

Conservation Advisory Council | City of Newburgh, New York

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Council Members:

Richard Harper, Chairman

Gail Fulton

Kippy Boyle

Mary McTamaney

Phil Prinzivalli

Chuck Thomas

Chad Wade



Conservation Advisory Council Minutes of Meeting September 2, 2014

I. Roll Call

Present:

Richard Harper, Chair

Phil Prinzivalli

Gail Fulton

Chuck Thomas

Laurence Fleischer (Secretary)

Guests:

Peter Smith

Sean Fogarty

Jeffrey Lejava, Esq.

II. Approval of May minutes

The minutes for August 2014 have not yet been seen by the CAC. A vote was not taken.

III. Budget Report:

Richard Haper said he would like to add a paragraph in the 2015 Budget Request regarding an arborist position.

Other members of the CAC would review the Budget Proposal draft for the next meeting.

IV. Old Business:

Organizational Setup: Vacancy; Secretary; posting schedule:

The CAC still has a vacant council position. Laurence Fleischer will work with Glenn Kurcon to make sure the CAC web page is updated and the vacant position and information is posted.

Tree Inventory Update

Richard Harper- Regarding the \$25,000 tree inventory project, a contract has been received by the CAC. Negotiations and “checked boxes” have been causing delays.” Gail Fulton asked if trees will still be planted on Broadway. Richard Harper responded that it has been too long, and according to the DEC, that project deadline has expired. Phil Prinzivalli noted that the CAC was never contacted regarding the grant. Richard Harper added that the Tree Inventory work will begin in Wards adjacent to the Quassaick Creek.

LWRP Update

Richard Harper emailed James Slaughter the agenda to today’s CAC meeting stating that the CAC would like to discuss zoning with him and the City Manager, and/or create a committee or consultant. Richard Harper has not received a response regarding the LWRP as of now.

Peter Smith expressed frustration with the streamline processes after attending a meeting with the City Manager and City staff.

V. New Business

Guest Speaker

Mr. Sean Fogarty of 382 Montgomery Street in the City of Newburgh attended the meeting and asked to speak, though not on the agenda. The CAC unanimously agreed to hear Mr. Fogarty.

Mr. Fogarty presented site plans to the CAC to remove a 3 season enclosed porch at his home at 382 Montgomery Street in the City of Newburgh, and replace it with a pushed out family/dining room with a wood stove, to be maintained almost entirely within the footprint of the existing structure, plus just a few feet. No new foundations, just footings are in the plans.

Mr. Fogarty also proposes a step-down deck, as not to impede his neighbor’s view. Mr. Fogarty brought with him two signed letters from his neighbors stating their approval of this construction.

Phil Prinzivalli and Chuck Thomas asked why Mr. Fogarty has come to the CAC and not just go straight to the Planning Board? Mr. Fogarty responded that the view from the Hudson River may be modified, and thus seeks approval from the CAC.

Richard Harper asked if this property is in the LWRP Boundary. After some reviewing of available maps, it was determined that Mr. Fogarty’s property at 382 Montgomery Street is in fact within the LWRP boundary, and thus needs approval from the CAC.

Richard Harper asked Mr. Fogarty to please fill out a CAF form, and submit it to the CAC.

In the interim, Mr. Fogarty verbally answered Yes/No questions on the CAF form to the CAC, answering No to all questions except Yes to the last question.

Chuck Thomas motioned to approve the CAF for 382 Montgomery Street in the City of Newburgh, on the condition of receiving the completed form. Phil Prinzivalli seconded the motion. A vote was taken, 4-0. The motion was approved.

Richard Harper requested that Mr. Fogarty please give Mary McTamaney and Steve Hunter a copy of the CAF form. The CAC will notify the Codes Department that they will be receiving the CAF form.

Tree Maintenance

Phil Prinzivalli met with Fred Feder and the City Manager. The City Manager would like the trees in front of City Hall pruned. Richard Harper stated that the payment form must be submitted to the Comptroller for tree pruning in front of City Hall, and along Liberty and Washington Streets as well.

Phil Prinzivalli asked if competitive bids are required for tree pruning. Richard Harper responded no, competitive bids are not required.

Chuck Thomas asked if the CAC is paying Fred Feder to do this tree pruning work. Richard Harper replied that he will get some of this money.

Hudsonia Biodiversity Training

Chuck Thomas stated that the biodiversity training has been great so far. It's been a great learning experience, and he is expecting comments next week from the biologist at Hudsonia.

Richard Harper stated that the final report to Hudsonia and to the DEC will be submitted in October, and will go towards the natural resource inventory.

CAC Budget Request for 2015

Richard Harper sent out an earlier version, and showed the CAC the updated version. Richard Harper asked members to please review the budget proposal for the next meeting. Richard Harper reported that the budget is slightly less than last year's budget, and that approximately 10% (\$6000) was taken out of the budget last year.

Chuck Thomas requested that \$300 be added to the proposed 2015 budget for Office Supplies.

Peter Smith advised that the CAC does not reduce its budget.

Chuck Thomas noted that the City of Newburgh needs at least 60,000 trees to be a "tree city."

Peter Smith suggested that the CAC get the Tree Inventory contract signed this fiscal year so the budget will definitely include funding next year.

Richard Harper said he will add more detail about how much the CAC has done so far regarding Tree Inventory in the proposed 2015 budget.

