

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

Gail Fulton

Robert Sanchez

Andrew Murphy

Ronald Zorrilla



Conservation Advisory Council

Minutes of Meeting

March 7 2022

6:30 p.m. – Zoom Videoconference

- **Roll Call**

Present: Chuck Thomas, Chairperson, Gail Fulton, Andrew Murphy,
Ronald Zorrilla, J.K. Gentile, (Secretary)

Absent: Robert Sanchez

Guests: Kelly Boling, Marianne Marichal, Kippy Boyle, Joel Feldstein

Meeting called to order 6:35pm

- **New Business**

Environmental Protection Agency Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities.
Promoting sustainable air quality at underserved neighborhoods in New York State through low-cost sensor monitoring, integrated measurement and community engagement.

Presenting: Dr. Aynul Bari, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental and Sustainable Engineering, University of Albany, State University of New York along with colleague, Zahirul Hasan Khan.

Dr. Bari gave an overview of the project. The key objective is to conduct air quality monitoring and analysis to address emerging air quality issues in order to improve air quality and public health.

The Chairperson asked what is the term of the study.

Dr. Bari said a 3-year study.

The Chairperson asked how many homes will be studied.

Dr. Bari said 30 to 60 homes.

Mr. Boling asked what commitment is necessary from the City.

Dr. Bari said a letter of “intent” to be submitted by a community partner.

Ms. Fulton asked how are the homes selected.

Mr. Hasan-Khan said they leave the selection process to the partners to determine, targeting areas considered a concern for possible pollution.

Mr. Zorrilla asked if the community engagement happens within the first year or spread through the 3 years.

Dr. Bari said the Hudson Valley Region would begin monitoring in June 2023.

Mr. Boling asked how does a home participate, is there a contract, is there an incentive.

Dr. Bari said the measurement study in a home is a one-week term. There is a one-time participation incentive; a \$50. gift card as reimbursement for electricity costs and personal time spent logging the activities occurring in the home (reference for study, is there any correlation of activities lending itself to possible pollution.)

The Chairperson asked what permission is required from the municipality for solicitation of its citizens.

Dr. Bari said the only permission necessary is from the homeowner. For individuals who rent, permission from the landlord is necessary. He said this has been clarified by the EPA.

The Chairperson asked how would the recruitment of selecting homes look.

Dr. Bari said the strategy is determined by the partner. When a home is identified, Dr. Bari’s team will coordinate the placement of equipment and training of.

The Chairperson asked what is required of the CAC at this time.

Dr. Bari said a signed intent letter, a brief description of the CAC for the proposal and an identified contact person.

Mr. Murphy asked what is the format of the analysis and will it be presented back to the City of Newburgh or will the results be made public at the conclusion of the study.

Dr. Bari said the data will be made public for 2 years. Participants will be able to monitor their data via website.

The Chairperson asked when is the deadline for the commitment.

Dr. Bari said March 15, 2022.

Mr. Zorrilla asked if the materials are available in Spanish.

Dr. Bari not at this time.

- **Administration**

- Approval of Minutes from February 2022 accepted as written, with George Profous name corrected.
- Monthly Financial Report
Mr. Murphy shared a tracking spreadsheet.
A note column and account number column to be added.
- Tree Planting Donations
Review of donation total, \$425.00.
Genie Abrams letter to the newspaper seemed to inspire these collected donations and CAC expressed acknowledgement.
- RFP for an Arborist
The need to submit soon is imperative.
Robert Sanchez spoke to George Profous and has a list of items to include.

- **Old Business**

- Arborist 5 Year Plan review
Tabled for next meeting.
- Environmental Justice Fellows Program
Mr. Zorrilla spoke about the agreement voted on by the City Council February 28, 2022.
Mid-Hudson Times will assist in the promotion of recruitment for interested applicants.
Deadline to apply is March 28, 2022.
The goal mentioned is to report on the program monthly to the CAC.
- Arbor Day, April 29, 2022.
Begin making plans to conduct a tree planting event.
Kippy Boyle expressed interest in planting a tree in Tryone Crabb park and dedicating to Fret Fetter, a City of Newburgh volunteer arborist for 13 years.

- **On-going Updates:**

- Restoration Advisory Board/Stewart Air National Guard Water Project
February 20, 2022 meeting, spoke about the diversion status and the regulations on incineration of GAC water filters.

Blood testing began 3/5/22 in Ward 1 and will continue through the 4 wards.

- Natural Resource Inventory (NRI/Open Space)
Mr. Zorrilla said Duane from Scenic Hudson offered to help connect with the DEC and schedule a meeting.
- LWRP Update
The Chairperson to speak with the City Planner regarding access to an existing file.

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

- 03-08-22 Architectural Review Commission Meeting
- 03-14-22 City Council Meeting
- 03-15-22 Planning Board Meeting
- 03-22-22 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
- 03-28-22 City Council Meeting
- 04-17-22 Tree City USA Zoom Meeting -10am
- 04-23-22 The Garden Club of Orange and Dutchess County “Olmstead Exhibit”
at Downing Park

Gail Fulton made Motion to Adjourn

Andrew Murphy seconded

The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting concluded 8:20pm.