

# Conservation Advisory Council | City of Newburgh, New York

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## Council Members:

Richard Harper, Chairman

Kippy Boyle

Deborah Dresser

Gail Fulton

Karen McCarthy

Phil Prinzivalli

Chuck Thomas



## Conservation Advisory Council

### Minutes of Meeting

October 1, 2015 – 6:30pm

#### 1. Introduction of new CAC Secretary

Introduction of the Secretary for the Land Use Boards was made by Richard Harper. Eliana Diaz will be the new secretary for the CAC; she will be taking over the duties Laurence Fleischer was in charge of during his time as acting secretary for the CAC.

#### 2. Roll Call

**Present: Richard Harper, Kippy Boyle, Gail Fulton, Karen McCarthy, Phil Prinzivalli, Deborah Dresser, Eliana Diaz (Secretary)**

Excused: Chuck Thomas

Guest: Laurence Fleischer

#### 3. Approval of minutes from September 3, 2015

There will be an extension period for the approval of the minutes from the September 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

#### 4. Budget Report/Invoices

On October 13, 2015 the City Manager and the Comptroller will present the Manager's proposed budget to the City Council. Richard stated that he will be out of town starting on October 12, and would not be present at the City Council meeting. He suggested that a CAC board member be present at the City Council meeting. Chuck and Kippy are to attend the City Council meeting if the CAC meeting with the Comptrollers does not take place. Deborah Dresser reported that there is \$5268.35 remaining in the CAC budget. There was no grant money remaining. She strongly suggested the CAC spend the remaining money and focus this spending on trees. Richard Harper asked if the remaining balance included the estimated \$845.00 of the donation money. Deborah Dresser stated that the donation money is a separate line item. Phil Prinzivalli suggested utilizing the funds remaining to pre-purchase trees for 2016. Kippy Boyle suggested perhaps a fall planting. Deborah Dresser brought up the need to finalize the biodiversity report and suggested that the board set aside \$500.00 to finish the

job. Deborah pointed out that it was the CAC who had to take ownership and decide how much money should be set aside.

**Motion by Kippy Boyle to allocate funds not to exceed \$750 to edit a final version of the biodiversity report**

**Motion Seconded: Karen McCarthy**

**The motion passed 6-0**

Phil Prinzivalli asked if we could use funds to hire someone to clean up after the upcoming storm. Kippy suggested we start the cleanup process with our hazardous trees. Richard Harper mentioned that we have many trees in Downing Park that we could take care of. ACTION: Richard suggested that all members should write down any ideas they had concerning their budget spending and submit to him.

**5. Old Business:**

**a) CAC Webpage Improvements**

Deborah Dresser stated that she had sent the necessary corrections to the IT department and they were done almost immediately. Deborah will continue to be the main point of contact between the CAC and the IT department. Deborah pointed out errors in the webpage such as the link to the City of Newburgh Parks. She suggested keeping the logo and adding a mission statement or replacing the logo with a photo and a mission statement. Kippy Boyle added that there should be a link under tree donation program as well as under Arbor Day in the Waterfront Advisory Committee page. Deborah followed by saying that she still needed to do research on air quality to update the website. Kippy Boyle suggested a link to the City Charter tree ordinance. Richard Harper agreed so that everyone should have easy access and be aware as to what they can and cannot do as well as any fines that may be imposed. Phil Prinzivalli added that the CAC's email address should also be working properly so that everyone can communicate. Deborah Dresser suggested we could use the "FYI" App Logo and post it on the CAC webpage. No further Suggestion or concerns were made regarding the webpage.

**b) Newburgh Waterfront Updates:**

**i. Newburgh Landing**

Weinstein Company presented plans to the public. RFP for construction documents for Weinstein design is the next step. A consultant would be needed onboard by the end of the year, there were no funds for construction, yet the final designs were almost complete.

**ii. South Street Park**

We have money for final engineer plans yet there is no money for construction. Plans were presented to the public about the consultant's construction documents, draft permitting are underway. Construction

documents would be finished by the end of the year and the SEQRA hearings will begin. Even though there is no funding for construction, the plans that we are doing will make it as shovel ready project that will give us a leg up in finding funding.

**iii. Fishing Pier**

The CAC previously submitted comments to the engineering plans. The pier construction is ongoing. First Street bid hasn't gone out yet. The bid needs to happen before the end of the year and construction needs to start by the spring. Depending on the total we may be short on funding.

**c) Marine Drive Development Project Option Agreement**

This is the project the Kaplan's are proposing , located on west side of marine drive. At a work session the council agreed to table the option agreement for further review. Kippy explained the proposed project as outlined in the Option Agreement, which constitutes of 5+ acres of 108 rental units would be for a 4 year option agreement and they would pay \$21,000 per year. At the end of the four years they would buy the land for \$200,000. Kippy and Richard were already asked to consult which trees could be removed to get a better view for people who might be renting apartments. Richard Harper said it's too premature because there isn't an option agreement. Gail Fulton asked if the proposed construction would be mixed income. Kippy Boyle said that it would be at market rate and Richard Harper said that there would be no affordable housing. At the work session the City Council asked the developers to come back at a future meeting. Richard Harper stated that under old LWRP the CAC would be asked to review if whatever is being planned to do is consistent with the mission of the LWRP. The new LWRP has to be consistent with new zoning but right now it isn't because it is still based on the old zoning.

