

Conservation Advisory Council | City of Newburgh, New York

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

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Council Members:

Chuck Thomas, Chair

Genie Abrams

Alison Filosa

Gail Fulton

Robert Sanchez

Andrew Murphy

Ronald Zorrilla



Conservation Advisory Council

Minutes of Meeting

April 12, 2021

6:30 p.m. – Zoom Videoconference

- **Roll Call**

Present: Chuck Thomas, Chairperson, Gail Fulton, Genie Abrams, Alison Filosa, Andrew Murphy (arrived 6:52pm), J.K. Gentile, (Secretary)

Absent: Robert Sanchez, Ronald Zorrilla

Guest: David Eylers

Meeting called to order 6:41pm

- **Administration**

- Approval of Minutes from March

- Monthly Financial Report

Review of budget.

Outstanding expense: NYS Urban Forestry Council - invoice for “dues and subscriptions/annual membership renewal” \$100.00

4/8/21 Chairperson signed budget transfer form, 4/12/21 signed transfer form sent to City Account Clerk

- Submit Monthly Volunteer Hours and Grant Hours

Chairperson went over how to access the Google Docs Spreadsheet to log in hours.

In addition, JK will collect Members hours and maintain tracking.

- **Old Business**

- Board of Education CTE Building –letters to editor
Chairperson received a response from NECSD, Roger Ramjug/Director, Maintenance and Efficiency. Chairperson asked for a copy of the current site plan and details of the landscaping. Mr. Ramrug said the district is agreeable to keep some of the trees where they could.
- Danskammer - CAC statement
Chairperson attended the public hearing 3/31/21 he was unable to testify live but submitted a written statement.
Anthony Grice and Kippy Boyle also unable able to make a statement.
- DEC 40k Grant –Progress report rec'd 3/30/21
Acknowledged by the Council.
These reports are submitted quarterly.
Report was accepted by the DEC.
- Arbor Day Proclamation
Genie met with the Mayor 4/12/21. The Mayor is going to declare April 30th as official City of Newburgh Arbor Day. Genie has the signed Proclamation. The Proclamation will be dated April 26th keeping the date as close to Arbor Day and the next City Council Meeting.
An Arbor Day Community banner is hanging on the Safe Harbors Marquee/Broadway.
- Tree Ordinance Revisions
Review of City of Newburgh Charter, 159-6.
Chairperson asked if you have any suggestions or comments to submit to Genie before next meeting.

- **CAC Priority Projects**

- Tree Risk Assessment Update:
Dave Eylers gave a report/status of current trees called in.
Dave is entering these trees into Davey Tree Keeper Database.
Dave spoke to DPW regarding reporting trees; to provide information regarding identification, location of tree and work they performed.
In addition, Dave inquired the possibility of DPW utilizing Tree Keeper to assist in identifying trees more accurately.
Dave requested all requests for Tree Risk Assessment are sent to him from one source.
Chuck to connect with Mimi Naclerio regarding reporting tree risk entries.
- 41 Liberty Street
Last year the CAC approved to purchase 3 trees for planting; 2 trees for S. William side of the building and 1 tree on Liberty. Due to timing, owners were unable to plant the trees at that time.
4/12/21 Greg Sgromo/Dunn & Sgromo Engineers reached out to Genie ready to plant trees.
Mr. Sgromo suggested Crabtrees. CAC to recommend a type of tree that is city-street friendly and keeping in consideration the electric wires overhead. Alison mentioned the Hershey's building just planted the same tree and suggests the planting of a different type to avoid mono culture.
Dave Eylers will go review the location and give a few type suggestions.

Genie to follow up with Greg Sgromo with city-street friendly trees recommendations.
CAC will purchase 3 trees, allocate to pay \$200.00 per tree and Dunn & Sgromo to pick up the trees, plant and maintain.

Motion by: Genie Abrams
Seconded by: Alison Filosa
The motion passed unanimously.

- **Broadway Street Tree Pit Survey**
Marichen Montiel Hertling/MSM, volunteer, completed outreach 4/6/21 to Spanish speaking business owners.
- **Parks**
Gail reporting on Safe Harbors on the Hudson event June 5, 2021, Wellness Shines on the Green, 10am-3pm. Gail will be hosting a table.
- **River Sweep - South Street Park Clean-up May 1, 2021.** Alison to inquire with Marichen for student volunteers. Committee in agreement for Chuck to register the event.
- **Scenic Hudson Tree Planting and BBQ Event May 9, 2021.** Location S. Miller Street/1st/Broadway. Planting trees in 10 different addresses.

5. **On-going Updates:**

- **Natural Resource Inventory (NRI/Open Space)**
Hudson Valley Presbyterian Green Group prepared a document that included the Waterfront, Quassaick Creek and the Crystal Lake Healing Circle for Easter. Theme: rebirth. Chairperson contributed information for the Waterfront.
- **LWRP Update – Locally Adopted on 7-10-17**
Genie, Peter Smith (architect) and Bill Fetter (retired hydrologist who did work with the Quassaick Creek) offered to work with Chuck on this project. Chuck is working with City Planner, Alessandra OhjChurch.

6. **Recognitions**

- Tree City USA

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

- 4/12/21 City Council Meeting
- 4/13/21 Architectural Review Commission
- 4/20/21 Planning Board Zoom Meeting
- 4/27/21 Zoning Board of Appeals Zoom Meeting

8. RECAP OF ACTIONS ITEMS FOR MARCH

By next month, submit Tree Ordinance Language to Genie.

Dave Eylers to develop process to identify tree issues.

JK to remind Chuck about connecting with Mimi Naclerio regarding reporting tree issues.

JK to receive a list from Dave Eylers of recommended trees to plant in City of Newburgh and compile a booklet with images for reference .

Genie to contact Greg Sgrono regarding tree planting at 41 Liberty Street.

Alison to follow up with Marichen Montiel Hertling regarding volunteer work for South Street Park clean up.

Gail to send information regarding Safe Harbors Wellness Shines on the Green event June 5, 2021 10-3pm.

Chuck to send the information regarding Hudson Valley Presbyterian Green Group project.

JK to review with Omar the CAC invoice process.

JK to follow up on NYS Urban Forestry Council Membership payment.

JK to correct meeting link on the CAC website.

Motion To Adjourn

Meeting concluded 7:57pm