

Conservation Advisory Council | City of Newburgh, New York

The Heritage Center, 123 Grand Street, Newburgh, New York 12550

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Council Members:

Chuck Thomas, Chairman

Marcel Barrick

Kippy Boyle

Deborah Dresser

Karen Eberle-McCarthy

Gail Fulton

Alison Filosa



Conservation Advisory Council Minutes of Meeting January 5, 2018 – 6:30 PM

1. Introduction of new member Alison Filosa

2. Roll Call

Present: **Chuck Thomas Chairperson, Kippy Boyle, Karen Eberle-McCarthy, Marcel Barrick, Deborah Dresser, Gail Fulton Omar Balbuena-Palma (Secretary)**

Guests: Phil Prinzivalli Urban Forestry Committee Member
Joshua Brown, Marianne Marichal, Piotr Jagninski, Souade Jagninski, Liana Hoodes

The Chair moved the Newburgh Urban Greenway Conservancy forward on the Agenda.

3. Newburgh Urban Greenway Conservancy

Thomas met the Newark Conservancy and said they are an entity not beholden to the City but have a relationship to address it's needs. He said about 80% of their funds come from outside Newark and are spent on projects within the City. He said the Greater Newburgh idea came out of a discussion to see if the Newburgh Urban Greenway Conservancy could help the City of Newburgh work with the Town of New Windsor and Town of Newburgh to positively affect the lands around the watersheds and future Quassaick Creek trail.

Liana Hoodes appeared before the Council. She gave a brief overview of the Newburgh Urban Greenway Conservancy. She said her role is to facilitate the interactions between the City and the public in order to move the Conservancy forward. She said the idea is to address City issues and to have greenspace for Newburgh residents. She said there is no Parks Department and the City of Newburgh has no funds. She said the Newburgh Conservancy is a non-profit organization that fulfills the IRS requirements of a 501 (C) (3) organization and could help raise money and provide additional assistance to the City. She said the Newburgh Conservancy is not meant to compete with established agencies for funding and it would like to aid the CAC. She said the organization is a work in progress and subject to change.

Dresser said the Conservancy could support the CAC be helping the City obtain a full-time Arborist.

Boyle asked how the Newburgh Urban Greenway Conservancy would approach the community for Parks such as Tyrone Crabb Park. Hoodes said that Tyrone Crabb Park is a City-owned land that will remain the property of the City, and the authority on Conservancy projects regarding these lands will be the City government. She said that one idea is for the Conservancy to organize efforts in the community and help fundraise.

Barrick expressed concerns regarding the Executive Director position within the Conservancy. Hoodes said that the position is meant to organize/lead the community, provide resources and to take ownership of property lots to protect the lands.

Thomas said that City Staff will not work in the Conservancy and that it is primarily a community lead project.

Piotr Jagninsky clarified that the Conservancy was not created by the City Council. He said that there is a difference of opinion within the public due to miscommunication and lack of participation. He said that there should be a mechanism in the City government to protect greenspaces. Thomas said that the Conservancy can help address these issues and determine how much greenspace should be in every neighborhood per population.

4. Administration

a. Approval of Minutes from December 7, 2017

The December minutes were approved.

Motion by: Karen Eberle-McCarthy

Seconded by: Marcel Barrick

The motion unanimously passed.

b. Monthly Financial Report

Dresser said there were numerous invoices sent to the Comptroller's Office, Balbuena added that there is less than one (1) grand left in the budget. Boyle said she will work with Dresser to create a budget timetable for the year. Thomas said he submitted an invoice for ten (10) hardcopies of the Biodiversity Assessment.

c. Submit Monthly Volunteer Hours

CAC members will submit the hours via e-mail to gailfulon@rocketmail.com. Boyle said the CAC needs to submit the 2017 year-end report to the State.

5. Site Plan Reviews

a. Site Plan updates

i) 286 Grand Street – Coastal Consistency Review

The CAC reviewed the submitted Coastal Assessment Form and after a few modifications, determined it was consistent with the LWRP. (See the attached Comment letter for more info.)

ii) 27 S. Water Street – Update

Planning Board declared Lead Agency, Applicant to return to January 16, 2018 meeting.

6. CAC Priority Projects

a. LWRP Update -Locally Adopted on 7-10-17 (Thomas)

No update.

b. Natural Resource Inventory (NRI/Open Space) (Thomas/ Barrick)

Barrick will send the “Open Space” definition to Thomas. Peter Smith, former Planning Board member, said he will assist the CAC to finish the NRI.

c. Green infrastructure

i) Tree Issues/ Citizen Requests

(1) Urban Forestry

(a) On-site Tree Inspections

Joshua Brown said Fred Fetter, Arborist, and the DPW helped to plant five (5) trees on Henry Street.

