

# **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**

**January 2, 2024**

**6:30 p.m. – Heritage Center**

- **Roll Call**

**Present:**                **Chuck Thomas, Chairperson,  
Gail Fulton, Marianne Marichal,  
Ronald Zorrilla**

**Absent:**                **Betty Bastidas, Mark Sanchez-Potter**

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

**Meeting called to order 6:35 p.m.**

- **Public Comment on Agenda Items**  
None

### **Administration**

- Approval of minutes  
December minutes tabled.
- Monthly Financial Report  
The Council discussed the remaining expenses for 2023; Dave Eylers/consulting arborist services, invoices #112 and #113 and Tree Keeper Software, December prorated fee.

- Volunteer Hours -tracking and reporting  
The Chairperson stressed the importance of submitting all volunteer hours onto the spreadsheet.
- Board Appointments  
The Assistant Corporation Counsel reiterated to the Council the deadline to submit for re-appointment is January 8, 2024.
- 2022 & 2023 Annual Report  
Ms. Marichal said the 2023 report is pending submission. The Council discussed how the Environmental Justice Program 2023 report and Climate Smart Ready 2023 scoping document will be attached to the 2023 report.

## **Old Business**

- Consulting Arborist  
David Eylers term concluded 12/31/23.

The Chairperson reported that he has been in contact with Mr. Eylers and awaits receipt of the Ash Tree maintenance inventory.

The Assistant Corporation Counsel asked the Chairperson to circulate through the Council for review once he receives the information from Mr. Eylers.

- NYSDEC Urban and Community Forestry Grant.  
The Assistant Corporation Counsel reported: a stakeholder meeting is pending; notification has been received but the grant award has not been executed yet.
- Inflation Reduction Act Grant RFP  
The Chairperson brought forward a request to draft the proposal and complete the city application. The Council after discussion determined that the CAC has several projects for 2024 that will better inform and position the CAC to apply for future grants in a timely manner.
- **On-going Updates**  
**Sub-Committees:**
  - Urban Forestry Sub-Committee  
Ms. Marichal reported:
    - 1) Planting plan tabled for next CAC meeting.
    - 2) The Christmas Tree Mulching Event is scheduled for January 6, 2024, from 9a.m. to 1p.m.

- 3) Landscaping recommendations for Consolidated Iron Site have been tabled.
- 4) Part time Arborist RFP.  
The Council discussed submitting the RFP with no changes to the existing.
- 5) The Citizen Pruner's Workshop will be a two-day workshop and a meeting to discuss planning for the workshop is scheduled for the following week.
- 6) Tree planting thank you letter, and photos tabled.

The Assistant Corporation Counsel reminded Ms. Marichal repeated request for the report that identified all the types of volunteers working in any capacity with the City's tree management. The report is to include the specific tasks, actions performed and by whom, including any organizations, groups or "partners".

- DEC Natural Resource Inventory Grant  
The Chairperson reported that a map of sites has been set and that the December scheduled tour was postponed, new date to be announced.
- Newburgh Climate Ready Sub-Committee  
Mr. Zorrilla reported: the Heat Pumps Campaign scoping plan is ready to be submitted through the NYSERDA portal and the next step is implementation.

The Assistant Corporation Counsel reported the targeted website launch date of March 2024.

- Restoration Advisory Board /Stewart Air National Guard Water Project  
The Chairperson reported the next scheduled meeting is January 24, 2024, and he will circulate the agenda upon receipt.
- LWRP Update – Locally Adopted on 7-10-17  
No update to report.
- 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 reported Dr. Bari would like to present at the CAC February meeting, Dr. Anul is seeking 15 residential sites to conduct indoor air quality tests for 7 days and participants will receive a \$50 gift card.

- Holtech -Radioactive wastewater  
No current updates.
- CSX Underpass  
The Assistant Corporation Counsel said the beautification plans will be shared next week.

### **New Business**

- Friends of a Clean Hudson Coalition.  
The Chairperson said the deadline for municipal response of support is January 5, 2024 and the CAC was informed in an untimely manner to organize a response. Chairperson will inquire on future feedback opportunities or extension to the deadline.
- NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge/Hudson Valley Flood Resilience Network-letter of support.  
The Assistant Corporation Counsel will contact the Network to confirm what membership actually entails as the “City of Newburgh” is listed as a member and members are indicated to be government representatives.  
The Chairperson made a motion to send a letter if appropriate.  
Gail Fulton seconded the motion.  
The motion passed unanimously.
- **Calendar of Upcoming events (webinars, training, community events)**
  - 1-6-24 “Recycle your Christmas Tree” Event
  - 1-8-24 City Council Meeting
  - 1-9-24 Architectural Review Council Meeting
  - 1-10-24 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting
  - 1-12-24 Greater Newburgh Parks Conservancy Stakeholders Meeting
  - 1-16-24 Planning Board Meeting
  - 1-22-24 City Council Meeting
  - 1-23-24 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
- **Public comment on general CAC non-agenda items:**  
None

**Gail Fulton made Motion to Adjourn**  
**Ronald Zorrilla seconded.**  
**The motion passed unanimously.**  
**Meeting concluded 8:31p.m.**