

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

Zachary German

Chris Knasiak

Lesly Mejia

Mark Sanchez-Potter



Conservation Advisory Council Minutes of Meeting November 4, 2024 6:30 p.m. – Heritage Center

• Roll Call

Present:

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

Also Present:

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

Guests:

Kathy Lawrence, Julia Raskin

Meeting called to order 6:34p.m.

• **Public Comment on Agenda Items**

No comment.

• **Coastal Policy Consistency Review**

Newburgh Landing Pier

The Council reviewed the submitted Federal Consistency Assessment Form and supplement and found that the proposed action is consistent with the LWRP policy standards as set forth in the City of Newburgh Code of Ordinances §159-5.3 (G).

Mark Sanchez-Potter made a motion to accept the Federal Consistency Assessment Form.

Gail Fulton seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

• **Environmental Justice Fellows 2024 Program**

Kathy Lawrence reported on the annual EJF celebration, the new collaboration formed with the Newburgh Community Land Bank and their tree planting on Lander Street, the

Restoration Advisory Board community poster session they attended, their first teaching experience with a fifth-grade class at Horizons on the Hudson, their continued teaching at the Armory Center and attempts to garner teaching opportunities at other schools.

- **Presentation -Community Choice Aggregation Program Administrator of the City of Newburgh CCA Program**

Hannah Karp, Director of Municipal Care and Mike Gordon, Chief Strategy Officer appeared before the Council.

Ms. Karp gave an overview of Newburgh Community Power Program and its benefits within the municipality and how the program works for an individual. She spoke on an upcoming in-person, zoom or call-in public event located at the Newburgh Public Library, November 7, 14 and 21st, beginning at 7p.m. and that it is offered in English and Spanish. She gave the Newburgh Helpline, 845-859-9099, ext. 5.

Mr. Sanchez-Potter asked if this program is offered to homeowners only.

Ms. Karp said the program is offered to homeowners and renters, whoever has a Central Hudson bill.

Mr. Sanchez-Potter asked if an individual is eligible for the program if they are receiving HEAP.

Ms. Karp said the program is not available to those who are enrolled with HEAP.

Mr. Gordon said the Public Service Commission requires guaranteed savings in order to include HEAP and unfortunately, they do not allow Joule to protect lower income residents against price volatility, it is a state regulation.

The Chairperson asked if a price can be locked in for a certain period of time.

Ms. Karp said yes, as the Program Administrator, a fixed rate can be negotiated for the whole length of the contract.

The Chairperson asked if each subscriber is allowed to choose their own length of time.

Mr. Karp said the City signs a contract for a certain length of time and rate.

Administration

- **Approval of Minutes -October 2024**

Mark Sanchez-Potter motion to accept the October Minutes.

Gail Fulton seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- **Monthly Financial Report – Payments made to Orange Nursery and Devitt’s Supply for 10 total trees ordered and delivered to DPW. Payment made to NYSACC for the yearly 2024 subscription.**

- 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 a draft has been provided in the meeting materials for review and discussion at the December meeting.
- CAC Website – The Chairperson to re-date the letter of recommendations and add URL's.

New Business

- Iroquois Pipeline -Mark Sanchez-Potter gave a brief overview on this proposed project that is currently under review by the Department of Environmental Conservation. He said there are proposed pressure stations designated for Green County/Athens and Dutchess County/Dover. He recommended the CAC request the City of Newburgh pass a municipal resolution expressing the disapproval of this project and volunteered to draft a resolution.

Chris Knasiak made a motion for the CAC to draft a resolution against the project.
Lesly Mejia seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- NYSDEC Urban and Community Forestry Grant - The Assistant Corporation Counsel said the contract has been executed. She said they will go through a procurement process in the new year in tandem with hiring a full-time arborist with the Department of Public Works (DPW).

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

- Urban Forestry Sub-Committee.
 - 1) Fall tree planting plan- Ms. Knasiak reported on the tree purchase and the plan for DPW to plant ten trees.
The Chairperson reported that the owner of 162 Grand Street contacted him and requested that the scheduled planting for the pit in front of his property be reconsidered.
Ms. Knasiak said the Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA recertification is pending and will be ready to submit in December.
 - 2) Volunteer report -Tabled.
 - 3) Tree Planting Brochures -Tabled.
- Newburgh Climate Ready Sub-Committee

Mr. German reported: the three initial CSC actions were changed to passing a resolution to create the CSC taskforce, local forestry list and water smart landscaping. He said the website requires revisions with input from the CAC. CAC members will review and submit recommended revisions to be reviewed at the December meeting.

- DEC Natural Resource Inventory Grant
The Assistant Corporation Counsel reported the draft narrative, and maps are still under review and when completed, comments will be sent to Hudsonia and Greenplan, the survey revision is ongoing and will be sent to the Executive Office for approval, the grant extension approval is pending, and once the reviews are underway the Steering Committee will be brought back together to develop a new timetable.
- EPA Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities – No update to report.
- Restoration Advisory Board /Stewart Air National Guard Water Project
The Chairperson reported that the RAB met on October 23, 2024 at the Armory and it was well received and that there is an on-line meeting 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

No comments.

**The Chairperson made Motion to Adjourn
Chris Knasiak seconded.
The motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting concluded 8:04 p.m.