



Kingston Conservation Advisory Council  
City Hall Conference Room 1  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
September 26, 2013 6:30pm

**Council members:** Julie Noble (Chair), Diane Bonavita, Emilie Hauser, Kevin McEvoy, Casey Schwarz, Gregg Swanzey were present constituting a quorum

6:36pm Julie Call to order

**Guests and Public Comment:** No public comment/no guests at start of meeting; Laura Heady arrived 6:45, Mary McNamara arrived 7:10, 7:20 Nancy Cozean (Cozean Communications, former Mayor of Poughkeepsie), 7:25 Gretchen Stevens

**Modifications to the Agenda:** No motions were made and no resolutions presented regarding modifications to the agenda

**Approval August 2013 Meeting Minutes:** August minutes approval tabled due to the document not being prepared and not available yet;

### Old Business

1. CAC Website: Discussion with no motions made and no resolutions presented: Scenic Hudson agreed to pay for CAC website hosting with Julie to get reimbursement when funding comes through; Julie will follow up through Sacha Spector at Scenic Hudson;
2. CAC Budget request: Discussion with no motions made and no resolutions presented: Budget line request sent to Jim Noble with need to coordinate with Mayor ;
3. Kingston Flooding Issues: Discussion with no motions made and no resolutions presented: The Chairperson provided a follow up update on Sheila Shaefer and the Main St. Brook Flooding issue. The Common Council may address as part of an infrastructure committee or as a separate flooding subcommittee with CAC to advise if requested but CAC shall not spearhead either subcommittee under discussion.

**Special presentation on Habitat Summary** by **Laura Heady** *Biodiversity Outreach Coordinator, DEC Hudson River Estuary Program*: Presentation began at 6:45 PM with Laura stating she has a series of maps, and that the Natural Resource Inventory can be the foundation for an open space plan; resulted in no motions made and no resolutions presented;

Final Habitat Summary figures and topics discussed as follows:

1. Regional Context-watersheds (Rondout including the Wallkill & Esopus), matrix forests (Esopus Lloyd wetlands & ridges, Hudson Valley Shale & Limestone ridges-calcerious ridges), significant biodiversity areas (Indiana bat at the Knaust cave on Delaware Ave)
2. Major Ecological & Natural Features to be included
3. Streams, floodplains (100 & 500) wetlands, freshwater (possible, probable for inclusion), Gregg brought up

the question concerning the Esopus Creek flood wall recertification possibly changing floodplain map;

4. Possible need to show major roads labeled;

5. Forest patches-organized by acreage

a. stepping stone (200-1999 acres), Kingston has patches of stepping stone

b. locally significant (2000-4999 acres), Esopus has significant matrix forest area

c. regionally significant (5000-19999 acres),

6. Shoreline habitats discussed for inclusion are:

a. tidal wetlands, SAV beds (damage to beds mentioned),

b. NYSDOS significant coastal fish & wildlife, important areas for rare plants, animals & Hudson R., anadromous fish concentration and waterfowl areas,

c. shoreline types (Natural Heritage Area data), pied bill grebe and eagle habitats, significant shoreline types viewed from boat (woody, bulkheads, revetment),

Q&A: Mary McNamara suggested making clear connectivity of tributaries to the Hudson, Julie suggested adding floodplain, Gregg suggested including eagle habitats & polygons for habitat areas

Laura finished with a discussion of the narrative summary which would include a description & tables of species, resources, conservation principles (from Hudsonia) and hyperlinks to be included in pdf and also hard copy and a discussion of timeframe with CAC to get a draft pdf shortly before comp plan comes out

**NRI update and mapping:** A discussion followed the presentation with no motions made and no resolutions presented:

a. Gregg sent GIS shape files to Tom Hynes at UCGIS, Tom has made a map package with 4-5 base maps and shape file layers;

b. Laura has data to provide and needs a data sharing agreement with County and CAC; pdf files cannot be made; ARC GIS needs to be updated to ARC 10; Laura is creating pdf images for habitat summary and will write up accompanying text;

c. Emilie discussed having the maps for comp plan; CAC to write open space plan to go to comp plan

**Special Presentation on Kingston Habitat Map by Gretchen Stevens, Director, Biodiversity Resources Center, Hudsonia Ltd.**

7:55 PM Gretchen Stevens began a presentation of recent draft of NRI mapping of significant habitat corridor with connectivity to north and south of the City proper to Town of Ulster. Present highlights included:

a. Upper end of Twaalfskill mapped

b. Possible rename map as "Selected Significant Habitats in City of Kingston"

c. City parks included, lighthouse now included, SAV beds included; park indications may be misleading as to whether parks are habitat areas

d. Study area to be delineated, parks may be taken off and put in separate map

Question to whether NWI is necessary since they will be on Laura's maps

e. Streams & Creeks: question as to Tannery Brook and sinkhole area near Linderman, Tannery Brook water being diverted to tunnel to Rondout, Milone and MacBroom Rondout Creek Watershed map or City engineer to provide data on which watershed the water actually flows; Streams to remain in, need engineering data, discuss daylight and subterranean portions

- f. Parks, wetlands are out of NRI Map, Laura providing wetlands, separate parks
- g. Flatbush Ridge limestone, Laura Heady mentioned that she can include Flatbush Ridge in Town of Ulster in her maps and narrative; Kevin mentioned earlier efforts by Kingston Land Trust in this area
- h. Bluestone needs to be mentioned-maybe separately
- i. O&W Rail Trail area U&D area to be included on Esopus
- j. Hudsonia habitat factsheets
- k. possible letter to Fran Dunwell at DEC

Next steps on NRI:

CAC to follow up with Laura and Gretchen and with Tom on mapping

**Stream Habitat:** At approx 8:45 PM Mary McNamara was given the floor and spoke on stream habitat, and gave brief presentation with fish charts which resulted in no motions made and no resolutions presented.

#### **New Communications/Business (preliminary discussion)**

1. Regarding **AVR and Hudson Landing Promenade**, a discussion concerning engineering design and a review with Suzanne Cahill and possibly with Heritage Area Commission resulted in no motions made and no resolutions presented although Kevin indicated he would be following up with Suzanne and HAC on which he is a member.
2. Regarding **pesticide application concerns**, examples of present pesticide use were mentioned by council members and a discussion concerning following up at next CAC meetings with a goal of drafting guidelines and policy for pesticide use resulted in no motions made and no resolutions presented. Pesticide policy will be reviewed by Kevin starting with County documents.
3. Regarding the **Ulster County Environmental Management Council Liaison vacancy**, no motions were made and no resolutions presented. It was noted that the UCEMC meets at UCCC last Wed every month.
4. Urban Ag is expected on the agenda for next CAC meeting but no motions were made and no resolutions presented.
5. Mention of a Nov 2 Habitat assessment guidelines event at 9AM-4PM CCE resulted in no motions made and no resolutions presented.
6. Discussion by Nancy Cozean who is looking for opportunities on LED lighting to be referred to CAP Task Force and not to be on agenda for next month, with no motions made and no resolutions presented on the matter of LED lighting.
7. Mention of the Rondout Tidal Flooding task force being before the Common Council resulted in no motions made and no resolutions presented.

Motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded and approved at 9:43 PM with next meeting to be November 7.