

Conservation Advisory Council | City of Newburgh, New York

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Council Members:

Kippy Boyle
Deborah Dresser
Gail Fulton
Karen McCarthy
Phil Prinzivalli
Chuck Thomas



Conservation Advisory Council

Minutes of Meeting

August 4, 2016 – 6:30pm

1. Roll Call

Present: Kippy Boyle, Phil Prinzivalli, Chuck Thomas, Gail Fulton
Karen McCarthy, Deborah Dresser, Eliana Diaz (Secretary)

Excused:

Guest: Marcel Barrick, Manager Downing Park Greenhouse Project,
Saul Brown, Deborah Brown, John Wackman – Solarize Newburgh

2. Approval of minutes from July 7, 2016

Motion by Deborah Dresser to approve minutes from July 7th with appropriate corrections

Motion Seconded: Karen McCarthy

The motion unanimously passed

3. Presentation by Solarized Newburgh:

John Wackman from Solarize Newburgh stated that the purpose for Solarize is that it is a nonprofit, community sponsor, State supported program to give people the information they need to decide if solar makes sense for them. The role of Solarize Newburgh is to be a trusted source of information. Mr. Wackman presented a document which he calls "A Solarized Campaign in Five Easy Steps". Ask communities to host public education events and talk to neighbors about going solar. Choose installers dedicated to best practices who wish to raise their profile in the communities where they do business and who are willing to offer a group purchase discount of at least ten percent. Organize events and invite the community to learn about the benefits of this program. Put those people in the hands of your selected installers and finally watch them go. The hopes of this group is to form the core of a volunteer team that for a period of four months would host six events open to the County. There has to be awareness, outreach and in reach who will help spread the word and be persuasive about the topic at hand. The integrity of the process is fundamental, research is done, RFP's are sent out and the community selection process for installers begins. For financing tax credits and other incentives are put together to bring the cost in half. Ulster, Rockland and Dutchess County are places where solarize has worked. In terms of events it would be beneficial to have solarize join an event rather than to have a specific event for solarize. The purpose of the CAC involvement is to support and provide outreach to this initiative.

4. Budget Report/Invoices:

The Budget currently has \$9,383.46. The funds that are left can be used for tree planting and maintenance. There is also \$945.84 in tree donation funds.

- a. Tree Inventory Software Renewal: The Tree Inventory Renewal should be included in the CAC's budget, however the software is still good until 2017.
- b. Water vehicle: Phil has researched that there are companies that make utility vehicles which are battery powered that can have license plates. However further research must be done to find out which companies are certified in NY State and which vehicles can have license plates. Kippy has reached out to Michelle kelson for updates regarding this issue, kippy is still waiting for the updates. Kippy will go to the comptroller's office to be shown how to get into the state website to research what vehicles can be purchased.

5. Site Plan Reviews:

- b. There will be a meeting on August 10th in City Hall with the Engineer from New Windsor Hospitality. Chuck will attend this meeting at 3:30pm.

6. Old Business

a) LWRP Update:

There was a meeting report on July 27th, Gail, Chuck, Kippy and Marcel were present for that meeting. A proper information meeting is scheduled for September 28 at the Newburgh Free Library. There has been mention of having more View shed Districts, underwater map grants will also be mapped out in the report as well.

b) Open Space/NRI:

The grant is due on August 19th, Kippy suggests that the grant given by the Hudson River Estuary and the Orange County Water Authority be applied for even though the amount of funds are not specified. The conversation deviated into how open space can be identified in a city, it was stated that a map of open space needs to be created. Marcel and Kippy will work together on the NRI and the grant.

c) TD Bank Green Streets Grant:

All gas lines will be finished by precision pipelines by the end of August. By the Mid part of September there will be a celebration in the heights.

d) Newburgh Waterfront Updates:

i. Newburgh Landing Rehabilitation/Design

No update

ii. South Street Park

No update

iii. Fishing Pier

No update

iv. People's Park

On August 10th there will be an inventory of wildlife at the site, the hours have yet to be defined. There will be a trail grand opening on September 24th as part of the Hudson River Ramble.

