

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

Ronald Zorrilla | Incoming Chair / NRI

Andrew Murphy | Treasurer

Betty Bastidas | Climate Smart

Gail Fulton | Parks

Marianne Marichal | Urban Forest

Mark Sanchez-Potter



Conservation Advisory Council

Minutes of Meeting

December 4, 2023

6:30 p.m. – Heritage Center

• Roll Call

Present: Chuck Thomas, Chairperson (attended via Teams meeting),
Betty Bastidas, Gail Fulton, Marianne Marichal,
Andrew Murphy, Ronald Zorrilla

Absent: Mark Sanchez-Potter

Also Present: Tallie Carter, Assistant Corporation Counsel,
Jonathan Midler, City Planner
J.K. Gentile, Secretary

Guests: Kathy Lawrence, Julia Raskin

Meeting called to order 6:33 p.m.

- **Public Comment on Agenda Items**
None

Projects

Site Plan Review

405 Grand Street

Owner: Zeqir Hakanjin

Applicant: Jonathan Moss/Berg + Moss Architects, PC

Jonathan Moss appeared before the Council and gave an overview of the proposed project.

The CAC reviewed the Coastal Assessment Form.

Determination: Project is consistent with the LWRP.

The Chairperson made a motion to accept the Coastal Assessment Form.

Marianne Marichal seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Site Plan Review

140 Montgomery Street

Owner: City of Newburgh

Applicant: Sean Kearney/Kearney Reality & Development Group

Jamie Loguidice appeared before the Council and gave an overview of the proposed project.

The CAC reviewed the Coastal Assessment Form. Ms. Loguidice gave explanations for the questions answered yes:

#1 (j), treat the new impervious surfaces as part of the general permit with the DEC and is working with the City Engineer's office and has provided a SWPPP.

#2 (d), the new construction has no impact on the viewshed of the Hudson.

(i), property located in the East End Historic District.

Discussion: Will include permeable pavers and rain gardens and the implementation of solar heat pumps and solar panel?

Applicant: The implementation of solar heat pumps and solar panels is unknown at this time. The stormwater planters are proposed between the two buildings to capture roof runoff that will be discharged into an underground infiltration system. Permeable pavers will be placed in all areas but the playground.

Determination: Project is consistent with the LWRP.

The Chairperson made a motion to accept the Coastal Assessment Form.

Gail Fulton seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- **Presentation**

DEC Natural Resource Inventory Grant –

From Vassar College, Chiara Castaneda and Professor Neil Curri

Ms. Castaneda gave an overview of the interactive web maps she has begun working on this semester. With Professor Neil Curri, she held a question and answer with the Council.

Mr. Zorrilla reported on the status NRI: Monday, December 11, 2023, Hudsonia and the core group plans to conduct a tour of Newburgh's watershed and the Hudson, the next public meeting is in March, and Hudsonia is working on a community engagement plan.

- **Environmental Justice Fellows 2023 Program**

Kathy Lawrence reported: the Fellows year end wrap up party is scheduled for December 9, 2023 at the Giving Tree Café, the Fellows final presentation to the City Council is December 11, 2023, and monthly reports to date have been submitted.

Administration

- **Approval of minutes**

The Chairperson requested the minutes reflect the accessibility of the Waterlay Protection Overlay map for the public.

Gail Fulton made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted.

Betty Bastidas seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- **Monthly Financial Report**

Mr. Murphy gave an update on current invoices submitted for payment. He asked the status of the consulting arborist invoices.

Ms. Marichal said Mr. Eylers contacted her via text as he was unable to attend the meeting and his reports and invoices are forthcoming.

The Assistant Corporation Counsel said the Davey Tree Keeper subscription payment cycle will be adjusted from January 2024 to December 2023 and an invoice will be issued to cover December 2023.

- **Volunteer Hours -tracking and reporting**

Mr. Zorrilla made a strong request to submit all hours to include in the 2023 annual report.

- 2022 & 2023 Annual Report
Mr. Zorrilla said the report is due December 31, 2023.

