

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

Justin Rider

Mark Sanchez-Potter



Conservation Advisory Council

Minutes of Meeting

June 2, 2025

6:30 p.m. – Heritage Center

- **Roll Call**

Present:

Chuck Thomas, Chairperson, Gail Fulton, Zachary German, Chris Knasiak, Justin Rider

Excused Absence:

Lesly Mejia, Mark Sanchez-Potter

Also Present:

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

Meeting called to order 6:33p.m.

- **Public Comment on Agenda Items**

No comment.

Site Plan Review

203 Grand Street

Owner: Nutopia 203 Grand Street LLC

Applicant: Alvin Moonesar

Site Plan application to add two dwelling units to an existing six-unit apartment house.

Alvin Moonesar appeared before the Council and gave an overview of the proposed project.

The CAC reviewed the Coastal Assessment Form.

The Chairperson made a motion to accept the Coastal Assessment Form.

Zachary German seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Determination: Project is consistent with the LWRP.

Administration

- Approval of Minutes -May 2025

Gail Fulton made a motion to accept the May minutes.

Chris Knasiak seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- Monthly Financial Report – No expenses to report.
- Volunteer Hours: Tracking and reporting –
Total volunteer hours for the month of May: Chuck Thomas, 6 hours, Ms. Fulton, 3.5 hours, Mr. German 3 hours, and Chris Knasiak 2 hours.
- Annual Disclosure and Training – Members who have not completed training must do so and submit acknowledgement to the Land Use Secretary.
- 2024 Annual Report – Tabled.

Old Business

- Draft appeal to the City Council regarding stricter enforcement of illegal trash dumping and defacing. – Tabled.
- Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act Resolution Request. – Tabled.
- NYSDEC Urban and Community Forestry Grant - The Assistant Corporation Counsel reported that the RFP is being posted and an option to include park lands was included. This addition would be funded by the city should it elect to accept a proposal.
- Draft resolution to request the waterfront plan for Con Iron and incinerator/sewer plant areas. –The Council reviewed the draft letter prepared by Mr. Sanchez-Potter. The Assistant Corporation Counsel suggested including what actions took place, including specific data, and recommendations for any future clean-ups. The Chairperson suggested including best practices and studies.
- Quassaick Creek and Schleiermacher Park – Tabled.
- CSX Underpass Beautification Plan – Tabled.

New Business

- 2026 Budget Proposal - The Assistant Corporation Counsel said the 2026 budget submission are due in July and recommended the sub-committees review what financial resources are required for proposed events, tree plantings, outreach, etc.
- **On-going Updates**
Sub-Committees:
- Urban Forestry Sub-Committee.

- 1) Spring Tree Planting- Ms. Knasiak spoke of 5 trees proposed for Prospect Street and a replacement tree planting at 199 Broadway.

The Chairperson made a motion to schedule the 6 tree plantings.

Zachary Coleman seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- 2) Fall Tree Planting – Ms. Knasiak reported the subcommittee met and discussed plans for tree planting and outreach. She said a fall tree-planting plan proposal is pending.
- 3) Tree City application – Ms. Knasiak requested adding to the August agenda as it requires City Council review and approval.
- 4) City of Newburgh “National Night Out” – Ms. Knasiak reported she will develop a proposal for the CAC to have a table at the event.
- 5) Tree City Sign. – Ms. Knasiak reported the CAC has a second sign and discussed with the CAC a location, specifically a “gateway to the city” and suggested South Street and Pierces Rd S.

Chris Knasiak made a motion to propose South Street and Pierces Rd S.

Zachary Coleman seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- Newburgh Climate Ready Sub-Committee-Zachary German reported on the updates:

1. Of the 2 mandatory actions, establishing the CAC as a taskforce is completed and a resolution signed and the City appointing a coordinator is pending.
2. Of the 3 priority actions: completed street policy, electronic vehicle charging stations and the Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) are pending submission.
3. Of the 4 actions across 4 different categories of pledge elements, 3 are in process: water smart landscaping, launching the website, and the Community Choice Aggregate (CCA).

The Assistant Corporation Counsel reported that the website is being reviewed, revisions will be completed in July and then launched in August and that the CCA program administrator, Joule Community Power, had since discontinued their services with the city. The CCA program is on pause.

- DEC Natural Resource Inventory Grant - The Assistant Corporation Counsel reported the website is currently being revised and pending City approval of revisions.
- Restoration Advisory Board /Stewart Air National Guard Water Project – The Chairperson reported on discussions to establish a new pipe system to divert water into the Silver Spring Reservoir: responsibility will be shared 50/50 between the Department of Transportation and the Department of Defense; a new survey was sent to 10,000 residents in English and Spanish of which they have received back 100 English responses and 1 Spanish response.

- Tree Permit -Local Code Revision - The Assistant Corporation Counsel said a revised draft will be available for Council review at the July meeting.
- ReLeaf Conference - The Assistant Corporation Counsel asked the Council to inform the Secretary if interested in attending the July 22nd conference.
- **Calendar of Upcoming events (webinars, training, community events)**
 - 6-07-25 Greater Newburgh Parks Conservancy “Green Up Newburgh” Event at Tyrone Crabb Park
 - 6-09-25 City Council Meeting
 - 6-10-25 Architectural Review Council Meeting
 - 6-13-25 Greater Newburgh Parks Conservancy Stakeholders Meeting
 - 6-17-25 Planning Board Meeting
 - 6-24-25 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting

Public comment on general CAC non-agenda items – No comment.

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

Meeting concluded at 7:48p.m.