

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

Ronald Zorrilla | Incoming Chair / NRI

Andrew Murphy | Treasurer

Betty Bastidas | Climate Smart

Gail Fulton | Parks

Marianne Marichal | Urban Forest

Mark Sanchez-Potter



Conservation Advisory Council

Minutes of Meeting

June 5, 2023

6:30 p.m. – Heritage Center (123 Grand Street)

- **Roll Call**

Present: Chuck Thomas, Chairperson, Gail Fulton, Marianne Marichal, Andrew Murphy, Mark Sanchez-Potter, Ronald Zorrilla

Also Present: Tallie Carter, Assistant Corporation Counsel
J.K. Gentile, Secretary

Guests: Julia Raskin

Absent: Betty Bastidas

Meeting called to order 6:35 p.m.

- **Public Comment on Agenda Items**
None

Administration

- Approval of minutes -May 1, 2023
The Council approved the May 1, 2023 minutes as written.
- Monthly Financial Report
Mr. Murphy reviewed the CAC purchases made in the month of May 2023.

The Council discussed Ms. Marichal attending the New York State Urban Forestry Council ReLeaf conference on July 20, 2023 to July 22, 2023 at Hofstra/Hempstead, New York and to utilize \$500 from the Travel and Conference budget line.

Andrew Murphy made a motion to approve \$500 from the Travel and Conference line for the ReLeaf conference.

Mark Sanchez-Potter seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- Volunteer Hours -tracking and reporting
New tracking form submission pending.
- 2024 Budget Proposal for July.
The Council discussed proposed event money using the “other services” line. The Chairperson said he plans to request additional money in the 2024 budget “other services” line to pay for event supplies and additional money for printing.
The Chairperson said he also proposes in 2024 budget a request for additional money to purchase trees and supplies that have been affected by significant price increases.

The Assistant Corporation Counsel recommended the Council use the preliminary 2024 Work Plan to assist in justifying each budget line request. She also requested each council member submit to the Chairperson and Mr. Zorrilla any budget requests and justifications by June 15, 2023 in preparation of a 2024 budget request.

The Council discussed the remaining Events planned for 2023 and the budget balance to support the events.

- National Pollinator Week Event.
- EJF end of the year event.
Marianne Marichal made a motion to appropriate \$425.00 for the National Pollinator event.
The Chairperson seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

Projects

Site Plan Review

7:00 p.m.

249 Grand Street

Owner: Benjamin Tilton and Celine Tilton

Applicant: Benjamin Tilton

Jon Moss, Architect, appeared before the Council and gave an overview of the proposed project.

Mr. Moss said there will be no change to the building footprint.

The CAC reviewed the Coastal Assessment Form.

The applicant was asked correct #2 i and re-submit the Form to the Land Use Board Secretary.

The CAC determined that this project is consistent with the LWRP.

Ronald Zorrilla made a motion to accept the Coastal Assessment Form subject to correction requested.

Andrew Murphy seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Site Plan Review

7:15 p.m.

55 Liberty Street WH

Owner: Benjamin Tilton and Celine Tilton

Applicant: Benjamin Tilton

Amjad Qayyem and Matthew Sorrell appeared before the Council.

Mr. Sorrell gave an overview of the proposed project.

The CAC reviewed the Coastal Assessment Form.

The applicant was asked correct #2 i and re-submit the Form to the Land Use Board Secretary.

The CAC determined that this project is consistent with the LWRP.

Mark Sanchez-Potter made a motion to accept the Coastal Assessment Form subject to correction requested.

Ronald Zorrilla seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

7:30 p.m.

PIN 8815.17 City of Newburgh ADA Sidewalks and Ramps with Right-Of-Way

The CAC reviewed the documents submitted.

The CAC determined that this project is consistent with the LWRP.

Gail Fulton made a motion to accept the Coastal Assessment Form subject to correction requested.

Andrew Murphy seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- RFP for 2023 Arborist

Deadline for interested applicants to submit is June 9, 2023.

As of 6/5/23, no responses have been received.

The Council discussed the process of addressing citizen calls for tree review requests. The Assistant Corporation Counsel said to defer to DPW until a consulting arborist is hired. She said for the CAC to advise that the trees are being tended to correctly, she recommends the CAC send response letters for consideration to DPW.

- River Sweep Saturday May 6, 2023

The Chairperson said it was a successful day. He said 22 citizens attended the event. The Council discussed the Parks committee proposing proper signage and garbage receptacles for the People's Park.

