

Conservation Advisory Council | City of Newburgh, New York

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

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Council Members:

Chuck Thomas, Chair

Genie Abrams

Alison Filosa

Gail Fulton

Robert Sanchez

Andrew Murphy

Ronald Zorrilla



Conservation Advisory Council

Minutes of Meeting

November 9, 2021

6:30 p.m. – Zoom Videoconference

• Roll Call

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

Guests: Ali Muhammad, Kelly Boling, Kathryn McKenzie, Kathy Lawrence

Absent: Dave Eylers

Meeting called to order 6:35pm

• Administration

- Approval of Minutes from September 2021 and October 2021.
The Chairperson moved to accept the minutes from September 2021 and October 2021.
Genie Abrams seconded the motion.
- Arborist Report
- Tabled for next meeting.
- Arborist 5 Year Plan review
Tabled for next meeting.
- Monthly Financial Report
Current expense report reviewed.
The Chairperson said the next planting the CAC will address is 6 trees on Benkard Avenue.
The Chairperson accepted the budget as presented.

- Monthly Volunteer Hours
Spreadsheet to be updated with hours to be submitted by Council Members for October.
- New York State Conservation Association CAC Membership
\$65.00 membership fee
Genie Abrams moved to pay the membership fee
Gail Fulton seconded the motion.
- Call for Conservation Advisory Council Nominations:
Genie Abrams and Alison Filosa positions will be open starting January 1, 2022.
Ali Muhammad and Kelly Boling gave brief summaries of their backgrounds and their interest in becoming a Conservation Advisory Council Member.
Robert Sanchez made a motion to recommend Ali Muhammad and Kelly Boling to the City Council.
Ronald Zorilla seconded the motion.
- Conservation Advisory Council orientation meeting
The Chairperson said he will be planning an orientation meeting before the December CAC meeting.
- **Site Plan Review**
700 South Street
Owner: Atkemix Thirty-Seven Inc.
Applicant: National Builders South

Walter Kubow, Charles Bazydlo and Brian Sekel appeared before the Council.

Mr. Bazydlo gave a brief overview of the proposed project. This is a re-development of the Astra-Zeneca site into a warehouse facility, a distribution facility.

Mr. Kubow gave a brief overview of the site development.

Ms. Abrams asked if they plan to re-plant trees in other areas of the site to replace the ones being cleared.

Mr. Kubow said it is possible to place more plantings in the wetlands. Mr. Kubow added additional plants and shrubbery will be added along the bio-retention areas.

The Chairperson added there will be additional plantings along Gidneytown Creek.

Ms. Abrams asked how much truck traffic will this project create.

Mr. Bazydlo said they will provide a complete traffic study for the key intersections.

Mr. Kubow said it is estimated 12 trucks per peak hours down South Street cutting into I-84.

Mr. Sanchez asked what will be stored in the warehouse.

Mr. Sekel said no commitment has been made yet from a potential tenant, there are a number of interested 3rd party logistic trucking companies.

The Chairperson asked how they estimated for the 3,600 gallons of water discharged per day on the Environmental Assessment Form.

Mr. Kubow said that came from an estimated employee count; 150 employees per shift.

The Chairperson said it appears they will be losing a tenth of a percentage acre of wetlands.

Mr. Kubow confirmed adding it is a pre-construction notification already permitted under a nation-wide permit.

The Chairperson said he has concerns about the significant amount of run-off going through the wetlands and into the Gidneytown Creek. The Chairperson asking for consideration of expanding the wetlands.

Mr. Zorilla asked if the trees along the South Street sidewalk will be removed.

Mr. Kubow said those trees will not be disturbed.

The Chairperson reviewed the applicants Coastal Assessment Form:

Section 1, J: reiterated suggested expanding the wetlands

Section 2, B: Mr. Kubow said he checked yes as they are adjacent to the Gidneytown Creek which they will not be affecting the creek, they are adjacent but not crossing over the line.

Section 3, D: Mr. Bazydlo said it is related to the ACO requirement.

- **Old Business**

- Environmental Justice Fellowship –Tree Plantings

Kathryn McKenzie gave an overview of her experience working with the Environmental Justice Fellowship. Their original goal was to plant 16 trees and they exceeded that goal by planting 33 trees.

Ms. Abrams added the Fellows created a “Tree Course” in English and Spanish

December 13, 2021, the Environmental Justice Fellows will conduct their last presentation in front of City Council.

- The City of Newburgh Board of Education

The Chairperson said he has placed a call to the BOE. Appears the area is not clear cutting, there are trees left along the edges of the site.

- **On-going Updates:**

- Restoration Advisory Council /Stewart Air National Guard Water Project
The Chairperson said the Council is now a Restoration Advisory Board.

- Natural Resource Inventory (NRI/Open Space)

The Chairperson and Ronald Zorrilla continue to work together.

- LWRP Update –
The Chairperson said Genie Abrams has agreed to continue working with him and Alexandra Church, Director of Planning and Development, on addressing feedback received from New York State. They plan on working on these requested changes soon.

- **New Business:**

- Quassaick Creek Study Update
Plans in the making for a walking trail along the Quassaick Creek. The organizing committee is in the process of receiving input and suggestions from the community. Looking to make this trail accessibly to Newburgh and New Windsor residents.

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

- 11-8-21 City Council Meeting
- 11-9-21 Architectural Review Commission Meeting
- 11-16-21 Planning Board Meeting
- 11-22-21 City Council Meeting
- 11-23-21 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting

Genie Abrams made Motion to Adjourn

Gail Fulton seconded

The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting concluded 8:01pm