e) Organization & By-Laws: Special meeting August 16th

Chuck circulated by-laws which outlines the structure of the Commission, the CAC will meet on August 16th at 6:30PM as part of a special meeting. When asked what is expected to accomplish out of the meeting on the 16th it was stated that the goal is to possibly expand the board but not in excess. A better and more preferable option is to establish subcommittees. The meeting is to be organized by prioritizing projects. Deborah and Chuck will meet up to make an agenda for the meeting. Once the structure of the meeting is set up it will be distributed to the rest of the CAC.

f) Sidewalk and street Tree Pit Standards and Specifications:

There are no updates on this topic

7. New Business

- i. Anchoring Barges in Newburgh Bay** – The Coast Guard has proposed ten Anchorage locations along the Hudson River from Yonkers to Kingston. New anchorage grounds are designed to accommodate commercial vessels to increase efficiency and navigation and safety along this area along the river. Dutchess County, River Keeper and other entities have come out against this proposal. The Newburgh anchorage ground would cover approximately 445 acres which is up to five vessels. In previous times the barges were motored and anchored to keep them running and manned. This time they will be anchored and unmanned which will scrape the bottom of the Hudson every time it turns. This is a problem because it will disturb the life growing at the bottom of the Hudson. There are discrepancies in the coordinates given for the location of the barges and so there is reason for concern. Kippy will ask Laurence to update the map with the radius of the barges. There is also question regarding the lights used for the barges, there needs to be clarification if the unmanned barges will also have lights. The use of lights will also disturb the wildlife and plants. It was mentioned that the anchoring of these barges incurs in a latent risk because it hosts toxic materials which are very difficult to clean up. We have contact with the river, the barges are destroying habitat and there are bound to be economic impacts. Chuck pointed out that the barges would destroy a designated scenic vista for the city. Chuck requested that the members of the CAC forward him bullet points so that he can draft a letter.

8. Subcommittee Reports

c. Energy – 7/26 Solarize Newburgh

d. Urban Forestry –

- i. NYS Conference Report** – Kippy attended the conference report
- ii. DPW trees & stump removals** - There are no updates on this topic
- iii. Citizens requests-** 367 North Montgomery Street – Phil & Kippy visited the location. The tree is overgrown and is kind of lifting the sidewalk. They are willing to send an email to DPW that the owner can take the tree down at their own expense and plant another tree in its place. Phil has a quote for the Ginko tree taken down in Robinson Avenue. The Secretary to the Land Use Boards will forward the quote to the office of Corporation Counsel.
- iv. Over-wintered trees – planting plans?** We have the trees but we will need to wait for the leaves to fall and DPW.
- v. Public Parks**
- 1. Tyrone Crabb** – Laurence sent a PDF with a copy of the tree placements. Kippy suggested to meet with councilwoman Mejia at Tyrone Park to view the trees and identify which need to be replaced. Karen McCarthy should follow up with Councilwoman Mejia to set up a time and date to meet at Tyrone Park.
- 2. Downing Park – urban forestry update?** There are no updates on this topic
- Other Site Visits**

9. Ongoing Environmental Concerns

There are no updates on this topic

10. Calendar of Upcoming Events

- a. **August 10** – afternoon, 4-hr Inventory session with Hudsonia at Waterfront Site
- b. **September 22** – Re-Leaf Region 3 Workshop – Kaplan Hall – focus on Newburgh Downtown
- c. **September 24** – Waterfront Trail Grand Opening
- d. **September 28** – Public Meeting - LWRP

11. May Volunteer Hours

Any volunteer hours must be reported to Kippy.

Motion to Adjourn: **Karen McCarthy**

Motion Seconded: **Gail Fulton**

Vote: **Unanimously Approved**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20p.m.

Project Reviews by CAC in 2016

198 South Robinson Ave. Special Use Permit comments to PB	Mid Broadway Project – Mill Street Partners
39A-B Johnston Street- Site Plan Rural Ulster Preservation Company (RUPCO)	
2 Nicoll Street- Mike Starace	

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	Habitat Newburgh – 123 Washington Street – street trees
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.