

Conservation Advisory Council | City of Newburgh, New York

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

Phone: (845)569-7380 conservation@cityofnewburgh-ny.gov

Council Members:

Chuck Thomas, Chairman

Genie Abrams

Alison Filosa

Gail Fulton

Andrew Murphy

Robert Sanchez

(Vacant)



Conservation Advisory Council Zoom Meeting Minutes June 4, 2020 – 6:30 PM

1. Roll Call

Present: Chuck Thomas, Chairperson, Genie Abrams, Alison Filosa, Andrew Murphy, Robert Sanchez, Omar Balbuena-Palma (Secretary)

Excused: Gail Fulton

Guests: Ronald Zorilla, Ermin Siljkovic

2. Administration

- **Approval of Minutes from March meeting**
The March minutes were approved as submitted.

Motion by: Genie Abrams

Seconded by: Alison Filosa

The motion passed unanimously.

- **Monthly Financial Report**
The Chairperson went over the CAC budget and said \$20,721.40 is left to spend. He clarified \$7,271.40 is left in the Tree Planting/Maintenance line and \$12,000.00 is left on the Consultants Services for the Arborist.
- **Submit Monthly Volunteer Hours**
Ms. Abrams said volunteer hours are very important because the number is used to report the value of volunteer services in external financial statements, including grant proposals.

The CAC members submitted their volunteer hours.

- **CAC Meeting date**

The CAC discussed alternative meeting dates and decided to meet on the second Monday of the month (a week before the Planning Board meeting date.)

Motion by: Genie Abrams

Seconded by: Robert Sanchez

The motion passed unanimously.

3. New Business

- **HeatSmart Discussion**

No update.

- **Community Grants Program**

Ermin Siljkovic, Recycling Coordinator from the Orange County Department of Public Works gave an overview of the grant offered by the New York State Pollution Prevention Institute. He said the program would expand food recovery from the Farmer's market in Orange County and distribute it to local business/charities.

The Chairperson said the program is very interesting and is aligned with the goals of the Newburgh Urban Farm. He said he is in favor of supporting the application.

Ms. Abrams commended Mr. Siljkovic and said she is in favor of supporting the grant application.

Mr. Siljkovic said the grant application was submitted and he intends to return to the CAC at a later date for any additional grant applications.

Mr. Siljkovic was informed to contact the Secretary when he is ready to present to the CAC.

4. CAC Priority Projects

- **Urban Forestry**

- **Arbor Day Planting Event Summary**

Ms. Abrams said 6 trees were planted around 368 Liberty Street successfully. She commended the Applicant Kula for her efforts.

- **Planting at 40 Lander Street or 261 Liberty Street & 177 Renwick Street**

Ms. Abrams said Todd Hill, Arborist, planted the overwintered trees at the above mentioned locations at no cost to the City. She said unfortunately two recently planted trees in front of the Newburgh Flour shop did not survive and need to be replaced. She said the property owner will contact the Arborist for a cost estimate.

- **CAC Guidelines for Tree Purchases**

Ms. Abrams said Dan Gilbert submitted a list of addresses for tree plantings. She said the property owners at those addresses would be happy to take care of any planted trees.

Ms. Filosa said Alvin Moonesar is also interested in planting trees on his properties.

Ms. Abrams said Scenic Hudson is coordinating a tree planting at South Miller Street.

Mr. Murphy asked for Scenic Hudson's contact information.

Mr. Sanchez confirmed that each tree costs approximately \$250.00 and the CAC has sufficient funds to cover approximately 33 trees.

The Chairperson said the true cost of planting will be higher for tree pits not conforming to the City of Newburgh Streetscape Standards. He said each property address must be reviewed to ensure consistency to the Standards before purchasing any trees. He said the guidelines should be finalized and updated on the City Website.

- **Code Revisions for Trees**

The Secretary said he will contact Kippy Boyle for an update regarding the City Code revision.

The Chairperson clarified that the property owner must obtain a permit for any tree maintenance in the tree lawn per §159-6.3 of the City Code.

- **City Arborist / Tree & Sidewalk Conflict Solutions**

The Chairperson recommended establishing a sub-committee for tree complaints with Ms. Filosa as the chairwoman. He said the committee would be responsible for hiring an Arborist to address any tree complaints. He said the Arborist should assess the complaint and provide a recommendation to address said complaint.

Mr. Murphy and Mr. Sanchez volunteered to assist Ms. Filosa.

Ms. Filosa will review the existing City Code to clarify existing tree and sidewalk regulations for the City of Newburgh.

- **Community Education Report**

No update.

- **Parks – Park Conservancy Meeting**

The Chairperson said the next Parks Conservancy meeting will be on June 5 at 10:00 a.m.

Ms. Filosa and Mr. Zorilla said they will attend the next Parks Conservancy meeting with Ms. Fulton.

- **CAC Website**

Mr. Zorilla said he will assist in revising the online CAC homepage.

Ms. Abrams said she would be happy to edit the CAC homepage.

- **Natural Resource Inventory (NRI/Open Space) – (Chuck Thomas)**

No update.

5. On-going Natural Resource/Environmental Updates (15 Minutes)

- **LWRP Update – Locally Adopted 07-10-17**

No update.

- **Drinking Water Report**

The Chairperson said the Restoration Advisory Council continues to meet and is making progress on operating procedures.

- **Newburgh Waterfront Updates**

- **Waterfront Trail – None**

No Update.

- **South Street Park; Fishing Pier & First Street Walkway/Newburgh Landing Restoration**

Mr. Sanchez said he has four portable docks that he is willing to donate to the City of Newburgh.

The Secretary said Mr. Sanchez should forward him the donation request and he'll follow up to ensure the appropriate Department receives the request for execution.

- **Energy Related Issues**

No Update.

6. Calendar of Upcoming Events

- **06-05-20** **Parks Conservancy Meeting**
- **06-16-20** **Planning Board Zoom Meeting**
- **06-23-20** **Zoning Board of Appeals Zoom Meeting.**

7. Recap of Action Items for June

(Secretary)

- Contact information for Zoraida from Scenic Hudson is: zlopezdiago@scenichudson.org
- CAC members need to review planting sites to conform compliance with the City of Newburgh Streetscape Standards – The Streetscape Standards can be found online at: <https://www.cityofnewburgh-ny.gov/engineering/pages/streetscape-standards>
- The Secretary will:
 - Update the CAC meeting date online;
 - Forward any invoices for payment;
 - Follow up with Ermin Siljkovic and Kippy Boyle;
- Ms. Filosa, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Sanchez will address the existing tree complaints and establish a process for utilizing the services of an Arborist;
- Ms. Filosa and Mr. Zorilla will give an overview of the June Parks Conservancy meeting.

8. Motion to Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Genie Abrams

Motion Seconded: Andrew Murphy

The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 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