(2) High Risk Trees List

No update.

ii) Over-wintered trees – Planted (Barrick/Prinzivalli)

Boyle said Fetter and DPW finished planted the overwintered pear trees on DuBois. Fetter picked up the Manza Family Farm trees.

iii) Community Education Report - Update

The tree tags arrived and will be placed on twenty-five trees at Downing Park in the Spring. Thomas said the Biodiversity Assessment has been completed and is viewable on the CAC website.

iv) CAC Website Update

The CAC homepage will be updated with the latest comment letter and the Biodiversity Assessment will be uploaded to the CAC homepage. Thomas said he will contact Councilwoman Ramona Monteverde to present the Assessment. Dresser mentioned submitting a press release for the Assessment. The CAC determined a Facebook video may have a wider impact on the public.

v) Christmas Tree Recycling

Will be held on Saturday, January 6, 2018 in Downing Park from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

6. On-going Natural Resource/Environmental Updates

a. Drinking Water

Representatives from the New York State Department of Health and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will be reporting to the City Council on Monday, January 8, 2018 regarding the results of the blood tests and possible switch back to Washington Lake.

b. Newburgh Water Front Updates

o Waterfront Trail – No update

o South Street Parking; Fishing Pier & First Street Walkway/ Newburgh Landing Restoration – No update

c. Energy-related issues – No update

7. New Business

Former Councilwoman Genie Abrams submitted her letter of interest to join the Newburgh CAC.

Clearwater’s NOAA Environmental Literacy Grant

CAC agreed to partner with Clearwater to provide advice on the curriculum development stage regarding environmental education programs.

100 Percent Renewable Energy

Thomas said New York State has announced one-hundred (100) million dollars in awards for Urban Revitalization, about ten (10) million dollars for communities. He forwarded the information to the City of Newburgh Planning & Development and other interested parties.

8. Calendar of Upcoming events (webinars, training, community events) (5 Minutes)

- 1/6 Christmas Recycling
- 1/8 City Council Water Meeting
- 2/2 Parks Conservancy Meeting

RECAP OF ACTION ITEMS FOR JANUARY (Balbuena)

- Thomas to review CAC comments for the 286 Grand Street comment letter
- Balbuena to upload the Biodiversity Assessment to the CAC homepage
- Barrick will send the “Open Space” definition to Thomas
- Boyle will send the Saratoga Nursery information to the CAC members
- Boyle will work on the budget timetable with Dresser
- CAC needs to submit the 2017 annual report to the State
- Thomas will contact Councilwoman Ramona Monteverde to present the Assessment.
- City Council meeting on Monday, January 8, 2018

8. Motion to Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Deborah Dresser

Motion Seconded: Marcel Barrick

Vote: Unanimously Approved

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

**CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
PROJECT REVIEWS**

2018 Project Reviews By CAC

1/5	286 Grand Street	
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2017 Project Reviews by CAC

1/5	182 Fullerton Ave. (Central Hudson)	4/6	123 Montgomery Street
2/2	Mill Street Bridge	5/4	35-37 Broad Street
3/2	First Street Streetscape Improvements	6/1	640 Broadway
3/2	1 Park Place	9/7	603 Broadway

3/2	100 Third Street	10/5	Sunset Ridge
4/6	73-85 Grand Street	12/7	27 S. Water Street
4/6	98 Grand Street		

2016 Project Reviews by CAC

1/7	198 S. Robinson	4/5	GPI Site Plans for Liberty St.
2/4	Carpenter Ave.	6/20	Mill Street Partners – Mid Broadway Site
4/7	2 Nicoll Street	7/25	New Windsor Hospitality
9/1	Steelways		

2015 Project Reviews by CAC

First Street Fishing Pier; Comments to Engineering 6/8/15	Habitat Newburgh – Ann St. at Johnston, four units; CAC ltr 9/04/2015
Safe Harbors Park – Broadway at Liberty; comments to PB 8/12/15	Habitat Newburgh – 123 Washington Street – street trees
T/Newburgh Matrix Development in City Watershed – 17K/I-87; CAC Ltr 8/20/15	

2014 Project Reviews by CAC

Shell Gas Station (405 Broadway)	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.

2017 URBAN FORESTRY MONTHLY UPDATE

CITIZEN REQUESTS

From December:

420 Grand – Remediate, don't remove

South Street – High School

Montgomery St. Historical Society – Arborist complaint/Tree Removed

DPW MAINTENANCE

- **Removals**

- **Pruning**
- **Stump-grinding**
- **other**

TREE INVENTORY DATABASE UPDATED