

Conservation Advisory Council | City of Newburgh, New York

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Council Members:

Chuck Thomas, Chairman

Marcel Barrick

Kippy Boyle

Deborah Dresser

Karen Eberle-McCarthy

Gail Fulton

Phil Prinzivalli



Conservation Advisory Council Minutes of Meeting November 3, 2016 – 6:40 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: Kippy Boyle, Phil Prinzivalli, Karen McCarthy, Chuck Thomas, Marcel Barrick, Deborah Dresser. Gail Fulton (arrived at 6:54pm) Omar Balbuena-Palma (Secretary)

Guest: Eliana Diaz, Administrative Assistant

2. Administration

a. Approval of Minutes from October 6, 2016

Chuck Thomas asked to excuse the minutes until the next CAC meeting December 1st 2016.

b. Monthly Financial Report Deborah

Main budget - \$7,581.00 going towards GEM Polaris, unencumbered is \$995.40. TD Grant - outstanding bills are the Polaris GEM to be paid next week); Devitt's bills \$7875.00 for 25 trees. There is \$956.17 left to spend before November 30th 2016.

c. 2017 budget – Manager's Proposal Chuck

Submitted a budget request for \$50k however the Board drastically cut the budget to around \$10k. A discussion followed.

d. Council Membership (expiration of terms) Chuck

Deborah Dresser, Gail Fulton, and Phil Prinzivalli's term on the council expire on November 30th 2016. Both Deborah and Gail agreed to run for another three year term; Phil declined to continue as a member of the CAC but would like to continue as a member of the Urban Forestry Committee. The CAC members will review a section of the Code of the City of Newburgh and in addition specify the skills and experience needed in a candidate to take Phil's place. Deborah and Chuck will draft a description that will be submitted to Corporate Council, Michelle Kelson.

e. Volunteer Hours

Kippy reminded the Council to submit their volunteer hours.

3. Site Plan Reviews

a. Steelways & City Easement Agreement Status Chuck

Chuck reported a meeting with the City Manager and city staff in the City Manager's office and Mr. Plotkin has been arranged to discuss alternate plans for a trail because they do not want to put an easement across their property;

Chuck had sent a recommendation letter to Planning Board and City of Newburgh Planning dept. on October 13 asking that Steelways not to clear cut the property. If they do cut 10 acre's worth of trees they need to replace them The CAC did a Coastal Consistency Review and Identified federally endangered species: bog turtle, Indiana and northern bats, the Agramidi plant in the area of the Quassaick Creek that are likely to be compromised by this project. Recommended that the forest could be preserved, however Animal Hughes (representing Steelways) argued that it's a forty (40) year forest and it was the applicant/owners fault that he didn't brush hog it every ten years and so they claim that it is not a forest.

As a result of the Planning Board meeting, Mr. Plotkin has reportedly reduced the footprint of the pipe area and reduced the amount of clear cutting needed. That needs to be confirmed. Steelways wants to go within 50 feet of the creek. CAC suggested they consider erosion control [bio swales] and the planting of native species to buffer the stream, recommended reclamation and naturalization of the one-hundred (100) foot buffer zone immediately following the five (5) year life of the project. Any further negative impact within the buffer zone should not be permitted.

Kippy mentioned the Planning Board had read the CAC letter and asked question about some of the CAC issues but Animal Hughes tried to deflect the answers. Kippy does not recall hearing a change in the plans; at the end Steelways could not get a vote to proceed in the meeting, and so Kippy suggested a meeting with the CAC, Planning Board and Steelways to talk about the project.

Saturday (October 30th) Animal Hughes, who is advising Mr. Plotkin, talked with Chuck about the proposed easement from Snake hill down to Quassaick Creek. The easement on the front of their property will connect to Bill Prime's property who, according to Hughes, will give a right of way across his property crossing the Quassaick Creek. In addition, he will provide twenty parking spaces at the intersection of Walsh Road and River Road. Hughes said that Steelways is willing to build a sidewalk on the west side of the Quassaick Creek that leads up to the CSX railroad tracks, plus a ramp to the overpass so that people can cross Route 9W and come back down to Mr. Plotkin's property and connect with the trail on the Consolidated Iron site. Hughes also said that Steelways cut back on the amount of piping and the number of trees to cut and reverted back to the one-hundred (100) foot buffer from the Quassaick Creek.

