

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

Karen Eberle-McCarthy

Gail Fulton

Alison Filosa

Genie Abrams



Conservation Advisory Council Minutes of Meeting August 15, 2019 – 6:00 PM

1. Roll Call

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

Excused: Genie Abrams, Marcel Barrick

Guest: Ryan Lennon

2. Administration

- **Approval of Minutes from July meeting**
The July minutes were approved.

Motion by: Karen Eberle-McCarthy

Seconded by: Gail Fulton

The motion passed unanimously.

- **Monthly Financial Report**
The CAC discussed the budget for 2020.

Ms. Boyle said tablets should be purchased in order to update the tree inventory out on the field. She said that the CAC should contract a full-time arborist for consistency. She said once fall planting begins the remainder of the 2019 budget would be used for tree removals and new tree plantings.

The Chairperson said a cost for watering equipment should be added.

The Secretary said the cost of one (1) tablet is approximately \$230.00 without a data plan.

The CAC agreed to forward a revised budget later.

- **Submit Monthly Volunteer Hours**
CAC members submitted their volunteer hours to Ms. Fulton.

Presentation from Ryan Lennon

Ryan Lennon said he used to survey forests for approximately two (2) years with NYSDAM/USDA for Asian Long horned Beetles and has experience working with GIS for over 10 years. He gave an overview of how he is leveraging GIS for remote sensing of forest health and said the data shows that deciduous forests in urban landscapes have an earlier beginning of photosynthetic activity than deciduous forests in rural landscapes. He said the cause is presumably due to urban heat island effect.

The CAC discussed the impact of maps that show vegetation change over time within the City.

- Mr. Lennon said he is willing to assist the CAC and requested a copy of the tree inventory to review. He said he will review the data and will follow up later. He said anyone interested in a free and open-source cross-platform desktop application for GIS should look into QGIS at:
<https://www.qgis.org/en/site/index.html>;

3. Site Plan Reviews

- **The Regal Bag / Water Street Development Project (Updated)**
The Secretary said the public hearing remains open and anyone wishing to comment on the application may do so at the August 20 Planning Board meeting.
- **188 Grand Street – Planning Board Site Plan Application**
The CAC determined the CAF to be generally consistent with the LWRP and will forward a comment letter accordingly.

The Chairperson said question four (4) should be answered “Yes.”

4. CAC Priority Projects

- **LWRP Update -Locally Adopted on 7-10-17**
The Chairperson said the Stewart Air National Guard Base Restoration Advisory Committee Informational meeting was on July 31 and the public was informed to submit an application to become a member and learn about the process.
- **Natural Resource Inventory (NRI/Open Space)**
Ms. Boyle said there must be an easier way for the public to obtain access to the NRI. The Secretary said he will contact the TreeKeeper Software Support Team for public access.
- **Urban Forestry**
 - **GEM Vehicle Status**
Ms. Boyle said the GEM vehicle will be used to water the S. William Street trees.
 - **Code Revisions for Trees**
No update.
 - **Tree/Sidewalks Conflict Solutions**

Ms. Boyle said there are a lot of trees that need immediate removal. She requested the CAC members to forward specific tree locations for removal.

- **Community Education Report**

Ms. Filosa said there are a few trees in Downing Park that need tree tags.

The CAC unanimously agreed that tree tags should be ordered for installation.

- **Parks – Park Conservancy Meeting**

No update.

- **CAC Website – Update**

The Secretary said the CAC homepage was updated to provide links to the Zoning map, the City of Newburgh Parks map, the LWRP Map and the Autocad/Streetscape Standards.

5. On-going Natural Resource/Environmental Updates

- **Drinking Water**

The Chairperson said the Stewart Air National Guard Base is looking to mitigate the drinking water impact. He said the Restoration Advisory Committee will oversee the process.

- **Newburgh Waterfront Updates**

- **Waterfront Trail**

No update.

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

No update.

- **Energy-related issues**

No update.

6. New Business

- **Proposed BJ's Wholesale Club Shopping Center**

The Secretary said the City of Newburgh received a notice of intent for designation of Lead Agency from the Town of Newburgh Planning Board. He said the next meeting will be on September 5, 2019.

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

- 08/20 City of Newburgh Planning Board Meeting (Public Hearing)
- 09/05 Town of Newburgh Planning Board Meeting
- 09/26 CAC Budget Hearing

RECAP OF ACTION ITEMS FOR AUGUST (Balbuena)

- The Secretary will contact the TreeKeeper Software Support Team and prepare the 2019 budget transfers;
- The CAC members will forward high risk tree locations to Ms. Boyle for removal and finalize the 2020 budget request.

8. Motion to Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Alison Filosa
Motion Seconded: Gail Fulton
The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL PROJECT REVIEWS*

2019 Project Reviews by CAC

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

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