- Environmental Justice Fellows 2023 Program

Kathy Lawrence was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Zorrilla gave an update. He said the program has recruited 4 new members who met each other on June 3, 2023. He said the Fellows consists of 3 women and 1 man, between the ages of 19-23 and 2 fluid Spanish speakers. Fellows confirmed to attend the Pollinator's event June 24, 2023.

- National Pollinator Week

Ms. Marichal gave an overview of the upcoming event. She said the Arts and Cultural Committee has confirmed partnering with the event. She said the event permit was submitted to the City Clerk's office last week.

- DEC Urban Forest Grant.

The Chairperson said the application is due June 16, 2023. He said the grant would assist in updating Tree Keeper tree inventory and a 5-year management plan. The Assistant Corporation Counsel confirmed the resolution to apply for the City to apply for the grant is on the City Council June 8, 2023 work session agenda.

New Business

No new business.

On-going Updates

- Parks
Ms. Fulton said she attended a tree planting event at South Miller Street with the Greater Newburgh Parks Conservancy.

- Urban Forest Update
Ms. Marichal said 10 trees were planted on Renwick Street. She said 2 trees were returned to Manza as per George Profeus recommendation. She said they engaged with more tree stewards. She said 14 trees that were part of the Spring planting will be postponed until the Fall planting due to summer heat settling in. The Assistant Corporation Counsel requested submission of documentation for the CAC records.

Marianne Marichal made a motion to amend the work plan to reserve the Spring planting trees for Fall planting.

Ronald Zorrilla seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- Newburgh Climate Ready sub-committee
Mr. Zorrilla said there is no new status. He said there are no meetings this month. The Assistant Corporation Counsel said she plans to attend the next meeting. She said the launch event is scheduled for September/October. She said the CEEP Fellowship can be approved and to coordinate that with the Community Choice Aggregate Consultant that will be hired in the Fall. She said she needs more on the community campaign for heating and cooling. Mr. Zorrilla said they received an email from the technical assistant, Mary Lambert, to schedule a call regarding the community campaign. He said she sent materials used by Sustainable Westchester. Mr. Zorrilla asked about the website proposal. The Assistant Corporation Counsel said the website will be done by contract and a website developer will be hired. She said a regular meeting schedule of the Climate Smart committee and the bi-annual meetings with the CAC need to be finalized.
- DEC Natural Resource Inventory Grant -RFP & Utilization Plan –
Mr. Zorrilla said Hudsonia Ltd was selected for the RFP.
- Restoration Advisory Board /Stewart Air National Guard Water Project
No current updates.
- LWRP Update – Locally Adopted on 7-10-17
No current updates.

- Tree Permit -Local Code Revision.
No current updates.
- EPA Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities
No current updates.
- Holtec- Radioactive Wastewater
Mr. Sanchez-Potter said Holtec is planning to discharge waste into the Hudson River in August. He said there is a rally in Albany scheduled for 6/7/23. He said there are drives to get municipalities to pass resolutions in opposition. He said Assemblywoman, Dana Levenberg, bill made it out of committee to prevent Holtec from discharging any waste. Ronald Zorrilla made a motion to draft a resolution in opposition to Holtec.
Marianne Marichal seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.
- CSX Underpass
The Chairperson said it was part of the 2013 original agreement that the CAC would make the decision of whether a mural would be painted in the walkway or have it sealed to resist graffiti. The Assistant Corporation Counsel will follow up regarding this agreement.

Upcoming events:

- National Pollinator Week Event -June 24, 2023

Public Forum

None

Calendar of Upcoming events (webinars, training, community events)

- 06-09-23 ReLeaf Conference in Yonkers
- 06-10-23 Quassaick Creek Greenway Kayaking & Walking Tour at Muchattoes Lake
- 06-12-23 City Council Meeting
- 06-13-23 Architectural Review Council Meeting
- 06-14-23 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting
- 06-14-23 Newburgh Creates -Art Habitat Talk with Teens
- 06-19-23 Arts & Cultural Commission Meeting
- 06-20-23 Planning Board Meeting

- 06-24-23 National Pollinator Event
- 06-27-23 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting

The Council discussed next month's meeting falling on July 3, 2023.
The Council voted to move the meeting to July 10, 2023.

Mark Sanchez-Potter made Motion to Adjourn

Gail Fulton seconded

The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting concluded 9:05 p.m.