

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

Council Members:

Chuck Thomas, Chair

Genie Abrams

Alison Filosa

Gail Fulton

Robert Sanchez

Andrew Murphy

Ronald Zorrilla



Conservation Advisory Council

Minutes of Meeting

June 14, 2021

6:30 p.m. – Zoom Videoconference

- **Roll Call**

Present: Chuck Thomas, Chairperson, Genie Abrams, Gail Fulton, Robert Sanchez, Ronald Zorrilla, J.K. Gentile, (Secretary)

Absent: Alison Filosa, Andrew Murphy

Guest: David Eylers, Kathy Lawrence

Meeting called to order 6:34pm

- **Administration**

- Board Member Terms

Discussed decision to stay on the Committee with Ms. Abrams and Ms. Fulton.

The Chairperson to reach out to Ms. Filosa.

Reappointment of positions to be sent to City Counsel.

Robert Sanchez moved to approve re-appointment of Ms. Abrams, Ms. Filosa and Ms. Fulton

Ronald Zorrilla seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- Approval of Minutes from May

Genie Abrams moved to approve May minutes.

Gail Fulton seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- **Monthly Financial Report**
Review of budget
Ms. Abrams asked about the 15,000. Tree Planting and Maintenance Line.
Mr. Zorrilla asked if we had a plan in place for that money.
The Chairperson said we need to start working on a plan for planting 25 trees in the fall.
Mr. Sanchez said ensuring a 3-year consistent maintenance plan is important, receiving a watering commitment from property owners.
The Chairperson said that although the Committee provides the homeowner with a Gator for the tree, a commitment from owners to keep up with the maintenance is needed.
Mr. Zorrilla stressed the importance of engaging the community so the whole momentum of planting trees continues to grow and the community feels they are a part of the process.
The Chairperson said Dave Eylers has been working on a 5-year plan and Chairperson to share the plan with Committee this week.
Mr. Zorrilla said we have the benefit of the Environmental Justice Fellowship to educate the community and create awareness.
Kathy Lawrence explained the Environmental Justice Grant line. \$14,950. was paid directly to the Fellowship and \$4,070. will go toward expenses the City will use to purchase materials needed.

Ronald Zorrilla moved to accept the Financial Report.
Genie Abrams seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

- **Submit Monthly Volunteer Hours and Grant Hours**
Secretary in receipt of hours and then submits then to Mr. Zorrilla for the Tracking Sheet.
- **Arborists Report**
A brand new tree list has been executed. The Chairperson has been working with Dave Eylers and Helen Reilly. The Chairperson reached out to George Profus/DEC and is waiting to hear back from him.
Dave Eylers is currently working on 2 risk assessments.
Dave to review the trees on Montgomery Street. These trees were never inventoried (inventory includes street and park trees only).
Ms. Abrams mentioned the tree at 16 Jamison Place. Dave to assess. The Chairperson made mention that if the tree is not at risk of falling the City will not prioritize taking it down and the CAC does not have the budget to remove the tree.

- **Site Plan Review Updates From May meeting**
15 S. Colden Street and 120 Front Street.
The Secretary gave an update on the proposed projects.

- **Old Business**

- **Board of Education CTE Building**
The Chairperson said no new updates from BOE.
Tree inventory still pending. Once a footprint is submitted the Committee can recommend what trees can be kept.
Kathy Lawrence asked about the large parking area, would they consider leaving part of that space for trees.
The Chairperson said we have not received a commitment yet or information regarding replacing any trees within 2" caliper.
- **RFP for Tree Removal**
The RFP was sent out to NYS Arborists, awaiting response.

- **Tree Ordinance Revisions**
The Chairperson thanked Ms. Abrams for starting the project and Kathy Lawrence for working on the submission received 5/10/21.
Kathy Lawrence said we need to have DPW involvement early in the process. Ms. Lawrence has emails out to George Garrison.
Ms. Lawrence encouraged submission of any comments/suggestions/questions/ideas.
Ms. Lawrence suggests not going any farther until a conversation is had with George Garrison and then proceed to Corporation Council and then City Council.

5. **CAC Projects**

- **Street Tree Permit Process**
Ms. Abrams presented the Street Tree Permit Process draft that Dave Eylers created.
The Chairperson made a mention that a tree planted by the homeowner who experience sidewalk heave from tree roots is not an obligation of the City or the Committee to take out. Repairs are the property owner's responsibility.
The permit process assist in avoiding improper spacing between tree plantings or improper tree choice in relation to area/mature tree growth as the language on permit prompts request of cultivar specific information.
Mr. Zorrilla suggested that the language on the permit could read, "which one of the trees from the "Best Trees to Plant in Newburgh" list did you choose so they have to pick a tree from that list and to add a statement regarding maintenance of the tree.
Ms. Abrams suggests changing recommended size of tree, proposing 1 ½ inch size tree.
Dave Eylers recommends planting a tree in a container. When watered, 100% of the root system is taken care of as opposed to balled and burlap trees.

6. **On-going Updates:**

- **Natural Resource Inventory (NRI/Open Space)**
The Chairperson has been working on collecting old data and will be sharing information with Mr. Zorrilla
- **LWRP Update –**
The Chairperson said he will be meeting with the Director of Planning and Development soon.

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

- 06-08-21 Architectural Review Commission
- 06-14-21 City Council Meeting
- 06-15-21 Planning Board Zoom Meeting
- 06-22-21 Zoning Board of Appeals Zoom Meeting
- 06-22-21 Hudson Valley Watershed Association Tribute –
Outdoor Promise being honored

Motion to Adjourn
Meeting concluded 7:47pm