

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 December 2, 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, Elisabeth Balachova, Michelle Prado,
Ashley Martinez, Savonni Bailey**

Meeting called to order 6:37p.m.

- **Public Comment on Agenda Items**
No comment.
- **Environmental Justice Fellows 2024 Program**

Elisabeth Balachova, Program Manager, reported that the EJF program concludes this month. She enjoyed the experience of watching the individual changes in each Environmental Justice Fellow as the program advanced, how the Fellows advocated for their community and the events they attended.

Michelle Prado reported on her experience participating in the EJF and the impact it had on her: improved socialization and public speaking skills and enjoyed the plantings with the Community Land Bank and the Water Resource Center.

Ashley Martinez reported on her experience participating in the EJF and the impact it had on her: canvassing and outreach with the EJF group, listening to the public's needs, improved communication skills, and enjoyed participating in three conferences, the tree

planting with the Newburgh Community Land Bank and the free flower giveaways.

Savonni Bailey reported on her experience participating in the EJF and the impact it had on her: the positive impact planting trees had on the community and teaching tree care to young students.

Ms. Balachova invited the CAC to a farewell potluck on December 14, 2024, 12p.m. to 2p.m. at Wireworks.

Kathy Lawrence said the EJF final report to City Council is December 5, 2024.

Administration

- Approval of Minutes -November 2024

Mark Sanchez-Potter motion to accept the November Minutes.

Gail Fulton seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- Monthly Financial Report – No new expenses to report.
- 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 final draft version is forthcoming.
- CAC Website – The Chairperson to re-date the letter of recommendations and add URL's.

Old Business

- NYSDEC Urban and Community Forestry Grant - The Assistant Corporation Counsel reported that the RFP will be drafted after the new year, it will be put out competitively, and it will be coordinated with the solicitation for the City Arborist. The Chairperson expressed his disagreement about tying the RFP for the Tree Inventory to the hiring of the City Arborist.
- Iroquois Pipeline -Mark Sanchez-Potter drafted a resolution for submission to City Council.

Mark Sanchez-Potter made a motion for the CAC to sign a formal resolution against the project and send as an official recommendation to the Executive Office, for City Council approval.

Chris Knasiak seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- **On-going Updates**

- **Sub-Committees:**

- Urban Forestry Sub-Committee.

- 1) Recycle your Christmas Tree Event- Ms. Knasiak asked the Council if they would like to hold this event for 2025.
The Council unanimously agreed to hold the event in coordination with the DPW, either January 4, 5 or 11, 2025.

Chris Knasiak made a motion for the CAC to submit an event permit to the City Clerk's office pending the DPW's availability.

Mark Sanchez-Potter seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- 2) Ms. Knasiak reported on the recent non-CAC tree planting on Liberty Street and recommended developing a process for street tree planting.
- 3) Ms. Knasiak reported on the CAC Fall Tree planting; 10 trees planted with the assistance from DPW.
- 4) Ms. Knasiak said the Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA recertification was being submitted the evening of December 2, 2024.
- 5) Volunteer report -Tabled.
- 6) Tree Planting Brochures -Tabled.

- Newburgh Climate Ready Sub-Committee

Zachary German reported: The three CSC actions: create the CSC taskforce, local forestry list and water smart landscaping are pending submission.

He provided a draft version of the website and with the CAC, reviewed his recommended changes for CAC approval.

Mr. German made a motion to approve the website format as it is written with the recommended revisions.

Chris Knasiak seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

The Assistant Corporation Counsel said the web domain had expired and it will be renewed.

- DEC Natural Resource Inventory Grant

The Assistant Corporation Counsel reported Planning and Development has reviewed narrative and provided comments, the maps are still under review, the survey has been revised and sent to the Executive Office for approval, a meeting with the Steering Committee regarding a new timetable is pending, and the grant extension approval is still pending.

- 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 diversion project is pending, and the current information is that there is five options for consideration and the Department of Transportation has not responded to requests for information.
- LWRP Update – Locally Adopted on 7-10-17 -The Chairperson said he received an email from the Director of Planning & Development that the LWRP has been approved by the Department of State. He will share this email for the next meeting.
- Tree Permit -Local Code Revision -No update to report.
- **Calendar of Upcoming events (webinars, training, community events)**
 - 12-06-24 Greater Newburgh Parks Conservancy Stakeholders Meeting
 - 12-09-24 City Council Meeting
 - 12-10-24 Architectural Review Council Meeting
 - 12-14-24 Environmental Justice Fellows farewell potluck at Wireworks, 12p.m. to 2p.m.
 - 12-17-24 Planning Board Meeting
 - 12-23-24 City Council Meeting
 - 12-24-24 Zoning Board of Appeals 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 at 8:01 p.m.