

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

Gail Fulton

Zachary German

Chris Knasiak

Lesly Mejia

Mark Sanchez-Potter



**Conservation Advisory Council
Minutes of Meeting
October 7, 2024
6:30 p.m. – Heritage Center**

- **Roll Call**

Present:

**Chuck Thomas, Chairperson, Gail Fulton,
Zachary German, Chris Knasiak, Mark Sanchez-Potter**

Un-Excused Absence:

Lesly Mejia

Also Present:

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

Guests:

**Chad Wade, Elisabeth Balachova, Ashley Martinez, Michelle
Prado, Kippy Boyle, Ronald Zorrilla**

Meeting called to order 6:32p.m.

- **Public Comment on Agenda Items**

No comment.

- **Coastal Policy Consistency Review**

Newburgh Landing Pier

Chad Wade, Assistant City Engineer, using a slide presentation, gave an overview of the proposed project. He said any questions or comments from the public can be directed to cwade@cityofnewburgh-ny.gov or 845-569-7447.

- **Environmental Justice Fellows 2024 Program**

Elisabeth Balachova, Program Manager, reported on the street tree outreach conducted utilizing the CAC proposed tree list.

Ashley Martinez reported on the street tree outreach conducted on Broadway, teaching tree care to fifth graders at Horizons Elementary School, and preparing for the October 12, 2024 EJP celebration.

Michelle Prado reported on the Riverkeeper Quassiack Creek clean-up to remove invasive species, upper Broadway street tree outreach and attending the September 11, 2024 Olmstead conference.

Administration

- Approval of Minutes -September 2024

Mark Sanchez-Potter motion to accept the September Minutes.
Chris Knasiak seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

- Monthly Financial Report – Greater Newburgh Parks Conservancy (Environmental Justice Program): July and August voucher was paid.
- Volunteer Hours: Tracking and reporting – The Chairperson encouraged all members to actively report their hours.
- Training – The Assistant Corporation Counsel said a link to mandatory training videos will be sent out.
- 2023 Annual Report -The Chairperson reported that he and Mr. Sanchez-Potter have been collaborating on a draft that will be available for review at the November meeting.
- CAC Website –
Gail Fulton motion to accept the March 4, 2024 recommendations.
Mark Sanchez-Potter seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

The Chairperson to re-date the letter of recommendations and add URL's.

Old Business

- Hudson River Foundation -letter of support request.
The Council discussed what would be expected of the Council by signing the letter of support and it would be constructive to invite a representative from SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry to speak to the Council.

Gail Fulton made a motion to invite a representative to speak at the next CAC meeting via Teams.
Chris Knasiak seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.
- NYSDEC Urban and Community Forestry Grant - The Assistant Corporation Counsel said the contract is being executed.

- **On-going Updates**

- **Sub-Committees:**

- Urban Forestry Sub-Committee.

- 1) Fall tree planting plan- Ms. Knasiak reported that there has been no response from the Angelo Schembari, City Arborist. The Council discussed the next steps forward and decided on purchasing the ten trees designated from the local nurseries and coordinating with DPW to assist in the planting.

The Chairperson made a motion to purchase ten trees from local nurseries.

Mark Sanchez-Potter seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Knasiak said the Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA is due for recertification in December.

Gail Fulton made a motion to recertify for 2025 Tree City USA.

Chris Knasiak seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- 2) Volunteer report -Tabled.
- 3) Tree Planting Brochures -Tabled.

- Newburgh Climate Ready Sub-Committee

Mr. German reported: the CAC is the official Climate Smart Communities Taskforce; Newburgh Climate Ready is the branding for outreach. The sub-committee is not the Task Force. A work plan has been established, the sub-committee has been meeting bi-weekly via Teams Meeting to coordinate the details to bring forward to the Taskforce/CAC for consideration and action, objective is to achieve bronze for 2025, there are actions completed by the City that are ready for submittal to the CSC portal: source water protection, water smart landscaping and complete street policy. Several actions have been identified, completed or have commenced and they have been working on the Heating and Cooling campaign, the website and outreach.

Mr. Sanchez-Potter reported on the work for the Heating and Cooling Campaign, which includes a public engagement component that is best to start after the new year and that the City of Newburgh is the only one in Orange County that has a Climate Smart Task Force.

The Assistant Corporation Counsel said the website has been approved and next step is to update the content so it can go public.

Chris Knasiak made a motion to accept the work plan and all work leading up to achieve bronze.

Gail Fulton seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- DEC Natural Resource Inventory Grant

The Assistant Corporation Counsel reported the public engagement survey is being reworked per Executive Office comments, the first draft narrative is under review, an extension for a one-year is being requesting, and a meeting will be called for the stakeholder committee to set a new timetable.

- EPA Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities – Ronald Zorrilla reported that Dr. Bari was not available for some time, there was a delay in receipt of air quality monitoring equipment, and still conducting recruitment to place the monitors indoors and outdoors.
- Restoration Advisory Board /Stewart Air National Guard Water Project
The Chairperson reported that the RAB will hold a poster session October 23, 2024, from 5p.m. to 7p.m. at the Armory and the next meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2024.
- LWRP Update – Locally Adopted on 7-10-17 -No update to report.
- Tree Permit -Local Code Revision -No update to report.
- **Calendar of Upcoming events (webinars, training, community events)**
 - 10-08-24 Architectural Review Council Meeting
 - 10-11-24 Greater Newburgh Parks Conservancy Stakeholders Meeting
 - 10-12-24 Environmental Justice Fellows celebration at Tyrone Crabb Memorial Park.
 - 10-14-24 City Council Meeting
 - 10-15-24 Planning Board Meeting
 - 10-22-24 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
 - 10-23-24 Restoration Advisory Board Poster Session
 - 10-28-24 City Council Meeting

Public comment on general CAC non-agenda items

Kippy Boyle spoke on the Fall tree planting and the Climate Smart Task Force meetings.

**Mark Sanchez-Potter made Motion to Adjourn
Chris Knasiak seconded.
The motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting concluded 8:22 p.m.