

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

Kippy Boyle

Karen Eberle-McCarthy

Gail Fulton

Alison Filosa

Genie Abrams

(Vacant)



Conservation Advisory Council Minutes of Meeting February 6, 2020 – 6:30 PM

1. Roll Call

Present: Chuck Thomas, Chairperson, Gail Fulton, Karen Eberle-McCarthy, Alison Filosa, Genie Abrams, Omar Balbuena-Palma (Secretary)

Excused: Kippy Boyle,

Guest: Marc Lallanilla, Kula Giakoumidis

2. Administration

- **Approval of Minutes from December/January meeting**
The December & January minutes were approved as submitted.

Motion by: Genie Abrams
Seconded by: Karen Eberle-McCarthy
The motion passed unanimously.
- **Monthly Financial Report**
The Secretary said the CAC has \$24,830.00 in the budget. He said the invoice for Treekeeper should be paid now that the 2020 budget has been adopted. He said the two (2) tablets the CAC requested have been purchased and he will bring them to the next CAC meeting.
- **CAC Appointments**
The Secretary confirmed the CAC vacancy notices were posted on the City's social media pages.
- **CAC Meeting date**
No update.
- **Submit Monthly Volunteer Hours**
CAC members submitted their volunteer hours to Ms. Fulton.

3. CAC Priority Projects

- **Intern Program**

Ms. Abrams said the Orange County Community College informed her that Alan Coria will be unable to continue the intern program. She said the program will most likely restart in the summer/fall of 2020.

- **LWRP Update**

The Chairperson said he is continuing to address the comments by New York State along with the Director of Planning and Development. He said there is a substantial amount of comments and it will take some time to address them all.

- **Natural Resource Inventory (NRI/Open Space)**

The Chairperson said he will contact Marcel Barrick for any updates on the NRI. He said the Tree Survey is very important and it should be updated this year. He said the program, Treekeeper, should be paid with funds from the Tree Maintenance line.

The CAC members agreed to use funds from the Tree Maintenance line to pay the Treekeeper subscription.

Motion by: Karen Eberle-McCarthy

Seconded by: Genie Abrams

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Filosa said Ryan Lennon is still working to complete the mapping project with the data that Mr. Barrick provided.

- **Urban Forestry**

- **City Arborist**

The Chairperson said the CAC needs to contract the services of an Arborist. He said the CAC currently utilizes the services of Jack Powell but he is not yet certified.

- **Tree Maintenance Grant**

Ms. Abrams said an application was submitted for the TD Green Space Grant and they are waiting for a response. She said she will follow up with any new information.

- **Tree City USA/ Growth Award Renewal**

Ms. Abrams said an application was submitted and the City of Newburgh is once again a certified Tree City.

- **Arbor Day Planting**

Ms. Abrams said the Arbor Day event does not necessarily have to fall on Arbor Day.

Ms. Eberle-McCarthy said there are approximately five (5) overwintered trees for Thomas Wright.

Ms. Abrams said she will contact Mr. Wright to see if he is able to plant the trees on Arbor Day.

Ms. Filosa said if Mr. Wright is unable to plant the trees, the CAC could do an event at the Urban Farm.

- **Code Revisions for Trees**

The Chairperson said he will contact Kippy Boyle to see if she has any updates.

- **Tree/Sidewalks Conflict Solutions**

Ms. Filosa said she forwarded a list of recommendations to DPW for consideration; she said the Arborist reviewed the recommendations for accuracy earlier during the day.

- **Community Education Report**

No update.

- **Parks – Park Conservancy Meeting**

Ms. Fulton said there will be a Parks Conservancy conference on March 7 at Gritworks beginning at 3:00 p.m. She said the public is invited to attend.

Ms. Abrams said the next Parks Conservancy meeting date has not been set but the CAC has been invited to attend. She said she would be happy to volunteer as the CAC representative.

The CAC members thanked Ms. Abrams for volunteering to attend.

- **CAC Website**

No update.

4. On-going natural resource/environmental updates

- **Drinking Water Report**

The Chairperson said the Restoration Advisory Committee (made up of 25 members) held its first meeting on February 4, 2020. He said one of the goals was to establish operating/meeting guidelines and procedures. He said the Committee members requested modifications, which are now under review, and confirmed the long-awaited water filtration system designed to treat per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) runoff into Recreation Pond is up and running. He said approximately 400 to 500 gallons of water per minute flow into Recreation Pond and the filtration system is getting clogged due to a lot of sediment/organic materials. He said a sand filter will be installed to address the issue.

Ms. Abrams asked if the New York State Department of Health is continuing to perform blood testing.

The Chairperson confirmed that tests are still ongoing and that the half-life of PFAS is approximately 7 years. He said the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) announced a public meeting on February 11 to provide information to the community members about the levels of PFAS in their bodies and provide information about exposures in the broader community. He said the meeting will provide information about ATSDR, the PFAS exposure assessment, the participant recruitment process, and upcoming PFAS testing to be conducted.

- **Newburgh Waterfront Updates**

No update.

- **Energy-related issues**

No update.

5. New Business

- **Planting Request at 368 Liberty Street**

Ms. Giakoumidis said she owns the property at 368 Liberty Street. She said she would like to plant approximately 6 trees in the area and requested assistance from the CAC regarding the process.

The CAC members discussed the project and provided the Applicant with general planting procedures. They agreed to assist the Applicant with her project.

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

- 02-11-20 CDC ASDDR meeting
- 02-18-20 Planning Board Meeting
- 03-05-20 CAC Meeting
- 04-24-20 Arbor Day

7. Motion to Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Karen Eberle-McCarthy

Motion Seconded: Gail Fulton

The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

RECAP OF ACTION ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY (Balbuena)

- The Chairperson will:
 - Follow up with Marcel Barrick regarding the tree inventory;
 - Forward a PowerPoint slide regarding Recreation Pond from the REC meeting;
- Ms. Abrams will:
 - Follow up to confirm if the CAC obtained the TD Bank Green Space grant;
 - Follow up with Thomas Wright to confirm he is able to proceed with an Arbor Day planting;
 - Attend the Parks Conservancy meeting and report back to the CAC;
- Ms. Filosa will follow up with DPW to clarify any outstanding tree issues;
- CAC members should:
 - Research additional Arbor Day events;
 - Research/recommend an Arborist and discuss hiring an Arborist at the next CAC meeting on March 5, 2020 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL PROJECT REVIEWS*

2019 Project Reviews by CAC

1/3	82 Bridge Street	7/25	12 Front Street
2/7	43 Beacon Street	7/25	1 S Colden Street
3/21	260 Liberty Street	8/15	188 Grand Street
4/18	Kaplan Water Street Redevelopment Project	10/17	Kaplan Water Street Redevelopment Project
7/25	297 Grand Street	11/21	639 Broadway

2018 Project Reviews by CAC

1/5	286 Grand Street	5/3	2 Nicoll Street
2/1	5 Scobie Drive	8/2	120 Front Street
3/1	136 Lake Street		

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		

*See archives for prior years