

Conservation Advisory Council | City of Newburgh, New York

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

Phone: (845)569-7366 conservation@cityofnewburgh-ny.gov

Council Members:

Chuck Thomas, Chairman

Marcel Barrick

Kippy Boyle

Deborah Dresser

Karen Eberle-McCarthy

Gail Fulton

Alison Filosa



Conservation Advisory Council Minutes of Meeting February 1, 2018 – 6:30 PM

1. Roll Call

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

Guests: Sean Condron, Sarah Hooff, Eileen Banyra, Genie Abrams, George Profous

2. IDA request to Conservation Advisory Committee

Eileen Banyra, President of Community Compost Co. appeared before the Board. She said the intent is to clear cut the trees at 5 Scobie Drive in order to create a “shovel ready” site. She said that she has not submitted a Site Plan application for 5 Scobie Drive and removing the trees is a crucial first step towards site utility. She provided a drawing to showcase the buffer area and said that she met with the Department of Planning, the IDA and has a meeting scheduled on February 9, 2018 with the IDA, Planning and Engineering Departments. She gave a brief overview of her business and said that the IDA must clear-cut the trees before March 31, 2018 to avoid disturbing the nesting of the endangered Indiana Bat. She said the buffer on the north side of the property will exceed 100 ft.

Barrick said the buffer is robust and commended the Applicant.

Boyle requested some form of reimbursement for the trees and said the impact on the tree canopy should be considered.

Dresser said that the request should be proportional to the loss but also reasonable.

CAC members voted to submit a comment letter to approve the clear-cutting project.

Motion by: Karen Eberle-McCarthy

Seconded by: Marcel Barrick

The motion passed 6-0 (Thomas abstained)

The Chair moved an Energy Related Issue forward on the Agenda.

Barrick said the City of Newburgh began to replace faulty street lights with blue LED lights and that several residents have expressed concerns regarding this change. Sarah Hooft, Director of Programming for YouThere studio, says that these lights can increase the following: stress rates, breast/prostate cancers, obesity, diabetes, depression, sleep disorders and depressed melatonin levels. She said that lights with longer wavelengths (yellows and Oranges), lights that are shielded and closer to the ground are optimal for a healthier City.

CAC will forward the City Manager a comment letter with lighting recommendations for the City.

Motion by: Deborah Dresser

Seconded by: Karen Eberle-McCarthy

The motion passed unanimously.

3. Administration

a. Approval of Minutes from January 5, 2018

The January minutes were approved.

Motion by: Deborah Dresser

Seconded by: Kippy Boyle

The motion unanimously passed.

b. Monthly Financial Report

Dresser said the CAC has \$8,300.00 dollars in the budget to spend and said there is no funding for education. She said that the 2017 CAC budget was not completely spent and that it is important to note how the budget is allocated. She said the available balance in the Shade Tree Donation line is \$1,370.00

Boyle said she has begun a timeline to structure the budget costs over the year.

c. Submit Monthly Volunteer Hours

CAC members will submit the hours via e-mail to gailfulon@rocketmail.com.

4. Site Plan Reviews

a. Site Plan updates

i) 286 Grand Street – ZBA application tabled

ii) 27 S. Water Street – No update

iii) 35-37 Broad Street – Amended Site Plan – No update

5. 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 sent the Open Space plan to Thomas for review.

c. Green infrastructure

i) Tree Issues/ Citizen Requests

(1) Urban Forestry

Dresser said twenty-two trees were cut down on the East side of the railroad slope near the Pizza shop on Water Street. Boyle will review the Ordinance regarding tree cutting in the City of Newburgh.

George Profous, Senior Forester, gave an overview of a planting demonstration on Broadway in front of the Courthouse. He said the Pilot project will require coordination between the Department of Public Works and the Engineering Department and it may pave the way for future plantings throughout the City. He said structural soil will be used and requested that the CAC help cover the costs of the two trees and soil. He said a fence can be purchased to surround the tree but is not required.

Dresser said she can volunteer to help the public outreach for the Pilot Project.

Filosa said she is interested but is on the fence regarding her availability.

Thomas said the project is a great idea to showcase how plantings can be done correctly.

Boyle requested the cost of the structural soil and said that a video recording will help the public outreach.

(a) On-site Tree Inspections

No update.

(2) High Risk Trees List

No update.

ii) Parks –Park Conservancy Meeting

The Parks Conservancy meeting will be on February 2, 2018 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Heritage Center.

Fulton will talk to Alexandra Church, City Planner for the City of Newburgh, to clarify the required steps to turn South Street Park into designated park land.

iii) Community Education Report

Thomas said the PRATT Design Group has designated the Newburgh Library as their study area with a focus on communications/design and Columbia Historic Preservation classes will be given in the City with a focus on projects like the Dutch Reform Church and communication.

iv) CAC Website Update

The CAC homepage will be updated with the latest comment letter for 5 Scobie Drive after it is completed.

6. On-going Natural Resource/Environmental Updates

a. Drinking Water

Thomas said there will be a meeting in the Activity Center regarding the drinking water in Newburgh on February 5, 2018 beginning at 6:00 p.m.

b. Newburgh Water Front Updates

- **Waterfront Trail – No update**
- **South Street Parking; Fishing Pier & First Street Walkway/ Newburgh Landing Restoration – No update**

c. Energy-related issues – No update

6. New Business

Tree City USA Recertification

Balbuena said the Certificate was signed.

i-Notice, Dig Safely NY

Boyle said that the CAC may be interested in order to speed up the digging process for trees.

Barrick said he will look into becoming a member.

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

- 2/2 **Parks Conservancy Meeting in the Heritage Center @ 10:00 a.m.**
- 2/5 **Water Meeting in the Activity Center @ 6:00 p.m.**
- 2/20 **Planning Board meeting in the Activity Center @ 7:30 p.m.**
- 2/21 **Community Meeting in the Activity Center @ 6:00 p.m.**
- 2/27 **Zoning Board of Appeals meeting in the Activity Center @ 7:00 p.m.**

RECAP OF ACTION ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY (Balbuena)

- Boyle mentioned several ideas the CAC members should think about such as:
A Community outreach for two artists, the 2018 Broadway Courthouse Pilot Project in cooperation with DEC, DPW etc. (Cost for Structural soil?)
- Dresser said she can volunteer to help the public outreach for the Pilot Project, Filosa said she is interested but is on the fence regarding her availability.
- Hooff will write an addendum regarding LED lighting to the CAC. The CAC will then review and forward a letter to the City Manager incorporating the concern and suggestions for a path forward.
- Thomas will write a draft letter to the IDA with comments regarding the buffer language, tree replacements, the canopy etc. by Monday, February 5, 2018. The remaining CAC members will forward their suggestions/thoughts to Thomas by Tuesday
- Thomas will review the "Open Space" letter prepared by Barrick
- Boyle will review the Ordinance regarding tree cutting in the City of Newburgh.
- Balbuena will follow up with Code Compliance to see if a permit was obtained for the trees cut behind the Pizza shop on 27 S. Water Street
- Fulton will talk to Church to clarify the required steps to turn South Street Park into designated park land

8. Motion to Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Deborah Dresser

Motion Seconded: Alison Filosa

Vote: Unanimously Approved

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL PROJECT REVIEWS

2018 Project Reviews By CAC

1/5	286 Grand Street	2/1	5 Scobie Drive
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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
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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