

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

November 5, 2015 – 6:30pm

1. Roll Call

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

Excused: Karen McCarthy

**Guest: Simon Gruber, CUNY Institute of Sustainable Cities
Marcel Barrick, Manager Downing Park Greenhouse Project**

2. Approval of minutes from September 3, 2015 and October 1, 2015

Motion by Kippy Boyle to approve minutes from September 3rd

Motion Seconded: Chuck Thomas

The motion passed 6-0

Motion by Kippy Boyle to approve minutes from October 1st

Motion Seconded: Deborah Dresser

The motion passed 6-0

3. Budget Report/Invoices

Deborah sent via email the budget reports for October. She will ask Katie Mack if she can put the reports on an excel sheet. After the submission of the debits for the expenses from trees and supplies there is \$2674.35 remaining on the CAC budget. Richard, Phil, Kippy and Fred Fedder will be attending the DEC workshop on 11/13/15 and \$125 from the budget will be used to pay for the workshop fee.

a. 2016 Budget Hearing:

A discussion was held regarding the Budget Hearing. It was suggested that a member of the CAC should attend the hearing which will be held on November 9th. The person attending should advocate for the funds which were cut out of the CAC budget.

b. Funds available to end of year – suggested uses

It was stated that a proposal could be made in which the CAC could allocate its funds towards storm water management, structural soil and excess water.

4. Old Business:

a) CAC Webpage Improvements

More information is being researched so that it can be added to the CAC webpage. Deborah continues to work alongside the IT department making the necessary improvements to the website.

b) Newburgh Waterfront Updates:

i. Newburgh Landing

There is nothing new to report on this topic.

ii. South Street Park

Kippy reached out to George Garrison and asked if waste basket receptacles could be placed in certain areas. It was stated that there is a need to begin defining the area as a park. It can informally be transformed into an area people can walk around and have lunch. The Department of Planning and Development is contributing to make signs to promote different areas within the city. Richard is to contact Ali Church and ask if we can get a sign made for South Street Park.

iii. Fishing Pier

There is nothing new to report on this topic

c) Tree Inventory Grant Closeout

Kippy has begun the project and is continuing to work on it.

d) T/Newburgh Matrix Development Project in City Watershed

Richard stated that the project has a process to go through including SEQRA hearings.

5. New Business

a) TD Grant Opportunity from Arbor Day Foundation

Kippy and Deborah are to sit down and review the TD Grant.

b) Greater Newburgh Habitat – Street Trees at 123 Washington Street

A discussion was held regarding the property located at 123 Washington Street. The CAC has been asked to address small scope issues regarding trees in front of the property, drainage and perhaps porous paving. Due to the location of the building there could be room to plant more than just one tree, perhaps even two pear trees could be planted. In regards to the sidewalk an option could be enlarging/modifying the planting strip. It was concluded that comments from the board as far as what type of trees can be planted, the possible use of structural soil and a permeable driveway are to be submitted by Wednesday November 11, 2015 to Nate from Habitat.

c) Marcel Barrick, Manager of Downing Park Greenhouse Project discussed cooperative projects. Phil, Kippy and others helped put six ornamental pear trees on the green house. It was stated that there is enough space where the green house is located to do some work for any number of projects, the CAC can develop a small nursery and other things. How to get water on the trees that are freshly planted was discussed. There is an initiative to develop small pocket parks throughout the city; however without access to water the parks cannot be developed. Ideally in the future there should be a team dedicated to watering the trees throughout the city. Kippy stated that the best way to voice concerns regarding the need for a water truck is to attend the public hearing at the budget meeting. The best way to market the need would be to place a goal date of Arbor Day to greet

people and show them the plantings occurring throughout the city and the truck that will be going throughout the city watering. Wildflowers that will be planted in the park were also discussed, last week two of the founders of the New York Bee Sanctuary came to tour Newburgh. They want to buy some land and have an education center and place large plantings of wildflowers. They are working to submit a proposal to the city and it would be a great way to keep Newburgh green and have it keep reconciliation ecology. It was stated that a great place to have this reconciliation ecology would be the consolidated iron site. It was concluded that Kippy and Marcel would attend the budget hearing and voice out concerns.

- d) Simon Gruber from CUNY Institute of Sustainable Cities spoke of the need for access to maps for better planning, informed decisions, public awareness and involvement and Land use decisions. Mr. Gruber stated that through the use of Google Earth all of the previously stated needs can be fulfilled. There is an opportunity to have a four hour introductory training at the E-learning Center at the library on November 19th from 12:30P.M. To 4:30P.M. There was a discussion held on the benefits of using Google Earth. It was stated that the benefits would have been for the Biodiversity Report, the Natural Resource Inventory and possibly tree inventory. A discussion was held on the uses of water supply. It was stated that city water is an asset and that education is essential to make people aware of water resources and where water comes from. Kippy Boyle stated that for the immediate future in regards to the issue of water, everyone should be educated on the upcoming Inter-Municipal agreement. Richard stated that he will be in touch with the Engineering Department regarding the process of the Inter-Municipal agreement.

Motion by Deborah Dresser to allocate \$35 per CAC member who may want to participate in the Google Earth training.

Motion Seconded: Kippy Boyle

The motion passed 6-0

6. Subcommittee Reports

a) LWRP Update

Planning and Development has filed for a large grant application that is supposed to cover the LWRP finalization.

b) Parks

A discussion was held regarding the trees in the parks, Tyrone Crabb Park was mentioned and it was pointed out that almost all of the trees there had been vandalized. Downing Park was said to be in the same condition regarding its trees. It was stated that education is key to prevent damage.

c) Open Space/NRI

Richard continues to wait on a response regarding the funds that were to be provided.

d) Watershed

No new updates.

e) Air Quality

Phil and Kippy attended the Orange County Transportation meeting held at City Hall. The four year plan was discussed, as well as the Transportation Improvement plan. Bus line improvement has been slow and the modernization of current buses has also been slow. It was brought up to the Department of Transportation how the lights at 9W can be better synchronized. The turn signals on Broadway were also discussed and it was stated that Broadway is the responsibility of the City of Newburgh therefore it is the City's responsibility to finance the costs. There were no further comments on the topic.

f) Urban Forestry

- **Fall tree planting sites for 10 trees**

Phil participated in the fall planting of five London Plain trees on Dubois Street between Third and South Street inside the park. They had help from George Garrison from DPW as well as

a couple of workers from the Water Department. Afterwards six pear trees were planted in the greenhouse. A discussion was held regarding future plantings. It was stated that better organization is needed as well as more volunteers or support from various departments.

- **Site Visits**

- 379 Grand Street
- 6 Avoco Street- DPW will be contacted since the tree will probably have to be taken down.

A discussion was held regarding the need to have a standard letter with the CAC letterhead to address the site visits to owners.

7. Ongoing Environmental Concerns

The City of Newburgh is currently under a state of emergency due to a break in the sewage pipe in Water Street.

8. Calendar of Upcoming Events

On January 19, 2016 at 6:00PM there will be SEQRA training in City Council Chambers. Richard will send out reminders to Council members for the training. A discussion was held regarding the expiring terms of the current CAC members to see who might be interested in renewing their term.

9. September, October 2015 Volunteer Hours

There are no new updates for volunteer hours.

Motion to Adjourn: **Gail Fulton**

Motion Seconded: **Chuck Thomas**

Vote: **Unanimously Approved**

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00p.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/I-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.