

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 | Parks

Marianne Marichal | Urban Forest

Mark Sanchez-Potter



Conservation Advisory Council

Minutes of Meeting

March 4, 2024

6:30 p.m. – Heritage Center

- **Roll Call**

Present:

Chuck Thomas, Chairperson,

Gail Fulton, Marianne Marichal, Mark Sanchez-Potter

Also Present:

Tallie Carter, Assistant Corporation Counsel

J.K. Gentile, Secretary

Guests:

Karen McCarthy, Alison Filosa, Julia Raskin,

Kathy Lawrence

Meeting called to order 6:31 p.m.

- **Public Comment on Agenda Items**

None

- **Projects**

Site Plan Review

85 Renwick Street

Owner: 85 Renwick Street LLC

Applicant: Erik Cooney

Chris Berg, R.A. appeared before the Council and gave an overview of the proposed project.

Mr. Potter-Sanchez asked if they propose to use natural gas.

Mr. Berg said the proposed project will be all electric.

The Chairperson asked if solar panels were considered.

Mr. Berg said that solar panels have not yet been decided.

The Chairperson asked what the plans for water collection are.

Mr. Berg presented the site plan to locate the rain gardens.

Ms. Marichal asked if on-site public space is proposed.

Mr. Berg said they propose on-site benches for public use.

The CAC reviewed the Coastal Assessment Form.

Determination: Project is consistent with the LWRP.

Gail Fulton made a motion to accept the Coastal Assessment Form.

Mark Sanchez-Potter seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Administration

- Approval of minutes -February 2023
Motion to approve: Mark Sanchez-Potter
Motion seconded: Marianne Marichal
The motion passed unanimously.
- Monthly Financial Report
Discussed the current expenses submitted for the “Recycle your Christmas Tree” event.

The Chairperson asked the status of Tree Keeper software subscription.

The Assistant Corporation Counsel said Davey Tree Keeper is requesting a signed contract with payment and that the contract is on the City Council agenda for the March 25, 2024 meeting.

- Volunteer Hours -tracking and reporting
The Assistant Corporation Counsel reminded the Council to track all volunteer hours, especially as it relates to grant work.

- **Board Appointments**
The Assistant Corporation Counsel reported that the application deadline was extended to March 11, 2024.
- **2023 Annual Report**
The Chairperson said the full draft is pending.

Old Business

- **NYSDEC Urban and Community Forestry Grant.**
The Assistant Corporation Counsel reported that the City has not received the contract from the DEC.
- **Friends of a Clean Hudson Coalition -municipal sign-on letter**
The Chairperson said there is no status update. This item will be removed from the agenda.
- **NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge/Hudson Valley Flood Resilience Network -letter of support**
The Assistant Corporation Counsel reported there is no acknowledgement of Newburgh's participation. This item will be removed from the agenda.
- **Shoreline Planting Plan – landscaping recommendations**
The Chairperson recommended the Planning Department reference the DEC recommendations.
Ms. Marichal and Mr. Sanchez-Potter reported they plan to draft a letter to the City requesting to be included in the advisement of the “Beautification Project.”
- **On-going Updates**
Sub-Committees:
 - **Urban Forestry Sub-Committee.** Ms. Marichal reported:
 - 1) Spring tree planting plan -spreadsheets submitted for review 3/4/24 outlining tree planting on South Street and Prospect Street.
 - 2) CAC Pruning Workshop -revised description submitted with new dates 3/4/24.
 - 3) Arbor Day scheduled for April 26, 2024 -tree planting on Broadway.
 - 4) RFQ Part time Arborist -status pending.
 - 5) Volunteer task report submitted 3/4/24.

- 6) Tree planting brochures -using the Environmental Justice Fellows brochures and tree tags as a template for the CAC.
- 7) Tree City USA application -19th consecutive year as a Tree City.

The Assistant Corporation Counsel reported that the City Staff part time arborist is still available to apply for and the CAC part time consulting arborist RFP has been released and proposal submission deadline is March 29, 2024, with a start date around May 17, 2024.

The Assistant Corporation Counsel said the CAC Pruning Workshop revised description will be reviewed internally for response. She said the hiring of an arborist should take place before any Pruning Workshop can be scheduled.

The Chairperson made a motion to approve the CAC Pruning Workshop as a concept and the submission of an event permit for April 13 and April 14, 2024.

Gail Fulton seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

The CAC held a discussion regarding the Spring tree planting and the process of purchasing trees.

The Chairperson made a motion to purchase twenty trees, including twelve trees for the Arbor Day tree planting.

Mark Sanchez-Potter seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

- Newburgh Climate Ready Sub-Committee
This committee will resume after new CAC members are appointed. The website continues to be developed with legal and IT.
- DEC Natural Resource Inventory Grant
The Chairperson reported he spoke to the City Planner and a draft of the Natural Resource Inventory, and the Public Engagement Plan is pending.
- EPA Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities
The Chairperson said the project has been approved and that Dr. Bari is conducting the study with eight cities and information regarding next steps is forthcoming.

- Restoration Advisory Board /Stewart Air National Guard Water Project
The Chairperson reported the Board met recently and the Board is scheduling another Poster Board session in October 2024.
- LWRP Update – Locally Adopted on 7-10-17
No update to report.
- Tree Permit -Local Code Revision.
No update to report.
- Holtech -Radioactive wastewater
No update to report.
- CSX Underpass
The Assistant Corporation Counsel provided beautification plans for the Council’s review.

New Business

- **Open Space Steering Committee/BOA**
Ms. Marichal and Mr. Sanchez-Potter reported they plan to draft a letter to the City requesting to be included on advisement of the “Beautification Plan” for the hillside and water front.

Upcoming Events

- **Riverkeeper Sweep**
The Chairperson made a motion to submit a permit for a May 4, 2024 event with a registration deadline is March 22, 2024.
Gail Fulton seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.
- **Pollinator Event**
Ms. Marichal reported that the event is scheduled for June 22, 2024, time to be determined, an event organizing meeting is pending, and plans to engage involvement from the Environmental Justice Fellows.
- **Re-Leaf Conference**
Ms. Fulton expressed interest in attending the conference scheduled for July 24, 2024 in Albany, NY.

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

- 3-06-24 Greater Newburgh Parks Conservancy Stakeholders Meeting
- 3-11-24 City Council Meeting
- 3-12-24 Architectural Review Council Meeting
- 3-13-24 Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting
- 3-18-24 Quassiack Creek meeting at Mount Saint Mary's College
- 3-19-24 Planning Board Meeting
- 3-25-24 City Council Meeting
- 3-26-24 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
- 5-04-24 Riversweep event
- 6-22-24 Pollinator Event
- 7-24-24 ReLeaf Conference in Albany, NY

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

Ms. Marichal reported on the Greater Newburgh Parks Conservancy first meeting of 2024.

Ms. Marichal reported the next Chronogram Magazine City of Newburgh portrait Pop Up is scheduled for March 9, 2024, 11a.m. at the Karpeles Museum.

Mark Sanchez-Potter made Motion to Adjourn

Gail Fulton seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting concluded 8:29p.m.