

Conservation Advisory Council | City of Newburgh, New York

The Heritage Center, 123 Grand St., Newburgh, NY 12550

Phone: (845) 569-7383 e-mail: conservation@cityofnewburgh-ny.gov

Council Members:

Chuck Thomas, Chair

Genie Abrams

Alison Filosa

Gail Fulton

Robert Sanchez

Andrew Murphy

Ronald Zorrilla



Conservation Advisory Council

Minutes of Meeting

September 13, 2021

6:30 p.m. – Heritage Center (123 Grand Street)

- **Roll Call**

Present: Chuck Thomas, Chairperson, Genie Abrams, Alison Filosa, Gail Fulton, Andrew Murphy, Robert Sanchez, Ronald Zorrilla, J.K. Gentile, (Secretary)

Guest: David Eylers

Meeting called to order 6:32pm

- **Administration**

- Approval of Minutes from August
The Chairperson moved to approve August minutes.
Genie Abrams seconded.
The motion passed unanimously.
- Open Meetings Law
The option for virtual meetings is good through January 15, 2022.
Poll taken to elect for in-person meetings or virtual meetings for the months of October, November and December.
Council voted for virtual meetings.

- Arborist 5 Year Plan review
Tabled for next meeting.
- Monthly Financial Report
The Chairperson said the Consultant Services line has a remaining balance of \$1,423.25. Mr. Eylers services have been paid up to August 2021. In consideration of upcoming services for September through December 2021, a vote was taken for transferring \$2,767.00 from Tree Planting and Maintenance to Consultant Services.
Current budget balance of Tree Planting and Maintenance is \$15,000.00.
The Chair said the Council has proposed to plant 15 trees out of the CAC budget @ \$500. a tree (\$7,500. /total)
Tree Planting @ \$7,500.00 and transfer of funds @ \$2,767.00 leaves the Tree Planting and Maintenance budget at \$4,733.00.
This balance will be appropriated for tree planting supplies.
Alison Filosa moved approve the transfer of funds.
Andrew Murphy seconded.
The motion passed unanimously.

- **New Business**

- Garden Club of Orange and Dutchess County presentation
Colleen Fogarty and Pamela Breeman introduced themselves and gave a brief presentation of the Garden Club.
The Garden Club offers (5) 10,000. grants a year for damage that has been done to public landscapes due to natural disasters. The Garden Club is offering a grant to the City of Newburgh for the 2018 tornado that did damage to Downing Park.
The Garden Club's intention is to work with New York Tree Masters to remove/prune the damaged trees in Downing Park and plant bulbs in the Fall.
The Garden Club will be meeting with the City Manager, Todd Venning, September 22, 2021.
- October 16, 2021 at the Newburgh Free Library the Citizens Climate Lobby is hosting an Environmental Day. They are looking for community groups to set up tables.

- **Continuation of Administration**

- Arborist Report
Discussion regarding responding to public calls for evaluation of heaving sidewalks due to tree roots.
Broad Street –Mr. Eylers said it is currently overgrown. The Chairperson said the CAC does not have an inventory of any of those trees.
Mr. Eylers said a total of 10 trees were reviewed in the August.

- City of Newburgh 2022 Budget –September 21, 2021 budget work session
Council reviewed the proposed requests.
- CAC Street Tree Plantings
The sub-committee began selecting locations to plant (15) 1.5” diameter trees in the Fall 2021.
The Chairperson requested a list of all requested trees to plant.
Mr. Murphy to create a Google doc to collect all requests and include on one spreadsheet.
Council members asked to forward all requests to Mr. Murphy.
Ms. Abrams said each request needs to be called into 811 to confirm location is approved to plant.
The Broadway tree pits were discussed.
Ms. Abrams said next week “Save a Tree” will begin taking trees down.
- Monthly Volunteer and Grant Hours submitted, tracking sheet has been updated.

- **Old Business**

- Genie Abrams and Kathy Lawrence developed and Ms. Abrams presented drafts of:
 - Tree Ordinance Language
Reviewed by the Council members.
Ronald Zorrilla moved approve the Tree Ordinance Language to be sent to Corporate Council.
Gail Fulton seconded.
The motion passed unanimously.
 - Street Tree Permit Process
This document serves as a document for Conservation Advisory Council purposes only.
Mr. Zorrilla asked if DPW is aware they are a part of this.
Ms. Abrams confirmed.
The Council approved the form.
 - Tree Work Application and Permit
The application for citizens to use to request a tree planting.
The Council approved the Permit form.
- Central Hudson letter
Mr. Sanchez gave an update of the meeting with two representatives of the Utility Forester of Central Hudson on August 18, 2021. Discussion included Central Hudson’s limited ability to come into the city to take down trees, they circulate every three years. Their primary concern being the highest canopy reaching the lines and bringing the canopy down within 10 feet under east and west of that line. Mr. Sanchez to follow up with the intention to establish and maintain an open line of communication between Central Hudson and the CAC.

- **On-going Updates:**

- Restoration Advisory Council /Stewart Air National Guard Water Project
No new updates
- Natural Resource Inventory (NRI/Open Space)
No new updates.
- LWRP Update –
The Chairperson said no new reports.

Calendar of Upcoming events (webinars, training, community events)

- 09-13-21 City Council Meeting
- 09-14-21 Architectural Review Commission Meeting
- 09-21-21 CAC Budget Work Session 5:30pm
- 09-21-21 Planning Board Meeting
- 09-27-21 City Council Meeting
- 09-28-21 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting

Genie Abrams made Motion to Adjourn

Alison Filosa seconded

The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting concluded 8:20pm