

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

Betty Bastidas

Gail Fulton

Robert Sanchez

Andrew Murphy

Ronald Zorrilla



Conservation Advisory Council

Minutes of Meeting

July 5, 2022

6:30 p.m. – Zoom Videoconference

- **Roll Call**

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

Absent: Robert Sanchez

Guests: Kathy Lawrence, Marianne Marichal

Meeting called to order 6:45pm

Chair welcomed new Member Betty Bastidas. An orientation meeting was set up.

Chair noted that a Workplace Violence and Sexual Harassment meetings need to be set.

Environmental Justice Fellowship Update

- Kathy Lawrence tabled the update.

- **Site Plan Review**

Location: 135 Ellis Avnue

Owner: Overview Properties, LLC

Applicant: Fidelity Real Estate Management / Eli Vaknin

June 10, 2022 CAC, applicant and engineer conducted a walk through of the site.

Eli Vaknin, Dan Gilbert and Greg Sgromo appeared before the Council.

Mr. Sgromo gave an overview of the proposed project.

He said they will utilize 50% of the site for development and the balance will go into a conservation easement that Orange County Land Trust is interested in.

A storm water basin will have a significant amount of landscaping to filter the runoff materials from the site. The site design is pedestrian friendly and will fulfill the parking stalls required by code. The southern portion will have a road extension to Ellis Avenue with a sidewalk component to enable connectivity to the Snake Hill portion. They are including 3 parking spaces on top of Snake Hill for the walking trail. They will be including bicycle racks onto the property.

Mr. Murphy asked what kind of street improvements to Ellis Avenue are planned.

Mr. Sgromo said their plan includes development of a full pavement access road from the water tank to the development, a sidewalk and guard rails.

Mr. Murphy asked where the water from the hardscaping will flow into.

Mr. Sgromo used the site plan to identify the stormwater basins.

Ms. Bastidas asked how close Crystal Lake is and would this project have any negative impact on Crystal Lake.

Mr. Sgromo used the site plan to identify the proximity of Crystal Lake to the project and cannot identify any impact.

Ms. Bastidas asked how big the development is.

Mr. Sgromo said 12 acres.

Ms. Bastidas asked if this will be a gated community.

Mr. Sgromo said no.

Mr. Murphy asked the total amount of buildings.

Mr. Sgromo said 10.

The Chairperson asked the total amount of parking spaces.

Mr. Sgromo said 100.

The Chairperson asked if that includes the 3-visitor parking on top of Snake Hill.

Mr. Sgromo said no, those are off site public parking on partial City owned and right of way property.

The Chairperson asked the total number of disturbed acres.

Mr. Sgromo said 5.8 acres.

The Chairperson asked Mr. Sgromo to explain why the project will be using impermeable pavement.

The Chairperson expressed his concern regarding the significance of water flow to Crystal Lake.

The Chairperson asked the composition of the walking trail.

Mr. Sgromo said bulk mulch.

The Chairperson asked if there has been an analysis of the trees that will be removed.

Mr. Sgromo said the developer is working on procuring an arborist to conduct an assessment.

The Chairperson encouraged maintaining the tree canopy.

The Chairperson encouraged hiring a biologist.

Ms. Bastidas recommended incorporating an on-site playground.

The Chairperson reviewed the applicants Coastal Assessment Form:

Section 2, I: The Chairperson asked if the Jewish Cemetery is listed. Mr. Sgromo said they conducted research and the Jewish Cemetery is significantly off the site and it has been cleared through SHPO.

The Chairperson moved to accept the Coastal Assessment Form as submitted
The Council agreed unanimously to accept

- **Newburgh Climate Ready Initiative**

Naomi Hersson-Ringskog, Gita Nandan, Ronald Zorrilla and Kat Carro appeared before the Council.

Ms. Nandan gave an overview of the initiative.

Ms. Carro presented a slide show and overview of Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act – a 20-year decarbonization program.

Mr. Zorrilla spoke about collaborating on this initiative to build capacity on a local level.

Ms. Hersson-Ringskog said the City Council members they were able to speak to about this initiative were strongly supportive.

Ms. Bastidas asked for examples of other cities who have created a task force.

Ms. Hersson-Ringskog provided link: <https://climatesmart.ny.gov>

Administration

- Approval of April, May and June minutes.
Tabled to next meeting.
- Monthly Financial Report by Treasurer Andrew Murphy
No current expenses to record.
- **Old Business**
 - City Consulting Arborist RFQ
Position granted to David Eylers
- **On-going Updates**
 - Restoration Advisory Board /Stewart Air National
Guard Water Project
The Chairperson said next meeting is July 27, 2022 6pm via teleconference.
The RAB will be updating the operating procedures and actions.
 - Natural Resource Inventory (NRI/Open Spaces)
Applied for a grant and award to be announced in September 2022.
 - LWRP Update – Locally Adopted on 7-10-17
No update.
 - EPA Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities
Mr. Zorrilla said the grant has not yet been awarded.

- **Calendar of Upcoming events (webinars, training, community events)**
 - 07-11-22 City Council Meeting
 - 07-12-22 Architectural Review Council Meeting
 - 07-13-22 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting
 - 07-19-22 Planning Board Meeting
 - 07-21-22 ReLeaf Conference in Watertown
 - 07-26-22 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
 - 07-27-22 Restoration Advisory Board Meeting / 6pm / teleconference

Ronald Zorrilla made Motion to Adjourn

Gail Fulton seconded

The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting concluded 8:42pm