

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

Betty Bastidas

Gail Fulton

Robert Sanchez, Vice Chair

Andrew Murphy, Treasurer

Ronald Zorrilla



Conservation Advisory Council

Minutes of Meeting

November 7, 2022

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

• Roll Call

Present: Chuck Thomas, Chairperson, Gail Fulton, Andrew Murphy,
Robert Sanchez

Also Present: Tallie Carter, Assistant Corporation Counsel
J.K. Gentile, Secretary

Absent: Betty Bastidas, Ronald Zorrilla

Guests: Kathy Lawrence, Elio Luna, Gema Vidals Herrera,
Marianne Marichal, Bruce Jones, David Kiss

Meeting called to order 6:39 p.m.

Environmental Justice Fellowship Update

Gema Vidals Herrera and Elio Luna spoke on their interest and engagement with the Environmental Justice Fellowship and gave a brief description of their experience so far.

The Chairperson said there has been a great amount of press and positive feedback recently regarding the Environmental Justice Fellows. He expressed how proud the CAC is of the work being done by the Fellows. He said the

Environmental Justice Fellowship will be presenting to City Council 12/12/22 and encourages the Council members and public to attend in support.

Visitors

Bruce Jones is a resident of Brooklyn, NY and a student at Oregon State University, studying Urban Forestry Policy, Planning and Management. Mr. Jones joined the CAC meeting to gather information on how a tree board meeting is conducted for purposes of a research paper. Mr. Jones is a Citizen Pruner with Trees New York and a Street Tree Captain for the NY Parks Program.

Administration

- Consulting Arborist Report -Dave Eylers -Tabled to next meeting.
- Approval of October 3, 2022 minutes and October 28, 2022 special meeting minutes accepted.
- Monthly Financial Report by Treasurer Andrew Murphy
Brief review of report.
- Volunteer Hours -tracking and reporting
- CAC Member terms and appointments
Ms. Fulton position is due for reappointment November 30, 2022.
Ms. Bastidas (in acceptance of Genie Abrams position) is due for reappointment November 30, 2022
1 new seat is open for the Conservation Advisory Committee.
Applications have been received and will be reviewed by City Council

Old Business

- Fall 2022 Tree Planting
Mr. Sanchez discussed the status of the plantings. The project will be postponed for Spring as there are protocols and processes to follow when hiring tree planting contractors that cannot be conducted before year end. The DEC grant Broadway project, 7 tree pits, will be completed by DPW before the December 16, 2022 deadline.

Assistant Corporation Counsel explained the procurement process to the CAC members.

New Business

- **Quassaick Creek Greenway Project**
The Chairperson would like to schedule a presentation to the CAC meeting in January. He said their proposal is part of the LWRP.
- **DEC Natural Resource Inventory Grant**
The Chairperson announced that the CAC was awarded the \$50,000 grant. He said there is commitment from numerous community partners who have committed to dedicating twenty hours a month to assist with gathering data as well as additional support from the County and Regional Institutions.
- **DEC Urban & Community Forestry (UCF) Grant**
The Chairperson said the 2022 grant Maintenance Matters concludes in December.
He said there is a new grant to review for possible application to DEC but due on December 1 see below.
- **EPA Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities**
The Chairperson said the City of Newburgh has been selected to assist in this effort. He gave an overview of the involvement expected.
- **DEC Urban & Community Forestry (UCF) Grant -Tree Planting in Disadvantaged Communities after Ash Loss**
The Chairperson gave a brief overview of this upcoming grant.

On-going Updates

- **Restoration Advisory Board /Stewart Air National Guard Water Project**
The Chairperson gave a brief status update. He said there is a tour schedule 12/3/22 10 a.m. at Stewart Air Base
- **LWRP Update – Locally Adopted on 7-10-17**
No current update.
- **Newburgh Climate Ready**
No current update.

Public Forum

David Kiss in attendance. He had inquiry of permission process to plant a tree in front of his property.

Marianne Marichal in attendance. She read from a letter received by Central Hudson regarding an upcoming project of line clearance crews coming into the City. She inquired if Central Hudson works with the City Arborist. Mr. Sanchez to reach out to Central Hudson.

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

- 11-09-22 DEC Urban & Community (UCF)
Tree Planting in Disadvantaged Communities after Ash
Loss Program Information session 9a.m. -11:30a.m.
- 11-09-22 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting
- 11-09-22 Architectural Review Council Meeting
- 11-14-22 City Council Meeting
- 11-15-22 Planning Board Meeting
- 11-22-22 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
- 11-28-22 City Council Meeting
- 11-30-22 Orange County Conservation Advisory Council
Virtual Roundtable
- 12-03-22 RAB tour at Stewart Air Base 10 a.m.
- 12-12-22 Environmental Justice Fellows present at the City Council
Meeting

Gail Fulton made Motion to Adjourn

Andrew Murphy seconded

The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting concluded 8:05 p.m.