At this point Chuck has not seen the plan on paper and the CAC has no agreements from any of the property owners. The property south of Walsh Road is all on the town of New Windsor meaning the CAC has to get approval from the Town of New Windsor.

b. 9W Gas Station (corner of Broadway and Sacred Heart Church)

There are no updates on this topic.

c. Update on Habitat for Humanity, Ann/Johnson Streets Kippy

Habitat for Humanity's efforts to preserve the tree at the corner of Ann St. and South Johnson Street, were compromised by the priority of the City Police and Fire Department to eliminate obstruction to Bluetooth signal for emergency services. The top of the tree was not saved. Habitat for Humanity will keep the CAC posted on further developments that will impact trees.

4. CAC Priority Projects

a. LWRP Update BFJ revised Sections III and IV Chuck

BFJ originally funded for \$35k but the project has exceeded the initial proposal. The project is still underway and Chuck notes that the word just didn't get out about the public comment meeting for the project.

b. Natural Resource Inventory (NRI/ Open Space)

There are no updates on this topic.

c. Green Infrastructure

There are no updates on this topic.

i) TD Bank Green Streets Grant Closeout Deborah

Phil and Marcel are looking into getting the water pump and water tank for the watering vehicle. Deadline is November 30th for the Final report to TD Bank.

ii) GEM Polaris Kippy

Will arrive soon.

iii) Citizen's Request

There are no updates on this topic

iv) Over-wintered trees – Fall Planting? Marcel

Marcel noted that the trees are alive and still looking good, but is a little worried if they can survive the coming winter.

v) Cameras & Trees

There are no updates on this topic

vi) Parks Karen

There are no updates on this topic.

vii) Complete Streets 10/26 Ribbon-cutting

There are no updates on this topic

viii) Community Education – 10/26 meeting with Joshua Brown

Meeting with Marcel, Kippy, Karen, Phil and Joshua--discussing way to brand the Urban Forestry to make it more appealing to the public. It will highlight and educate the community on the tree planting process, and will hold special contests such as: best

(favorite) tree in the park/city. Joshua represents a different audience with fresh ideas on how to get people excited.

5. On-going Natural Resource\Environmental Updates

a. Drinking Water:

10/26 public meeting re-testing A number of CAC members are to be tested.

b. Barge Anchorage Letter Due Dec. 6 Kippy

Letter will be sent to Coast Guard by Kippy after some inputs from Marcel.

c. Energy-related Issues

There are no updates on this topic

d. Newburgh Waterfront Updates

i) Waterfront Trail

There are no updates on this topic

ii) South Street Park; Fishing Pier & First Street Walkway/Newburgh Restoration Center

There are no updates on this topic

iii) Regal Bag clear-cutting/CSX Wall/25 Parking Spaces

Kippy will inquire if anything about clear-cutting came before the Planning Board.

e. Pilgrim Pipeline

i) There are no updates on this topic

6. New Business

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

- Chuck and Deborah - press release to be distributed for the vacancy in the CAC
- Chuck - Steelways Inc. meeting at 4 pm in the executive office 11/4
- Marcel will provide remaining invoices to close out the TD Bank project by next Tuesday.
- The NYS Urban Forestry Council has a website they've created for all the communities that have urban management plans. The CAC also needs to put the link on their website and on the City's website.
- Marcel, Karen, Gail, Deborah - Planning & Land Use Course held in Main Street, Goshen, November 18, 2016, 8:30am - 3:30pm

This will be the last official meeting that Phil will be a part of as a member of the CAC. From everyone still in the CAC, we wish you the best in your endeavors and thank you for your service.

8. Motion to Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: **Chuck Thomas**

Motion Seconded: **Gail Fulton**

Vote: **Unanimously Approved**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Project Reviews by CAC in 2016

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	10/6

Project Reviews by CAC in 2015

First St. Fishing Pier; Comments to Engineering 6/8/15	Habitat Newburgh - Ann St. at Johnston, four units; CAC Ltr 9/04/15
Safe Harbors Park- Broadway at Liberty; comments to PB 8/12/15	Habitat Newburgh – 123 Washington Street – street trees
T/Newburgh Matrix Development in City Watershed- 17K/I-87; CAC Ltr 8/20/15	

Project Reviews by CAC in 2014

Shell Gas Station (405 Broadway)	Independent living
Rt. 300 - Crystal Run	Re-Zoning/ LWRP Update
Water Tower Replacement	Newburgh Landing/ South St./ Fishing Pier
Torches	Tyrone Crabb Park Planting List
#5 Scobie Drive	North Montgomery St.