

## 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

July 12, 2021

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

- **Roll Call**

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

**Guest:** David Eylers, Kathy Lawrence

**Meeting called to order 6:44pm**

- **Administration**

- Approval of Minutes from June  
Genie Abrams moved to approve June minutes.  
The motion passed unanimously.
- Monthly Financial Report  
Review of budget.  
The Chairperson spoke of the tentative City of Newburgh 2022 Budget Timeline & Work Sessions. Budget expenses due August 11, 2021.  
Tuesday, September 21, 2021 is CAC's scheduled budget work session with the City.
- Submit Monthly Volunteer Hours and Grant Hours  
Hours submitted to Secretary for tracking sheet update.

- **Introduction of the 4 Environmental Justice Fellows**

- Ameesah Cotton
- Heidy Bonilla
- Kathryn McKenzie
- Marichen Montiel

Fellows introduced themselves, shared what they have learned, discussed feedback from their resident surveys and their current take away from the experience.

Project involves planting of 16 trees total, 4 trees in each ward.

Ronald Zorilla discussed the positive community engagement occurring. Currently producing an online course on how to plant trees and developing flyers in English and Spanish. The Spanish component has been extremely helpful in connecting, informing and educating the community on the importance of trees in their neighborhoods.

Kathy Lawrence said this is a collaboration of three organizations, Conservation Advisory Council, Greater Newburgh Parks Conservation and Outdoor Promise. This is a seven month program. Genie Abrams and Kathy Lawrence had a positive conversation with Arbor Day Foundation 7/12/21, the Foundation Project Director is pleased that the tree plantings status is “to be determined”, reflects communication is taking place with the community and that plantings will go where they will be taken care of.

- **Site Plan Review**

184 Liberty Street

Owner: Adam Shayenfekr / Newburgh SHG 50 LLC

Applicant: Chris Berg / Berg + Moss Architects

Convert vacant building into 8 dwelling units.

Chris Berg gave an overview of the project.

No plans to plant trees as there are trees planted at the North and Southern lot lines.

Plans include adding permeable turf along street edge.

The Chairperson requested that the drainage of rainwater be funneled into the planted area.

The Committee and Applicant reviewed and completed the Coastal Assessment Form.

**(Continuation of Administration)**

- **Arborists Report**

Mr. Eylers received his Track Certification-Tree Risk Assessment Qualification.

Mr. Eylers reported on the current status of tree removal requests.

Mr. Eylers and Committee discussed the reporting process.

Currently, the process consists of residents informing DPW, DPW passes the information to CAC and CAC relates the information to Mr. Eylers.

Upon receipt of a request, Mr. Eylers gives the City a risk assessment; pruning/maintaining –vs- removal. Mr. Eylers spoke about the possibility of developing a model to assess, classifying the risk as: moderate, high, extreme.

The Chairperson said the Tree Survey provides a risk assessment for every city owned tree in the public right of way; tree lawns along roads, public parks but not the schools.

Mr. Eylers asked if he could go into the field to confirm that the trees on the removed list are removed as he could not find that information in the inventory.

- **Old Business**

- Board of Education CTE Building  
The Chairperson said no new updates from BOE.
- RFP for Tree Removal  
25 Trees to be removed/40,000. Budget.  
The proposal was sent to 18-20 firms. Received 3 responses with budgets ranging from 53,000 to 110,000.  
Met 7/8/21 with 3 firms. Same credentials, all filled the priorities. Choose firm that scored 100% on grade point system.  
Helen Reilly, Grant Administrator, contacted DPW regarding 5 trees in Downing Park.  
DPW agreed to take those trees out of their budget as well as 7 Ash trees on Marine Drive.
- Tree Ordinance Revisions  
The Chairperson tabled for next meeting.
- 120 Front Street –Site follow up post approval  
The Chairperson proposed developing a letter to the Applicant in response to the agreements made with the Committee not being honored. The Chairperson presented photo documentation.
- South Street Park  
The Chairperson discussed updates on the proposed site. Project pending grant funding.

- **New Business**

- Website Updates  
Committee discussed multiple items missing from the Webpage.  
Secretary to address and give status update at next Committee meeting.
- Treatment of three Ash trees located at 70 Front Street  
The Chairperson gave Mr. Eylers approval to treat the trees, cost \$240.00  
Committee agreed to the decision.
- Central Hudson letter  
Mr. Zorrilla presented letter sent to residents regarding tree cutting in the area.  
Mr. Sanchez to contact Central Hudson to request a list of trees proposed for removal.

- **On-going Updates:**

- **Restoration Advisory Council /Stewart Air National Guard Water Project**  
The Chairperson said the Restoration Advisory Council was appointed to the Restoration Advisory Board, the only Council in the Country to be designated as an Advisory Board. It will allow access of 25,000 for studies in conjunction with the Air National Guard and access DEERP fund money to fix the water problems. The Chairperson will be touring the Air Base 7/13/21.
- **Natural Resource Inventory (NRI/Open Space)**  
The Chairperson passed on books and information to Ronald Zorilla for review.
- **LWRP Update –**  
The Chairperson said no new reports.

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

- 07-12-21 City Council Meeting
- 07-13-21 Architectural Review Commission
- 07-20-21 Planning Board Zoom Meeting
- 07-27-21 Zoning Board of Appeals Zoom Meeting

**Genie Abrams made Motion to Adjourn**  
**Meeting concluded 8:35pm**