap metal business called Global Recycling. Stacey Laskin is the current family member running this business.

Mary McTamany stated that letters should be sent to the Newburgh City council regarding: The US EPA and the removal of the Consolidated Iron Site from the Superfund Watch List, and Tyrone Crabb Park construction.

Kippy Boyle stated that she is keeping a tally of the CAC’s progress.

Phil Prinziavalli asked if Kippy Boyle would like to mention anything to DPW about Tree Maintenance.

Kippy Boyle stated that bad communication exists between the DPW and the CAC. She stated that the tree professional in the DPW has been out sick since January, and that his position has not yet been filled to replace him.

Mary McTamany stated that the building containing the Heritage Center where the CAC meets has no maintenance at all from DPW, and that she cleans the bathroom herself.

**Richard Harper motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 5-0.**

### **Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm

Next meeting November 6, 2014.