

# Conservation Advisory Council | City of Newburgh, New York

The Heritage Center, 123 Grand St., Newburgh, NY 12550

Phone: (845) 569-7383 e-mail: [conservation@cityofnewburgh-ny.gov](mailto:conservation@cityofnewburgh-ny.gov)

## Council Members:

Chuck Thomas, Chair

Genie Abrams

Alison Filosa

Gail Fulton

Robert Sanchez

Andrew Murphy

Ronald Zorrilla



## Conservation Advisory Council

Minutes of Meeting

March 8, 2021

6:30 p.m. – Zoom Videoconference

### 1. Roll Call

**Present:** Chuck Thomas, Chairperson, Genie Abrams, Alison Filosa, Gail Fulton, Andrew Murphy, Ronald Zorrilla, J.K. Gentile, (Secretary)

**Absent:** Robert Sanchez

**Guests:** David Eylers, John Gebhards

**Meeting called to order 6:34pm**

### 2. Administration

- Approval of Minutes from January and February  
March were not written yet, tabled to next meeting
- Monthly Financial Report  
No expenses made by CAC in the previous month.  
Andrew to work with J.K. on monthly financial reports. With receipt of grants work items need to be allocated correctly to each grant.
- Monthly Volunteer Hours and Grant Hours  
Ronald created a google doc for tracking/reporting with two separate columns, one for grant hours and one for volunteer hours. This document is available at Google sheets.  
JK to track Board Members grant, volunteer and education hours.

### 3. Old Business

- 35-37 Broad Street Parking Lot

Chairperson asked Committee to review the last comment letter dated 7/16/19 prior to CAC meeting and be prepared to vote yes or no to make a statement to the City Council meeting tonight at 7pm.

The Committee agree to stand by previous comment letter submitted 7/16/19.

Motion by: Alison Filosa  
Seconded by: Gail Fulton  
The motion passed unanimously.

- DEC 40k Grant

“Tree Maintenance Matters Grant”

The RFP for contractors needs to include information:

1. removal of injured, diseased, high risk; locate with an arborist and committee member and catalog each tree with diameter measurements;
2. repair and renovate 20 empty tree pits on Broadway between West Street and Dubois Street;
3. outreach to store owners if they would like a tree in front of their establishment and will they be able to take care of the tree, provide education on tree care.

Once the trees for removal and pruning are identified, a list of ISA arborists will be developed for contracting of their services

Dave Eylers commented that a list has been sent on 2/28/21.

List was presented at meeting for review by committee members

(Dave has been in touch with George/DPW re: what trees will be removed by DPW.

Those trees are identified on spreadsheet.)

Alison agreed to walk with arborist on Broadway between West Street and Dubois Street to identify to 20 best tree pits. Gail agreed to do outreach to the store owners. Genie agreed to resend the list of empty tree pits that she found.

- Tree Ordinance Revisions

Group agreed to email Genie any suggestions for revisions.

#### 4. CAC Priority Projects

- Tree Risk Assessment – Priorities identified in DEC grant application.  
David: nothing new.

- Board of Education CTE Building

Committee discussed Board of Education project and the consideration of an arborist going into the site to identify the trees before they are cleared and to recommend that for every tree cut one could be planted within the city. Genie drafted a letter including the advantages to learning by having a tree outside the window and encourage others to write letter and also post their objections on social media.

The Committee agreed to endorse sending Genie’s letter.

Motion by: Alison Filosa  
Seconded by: Gail Fulton  
The motion passed unanimously

- Parks – Parks Conservancy Meeting  
Gail: nothing new, meeting 3/9/21
- CAC Website  
Committee agreed to make a list of items would like to see changed/added and email them to Secretary. Suggestions included best trees to plant in Newburgh.  
Dave Eylers has a list to submit.

#### **5. On-going Natural Resource/Environmental Updates**

- Natural Resource Inventory –Grant opportunity has been identified.  
If Committee would like to create an Index for the City Council to approve, these are the three steps needed;
  1. Create an inventory to become an index
  2. Index has to be approved DEC
  3. Once DEC approved, go back to City Council and apply to become a Commission
- LWRP Update -Chuck and Genie working on, no new updates

#### **6. Recognitions**

- Tree City USA  
Genie will send this out and coordinate.

#### **7. Calendar of Upcoming events (webinars, training, community events)**

- 3/8/21 City Council Meeting
- 3/8/21 Conservation Advisory Committee
- 3/9/21 Architectural Review Commission
- 3/16/21 Planning Board Zoom Meeting
- 3/23/21 Zoning Board of Appeals Zoom Meeting

#### **8. RECAP OF ACTIONS ITEMS FOR MARCH**

- Genie agreed to email Gail and Alison a list of empty tree pits found on Broadway between West Street and Dubois Street to review and outreach to store owners if they want a tree planted in their empty pit
- Group agreed to email Genie any suggestions for revisions to the Tree Ordinance
- Andrew agreed to work with JK on a monthly financial statement
- JK to change Committee meeting language on the website
- Dave Eylers to submit preferable trees to plant in City of Newburgh to list on website

**Motion To Adjourn**  
**Meeting concluded 8:09pm**