The Assistant Corporation Counsel said the 2022 report is complete. She recommended updating the 2022 annual report to include the 2023 activity.

- Board Appointments
The Assistant Corporation Counsel reported the deadline to submit for re-appointment is the first week of January.
Mr. Thomas, Mr. Zorrilla and Ms. Marichal are eligible for reappointment. Mr. Murphy confirmed that he is not seeking reappointment.

Old Business

- Consulting Arborist
David Eylers was not present to give a status report.

The Chairperson gave an update on Mr. Eylers activities.

The Assistant Corporation Counsel recommended reviewing the activities completed in 2023 and re-review the scope of services for the consulting arborist and modify where appropriate.

- NYSDEC Urban and Community Forestry Grant.
Mr. Zorrilla said the announcement is scheduled for December. The grant will include a new updated community forestry plan and tree inventory, funding for the EJ Fellows and two years of TreeKeeper.
- Tree City U.S.A. application
Ms. Marichal submitted the application.

- **On-going Updates**
Sub-Committees:

- Urban Forestry Sub-Committee
Ms. Marichal reported:
 - 1) Total trees planted for 2023 was 70 and she gave the locations. She said she proposes 100 trees for 2024.
 - 2) Met with Kathy Lawrence and the EJ Fellows on November 18th to discuss 2024 tree plantings sites.

- 3) Landscaping recommendations for Consolidated Iron Site have been tabled.
 - 4) Part time Arborist RFP scope of services revision to be sent to Tallie Carter.
 - 5) The Christmas Tree Mulching Event is scheduled for January 6, 2024 from 9a.m. to 1p.m. The event permit to be submitted by the Secretary.
 - 6) The Citizen Pruner's Workshop is scheduled for March 2024.
 - 7) She requested printing of the tree tags; she received a template from Kathy Lawrence.
 - 8) IRA Grant through DEC discussion. Ms. Marichal to take the lead as capacity is challenging, with other projects already planned.
- Marianne Marichal made a motion to approve funds from the printing line to pay for the printing of the tree tags.
 Ronald Zorrilla seconded the motion.
 The motion passed unanimously.

- Newburgh Climate Ready Sub-Committee
 Ms. Bastidas said there was no meeting this month.

The Assistant Corporation Counsel reported: the contract with the web developer is pending, the City of Newburgh will engage with a web developer to build out the website that was designed by PRATT, "newburghclimateready.com" domain has been purchased by Mr. Zorrilla and the admin rights are to be transferred to Tallie Carter, any social media will be managed by the City of Newburgh internal staff. The Assistant Corporation Counsel requested the submission of a Heat Pumps Campaign communication plan, the deadline to submit is December 27, 2023 to make the January 8, 2024 City Council meeting.

- Restoration Advisory Board /Stewart Air National Guard Water Project
 The Chairperson said there are no new updates. He said the local group still meets and the theme they developed is "Speed up the Clean Up".
- LWRP Update – Locally Adopted on 7-10-17
 The Assistant Corporation Counsel said she does not expect to have an update until 2024.
- Tree Permit -Local Code Revision.
 The Assistant Corporation Counsel said a draft is being reviewed and will be completed in 2024.

- EPA Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities
Mr. Zorrilla said Dr. Anul signed the contract with the EPA October 1st for the air study and plans to arrange a meeting to discuss recruitment.
- Holtech -Radioactive wastewater
No current updates.
- CSX Underpass
The Assistant Corporation Counsel said the beautification plans are pending.

Upcoming events:

None

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

- 12-08-23 Greater Newburgh Parks Conservancy Stakeholders Meeting
- 12-09-23 EJ Fellows wrap up party at the Giving Tree
- 12-11-23 City Council Meeting
- 12-12-23 Architectural Review Council Meeting
- 12-13-23 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting
- 12-18-23 Arts & Cultural Commission Meeting
- 12-19-23 Planning Board Meeting

- **Public comment on general CAC non-agenda items:**

None

Andrew Murphy made Motion to Adjourn

Betty Bastidas seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting concluded 8:51p.m.