

Conservation Advisory Council | City of Newburgh, New York

The Heritage Center, 123 Grand Street, Newburgh, New York 12550

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Council Members:

Chuck Thomas, Chairman

Marcel Barrick

Kippy Boyle

Karen Eberle-McCarthy

Gail Fulton

Alison Filosa

Genie Abrams



Conservation Advisory Council Minutes of Meeting September 19, 2019 – 6:30 PM

1. Roll Call

Present: Chuck Thomas, Chairperson, Gail Fulton, Karen Eberle-McCarthy, Marcel Barrick, Genie Abrams, Omar Balbuena-Palma (Secretary)

Excused: Kippy Boyle, Alison Filosa

2. Administration

- **Approval of Minutes from August meeting**

The August minutes were approved.

Motion by: Karen Eberle-McCarthy

Seconded by: Marcel Barrick

The motion passed unanimously.

- **Monthly Financial Report**

The Secretary said the outstanding invoices were paid and now that the budget has been submitted and presented, it is up to the City Council to determine if the proposed budget gets implemented.

Ms. Abrams said she stressed to the City Council that a full-time arborist is needed.

Mr. Thomas thanked the CAC members for their efforts and said all they can do now is wait. He said the CAC should concentrate on spending the rest of the budget on the Fall planting.

- **Submit Monthly Volunteer Hours**

CAC members submitted their volunteer hours to Ms. Fulton.

3. Site Plan Reviews

- **The Regal Bag / Water Street Development Project (Updated)**

The Secretary said the public hearing remains open and anyone wishing to comment on the application may do so at the October 15 Planning Board meeting.

4. CAC Priority Projects

- **Forest Cover Change in Newburgh**

The Secretary said Ryan Lennon submitted maps that show there was significant forest loss between 2001 and 2016. He said Mr. Lennon was not able to attend the CAC meeting but per an e-mail, the data on the maps suggest that development was the main driver of forest loss. The Secretary said he is waiting for a response from Mr. Lennon.

- **LWRP Update -Locally Adopted on 7-10-17**

No update.

- **Natural Resource Inventory (NRI/Open Space)**

No update.

- **Urban Forestry**

- **GEM Vehicle Status**

Mr. Thomas said a new watering tank should be purchased for the GEM. Mr. Barrick said he will look at the different options available to the CAC.

- **Fall Planting**

Mr. Thomas said Fall has arrived and the CAC has a lot of tree plantings to do around the City. He said the CAC should authorize the purchase of trees for Fall planting.

Motion by: Genie Abrams

Seconded by: Karen Eberle-McCarthy

The motion passed unanimously.

The Secretary said he will reach out to Ms. Boyle to consolidate a list for all the properties that require trees.

- **S. William St. Grant Status**

Ms. Eberle-McCarthy said the tree plantings will soon begin.

- **Code Revisions for Trees**

Mr. Barrick said the existing City Code does not give much protection to trees outside the public right of way. He said he is looking to increase tree protection within the City and implement new protocols for removing trees. He said the tree pit size should also be increased.

- **Tree/Sidewalks Conflict Solutions**

The Secretary said Ms. Boyle gathered a list of trees that require removal. He said he will follow up to see if there is any intent to plant new trees.

- **Community Education Report**

Ms. Abrams confirmed that trees in the public right of way are the responsibility of the property owner. She confirmed that the trees cannot be removed until the tree is inspected and a permit issued. She said a lot of property owners are unaware of the protocols regarding tree removal/maintenance and should be notified.

- **Parks – Park Conservancy Meeting**

Ms. Eberle-McCarthy said the Conservancy is a not for profit 501(C)(3) and proceeding according to plan.

- **CAC Website – Update**

The Secretary said he reached out to the TreeKeeper Software Support Team but has not received a response. He said he will follow up soon.

5. On-going Natural Resource/Environmental Updates

- **Drinking Water**

Mr. Barrick said the Department of Defense has restarted the process to obtain members to the Restoration Advisory Committee. He said anyone interested should apply.

Mr. Thomas said the Restoration Advisory Committee will probably conduct their first official meeting at the beginning of 2020. He said the public should also be aware that the Trump Administration recently rolled back the Clean Water Protection. He said a lot of litigation will follow.

- **Newburgh Waterfront Updates**

- **Waterfront Trail**

No update.

- **South Street Park; Fishing Pier & First Street Walkway/Newburgh Landing Restoration**

No update.

- **Energy-related issues**

No update.

6. New Business

- **Mount Saint Mary College Civic Internship/Fellowship Program**

Ms. Abrams said Mount Saint Mary College has agreed to an internship program for the CAC for the 2020 school year. She said a flyer was forwarded to the members with additional details.

Mr. Thomas said a representative will appear at the next meeting to go over the program.

7. Calendar of Upcoming events (webinars, training, community events) (5 Minutes)

- 10/08 Talking Tech, webinar
- 10/15 City of Newburgh Planning Board Meeting (Public Hearing)

RECAP OF ACTION ITEMS FOR SEPTEMBER (Balbuena)

- The Secretary will:
 - Contact the IT Department regarding Ms. Abram's e-mail error;
 - Follow up with the TreeKeeper Software Support Team;
 - Contact Ms. Boyle for the tree planting invoices;
 - Follow up with Ryan Lennon regarding tree coverage;
 - Contact Deborah Dresser regarding CAC ID tags/lanyards;
- Mr. Barrick will review the watering tank options for the CAC;

- CAC should brainstorm process/goals for the internship program;

8. Motion to Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Marcel Barrick

Motion Seconded: Genie Abrams

The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL PROJECT REVIEWS*

2019 Project Reviews by CAC

1/3	82 Bridge Street	7/25	297 Grand Street
2/7	43 Beacon Street	7/25	12 Front Street
3/21	260 Liberty Street	7/25	1 S Colden Street
4/18	Kaplan Water Street Redevelopment Project	8/15	188 Grand Street

2018 Project Reviews by CAC

1/5	286 Grand Street	5/3	2 Nicoll Street
2/1	5 Scobie Drive	8/2	120 Front Street
3/1	136 Lake Street		

2017 Project Reviews by CAC

1/5	182 Fullerton Ave. (Central Hudson)	4/6	123 Montgomery Street
2/2	Mill Street Bridge	5/4	35-37 Broad Street
3/2	First Street Streetscape Improvements	6/1	640 Broadway
3/2	1 Park Place	9/7	603 Broadway
3/2	100 Third Street	10/5	Sunset Ridge
4/6	73-85 Grand Street	12/7	27 S. Water Street
4/6	98 Grand Street		

2016 Project Reviews by CAC

1/7	198 S. Robinson	4/5	GPI Site Plans for Liberty St.
2/4	Carpenter Ave.	6/20	Mill Street Partners – Mid Broadway Site
4/7	2 Nicoll Street	7/25	New Windsor Hospitality
9/1	Steelways		

*See archives for prior years