Richard Harper noted that we have one more upcoming presentation on tree inventory software.

Chuck Thomas volunteered that he will prepare the RFQ for tree inventory.

Subcommittee Reports

Nothing on LWRP

Mary McTamaney sent the CAC a memo, attached to the end of these minutes.

Natural Resource Inventory

Jeff Lejava suggested that we begin using the data layers we already have to begin creating a Natural Resource Inventory (NRI).

Peter Smith asked how we can quantify waste/waste management. Does the DPW have data? Does the DPW have weights of waste? Does Orange County have waste/waste management data?

Jeff Lejava suggested that the CAC focus first on water and trees, things that the public can see.

Peter Smith asked what other cities do regarding NRI.

Phil Prinzivalli asked where the waste water treatment plant sends its solid waste. Laurence Fleischer volunteered to ask Jason Morris, City Engineer, where the WWTP sends its solid waste.

Jeff Lejava stated that NRI models exist, some of which have even used air quality. Jeff Lejava also noted that all appropriate and important parcels regarding zoning, land use, and planning be listed in an Open Space Index. An Open Space Index can then push the CAC to become a CAB (Conservation Advisory Board).

Watershed

Peter Smith reported that he went for a sail on the *Clearwater*, which had a big turnout. An environmental justice grant was discussed at the event. Discussions also took place at this event bridging urban centers on the Hudson, to see how they can get together to lobby the State of New York for failing infrastructure funding.

Silver Stream

Peter Smith reported that sampling along the Quassaick creek for Enterococcus testing will take place in the upcoming week. Laurence Fleischer will be present during the sampling, and reported that sampling sites have already been scouted out and mapped.

Peter Smith discussed that tours have been given to children at the water power dam and Muchattoes Lake, as well as the City's Water Filtration Plant. He reported that these tours have been very successful.

Peter Smith reported that New Windsor may be drilling laterally under Brown's Pond. He noted that the consultant working with the Town of New Windsor, McGoey, Hauser, and Edsall Consulting Engineers, won't return Jason Morris' phone calls. Peter Smith reported that New Windsor has been unsuccessfully drilling to try to get off of New York City's water supply for its own water supply.

Peter Smith also noted for the record that the CAC be aware that the Scobie Drive/Hudson Valley Lighting project is moving forward rapidly now.

Air Quality

No update.

Calendar of Events

9/10- Next and last Hudsonia Meeting
TBD- Web Software Demo (Davey Tree)
TBD- DEC Fall Workshop

The CAC reported that the City of Newburgh City Council and Orange County have officially expressed concern about "bomb trains," which was listed in the Work Session's most recent agenda.

The CAC should be aware of the gas pipeline, known as the "pilgrim pipeline." The CAC is unsure of its exact location, but that it runs somewhere along the Thruway corridor from New Jersey to Albany, and that a spur to Steelways on the Hudson River exists somewhere.

Chuck Thomas motioned to adjourn the meeting, Phil Prinzivalli seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm
Next meeting October 2, 2014.

News report from Mary McTamanev regarding conservation/parks issues:

Tyrone Crabb Park:

Waiting for an update report from Courtney Kain.

DPW is completing the regrading of the front of the lot along Grand Street. Workers have also reset bluestone along parts of the sidewalk.

The planting list last proposed for the park may be troubling if it remains as proposed, namely dozens of high-maintenance shrubs and trees.

Old Town Cemetery:

Not listed as a park, and yet a city-owned cemetery across from Crabb park – This area has suffered decades of neglect and abuse. Fences have been broken and bent; stones have been toppled and often broken; trees have had limbs pulled down and broken and storms have left similar damage. Recently, through the efforts of a group of concerned citizens, the cemetery has gotten a facelift. Lynn Warren Landscaping Company has worked for three full days alongside DPW and has provided extra muscle and equipment. Their labor was contributed for free through the efforts of Jim Williams and Steve Kaufman as well as the Newburgh Preservation Association's Old Town Cemetery Committee. The 1713 cemetery hasn't looked so good in years. Now the N.P.A. is working to repair the entrance gate and the remaining parts of the fence and raise money to replace missing fence sections.

Downing Park:

Downing Park Planning Committee Chairman, Tony Scully, reports their most pressing need is the removal of very old and dangerous trees. Although the city owns the park and is liable for injury from falling limbs, Tony says that the DPPC is concerned as they plan events and have volunteers working at general planting that the dead and dying trees will drive people away if any accident happens.

Downing Bicentennial:

2015 will be the 200th anniversary of the birth of Newburgher Andrew Jackson Downing. He is the founder of the American parks movement believing that every citizen deserves a cool green resting place to balance a working life. Our Downing Park is named in his honor and The N.P.A. is reaching out to partner with the Downing Park Planning Committee to repeat the successful celebration "You Gotta Have Park!" of years past. The urban forestry initiative has already discussed this coming anniversary, I believe, and Newburgh school district teachers are interested in making the Downing connection. The Newburgh Historical Society has all of Downing's treatises and a couple of the catalogs of the trees offered by Mr. Downing's Highland Gardens Nursery. For present day Newburgh, the 2015 anniversary should emphasize Downing's advocacy for the common man versus the "tastemakers" angle of his designs for villas in the "suburbs."