

# 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

Justin Rider

Mark Sanchez-Potter



## Conservation Advisory Council

### Minutes of Meeting

July 7, 2025

6:30 p.m. – Heritage Center

- **Roll Call**

**Present:**

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

**Unexcused Absence:**

**Lesly Mejia**

**Also Present:**

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

**Guests:**

**Ingrid B. Haeckel/DEC, Jonathan Midler/City Planner**

**Meeting called to order 6:31p.m.**

- **Public Comment on Agenda Items**

No comment.

- **Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) Presentation**

**Representative: Ingrid B. Haeckel/Department of Environmental Conservation**

Jonathan Midler, City Planner, reported: the NRI consultants have completed their third draft of maps, narrative and appendices, the next steps are to complete a version for public view, and he requested CAC review and comments by July 21<sup>st</sup>; an online park's opinion survey (with a QR code) will be open until the end of October; is requesting the CAC's assistance for community outreach for the survey.

Ingrid B. Haeckel, DEC/Manager of the Hudson River Estuary Program/Manager of the NRI grant, gave an overview of what an NRI is and how it benefits the community. She and the CAC agreed to: public workshops, presentations to the Planning Board and the City Council, online link to why the NRI is important, working with the consultants on deeper work with the maps and Executive Office driven NRI public relations before the survey is available to the public.

## **Administration**

- Approval of Minutes -June 2025

Gail Fulton made a motion to accept the June minutes.

Chris Knasiak seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- Monthly Financial Report – One expense of \$1,819.00 to Devitt’s Supply for the purchase of 6 trees for the Spring Tree Planting.
- Volunteer Hours: Tracking and reporting.  
Total volunteer hours for the month of June: The Chairperson 1:15, Ms. Fulton 1:15, Mr. German 5:15 hours, Ms. Knasiak 1:15, and Mr. Rider 1:15.
- Annual Disclosure and Training – Members who have not completed training must do so and submit acknowledgement to the Land Use Secretary.
- 2024 Annual Report – Council members reviewed Mr. Sanchez-Potter’s draft. Recommendations included adding site review project descriptions, finances, tree planting locations, photos from 2024, and total volunteer hours.
- 2026 Budget Proposal – Council members reviewed 2024 and 2025 expenses and discussed proposed 2026 expenses per line: tree plantings and tree maintenance, events, community engagements, conferences, education, office supplies and subscriptions.

## **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 when the RFP is reviewed and approved by the Executive Office, it will be posted. She said the 3-year grant was awarded in 2023, the contract was signed late in 2024, a 10-month extension was requested to account for the time period, and the grant will then conclude in 2027.
- Draft resolution to request the waterfront plan for Con Iron and incinerator/sewer plant areas. –Tabled.
- Quassaick Creek and Schleiermacher Park – The Assistant Corporation Counsel said this was being addressed by City staff. The Board agreed to remove this from the agenda.

- CSX Underpass Beautification Plan – Nothing further to review. The Board agreed to remove this from the agenda.

## **New Business**

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

- Urban Forestry Sub-Committee.
  - Spring Tree Planting- Ms. Knasiak reported on the 6 trees planted on Prospect Street and the replacement tree planted at 199 Broadway.
  - Tree Identifiers – Ms. Knasiak proposed engraved bricks for identifying planted trees. The Council discussed and decided to start with 6 engraved bricks at Triangle Park where the Tree City sign is located. Ms. Knasiak to send out a font for review and approval.
  - Ash Borer Tree Injections -Ms. Knasiak said she will be meeting with a certified arborist on 7/10/25 to review 7 infected trees and asked the Council to spend the budgeted money for treatment, if determined necessary.

Zachary German made a motion to treat 7 trees for Ash Borer Treatment from the Tree Planting and Maintenance line.

Justin Rider seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- City of Newburgh “National Night Out” – The Secretary to contact the Recreation Department regarding the process to host a CAC table at the event.
- CAC Brochure – Ms. Knasiak presented a draft brochure to be distributed at the National Night Out. The Assistant Corporation Counsel will forward to the Executive Office for review and approval.
- Tree City Sign. – Ms. Knasiak asked the Council about purchasing a third sign to be posted at another City entry way.

Mark Sanchez-Potter made a motion to purchase a third Tree City sign.

Gail Fulton seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- Newburgh Climate Ready Sub-Committee- The Assistant Corporation Counsel Actions Update:
  - Completed: Complete Streets Policy and Farmer’s Market
  - Pending Submission: Cooling Centers, Water Smart Landscaping
  - In Process: NRI, Tree Inventory, EV Charging Stations
  - To Collaborate with Transportation Advisory Committee: Traffic Calming, Access to Public Transit, and Planning for Biking and Walking

- Discontinued: Community Choice Aggregation, Source Water Protection
- Restoration Advisory Board /Stewart Air National Guard Water Project – The Chairperson reported the next meeting will be July 28, 2025 at the Armory.
- Tree Permit -Local Code Revision - The Assistant Corporation Counsel asked the Council for their review and comments for the next meeting.
- **Calendar of Upcoming events (webinars, training, community events)**
  - 7-08-25 Architectural Review Council Meeting
  - 7-11-25 Greater Newburgh Parks Conservancy Stakeholders Meeting
  - 7-14-25 City Council Meeting
  - 7-15-25 Planning Board Meeting
  - 7-22-25 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
  - 7-28-25 Restoration Advisory Board /Stewart Air National Guard Water Project Meeting
  - 8-13-25 Newburgh National Night Out

**Public comment on general CAC non-agenda items** – Mr. Sanchez-Potter informed the Council of the “Save the Newburgh Ferry” rally 7/8/25 6p.m. at the Newburgh landing.

**Chris Knasiack made Motion to Adjourn**

**Zachary German seconded.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**Meeting concluded at 8:25p.m.**