**d) Tree Inventory Grant Closeout**

Kippy Boyle stated that in order to close out the tree inventory grant the CAC needs to write a narrative report (qualitative), a quantitative report, and a final expenditures report, to be done by the comptroller. In addition a general overall report must be written explaining how this grant has helped us. We need to send them a CD of the tree inventory. Phil will sit with Kippy to oversee the draft she will write up. Kippy stated that this should be done within the next two weeks.

**e) T/Newburgh Matrix Development Project in City Watershed**

We were alerted to last month about this project which was initially, Lot Line realignment and now there are site plans for development. This project is in our drinking water shed and it has an impact. The CAC objected to granting a negative declaration on SEQRA review in regards to the site plans. There is a meeting on Monday October 5, 2015 at City Hall regarding the project. Richard will attend the meeting and hopes Kippy and Chuck can also attend. In the future there will be repair work done on aqueducts for New York City and when that takes place New Windsor and the town of Newburgh will be getting their water form Newburgh. Richard concluded saying that he will

contact Peter Smith regarding the meeting on Monday at City Hall. There were no further comments regarding this topic.

## 6. New Business

### a) Grants Gateway NYS – approval for CAC to write grants

Kippy stated the city gave the CAC access to the grants gateway and now we can research for grants and be able to input them online. Ellen Fillo will still have to give final approval but it gives us more freedom to look for money.

## 7. Subcommittee Reports

### a) LWRP Update

We need to find out the timing of the CFA, and place it on high priority. We need to have a new LWRP that is in keeping with the new zoning that has been recently adopted.

### b) Parks

Kippy will draft a letter on behalf of the CAC voicing concerns and the need for the CAC to be involved regarding the use of consolidated iron site, proposed fencing and signs.

### c) Open Space/NRI

Richard Harper will inquire with Planning and Engineering and suggest to them the CAC has funding which it can contribute to hire an outside consultant to draft some chapters for the NRI index.

### d) Watershed

Toxic algae are spreading across Upstate NY waterways. Laurence is to forward the information to the engineering department and ask if our waterways had been tested and if so, what the results were.

### e) Air Quality

The city currently does not meet the state standards on air quality. The Orange County Transportation Committee is drafting their four year plan and we could perhaps contribute some lines, Kippy is to draft some lines.

### f) Urban Forestry

- Site Visits

1. 19 & 91 Poplar St. No Issue Found
2. 16 Farrell– Arborist Fred Fetter w/ owner on cabling the tree
3. 95 Liberty St. No issue, Deborah to provide correct address
4. 68 Liberty (&Henry)
  - Used 'mounding' technique in front (roughly done)
  - Sidewalk lifting on the side- do not remove tree; use alternative curving or mounding
5. 19 Courtney Ave- slight (1") sidewalk ice re pooling water – suggested mounding or trenching the lawn where water is accumulating.
6. Grand St, Gidney, marine Drive – general low-branch and waterspout pruning needed
7. 208 North Street – CH/ DPW issue: we agreed months before that tree could be removed.

- **Webinar attended 9/23/15**  
Discussed were street trees that we don't think of such as hardy rubber tree, the Kentucky coffee tree, golden rain tree. Urban forestry was also addressed in the webinar.
- **Fall tree planting sites for 10 trees**  
Initial intent was to plant 10 trees, we have more to spend, and we could hire someone to help plant the trees. Ideally it would be best to eventually have contracts with landscape companies to have the professional guarantee to maintain the trees at least for the first year.

**8. Ongoing Environmental Concerns**

**a. Broadway Demonstration Project**

It is moving forward, the county is involved

**b. Consolidated Iron Site**

A letter will be written addressing concerns

**c. Ferry docking site after December lease Expiration**

No updates

**9. Calendar of Upcoming Events**

November 13, 2015 relief workshop will not be at Kaplan Hall, it will be in New Paltz at the DEC. Potential workshop about learning more about Google earth, the CAC has funding for the workshop. Community Empowerment might have some money for the CAC in the spring if we wanted to do a spring workshop.

**10. September Volunteer Hours**

We need to keep track of our volunteer hours since they contribute to leverage for obtaining grants for the city as well for the CAC.

Motion to Adjourn: **Gail Fulton**

Motion Seconded: **Deborah Dresser**

Vote: **Unanimously Approved**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:48pm.

**Project Reviews by CAC in 2015**

First St. Fishing Pier; Comments to Engineering 6/8/15	Habitat Newburgh- Ann St. at Johnston, four units; CAC ltr 9/04/15
Safe Harbors Park- Broadway at Liberty; comments to PB 8/12/15	
T/Newburgh Matrix Development in City Watershed- 17K/I-87; CAC Ltr 8/20/15	

**Project Reviews by CAC in 2014**

Shell Gas Station (405 Bway)	Independent living
Rt 300- Crystal Run	Re-Zoning/ LWRP Update
Water Tower Replacement	Newburgh Landing/ South St./ Fishing Pier
Torches	Tyrone Crabb Park Planting List
#5 Scobie Drive	North Montgomery St.