



Kingston Conservation Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting
MINUTES
Date: April 4, 2013 6:30-8:30 pm

Call to Order: 6:35pm

Attendance:

Julie Noble (Chair)
Diane Bonavita
Karen Corey
Judith Deming
Emilie Hauser
Gregg Swanzey
Casey Schwarz

Guests:

Susan Gillespie
Kevin McEvoy

Welcome and Call to Order

There was no public comment.

Special Presentation (Concurrent meeting at City Hall, all CAC members attended as part of CAC meeting)

6:30-7:30pm Milone and MacBroom, Tidal Rondout Creek Watershed Management Plan

Jeannine Gouin and Dave Murphy from Milone and MacBroom, along with Steve Noble and the Management Plan Steering Committee held a public meeting to present the scope of the Tidal Rondout Creek Watershed Management Plan. Milone and MacBroom are the consultants for this project, under a City of Kingston DOS grant, managed by Steve Noble.

Content: The watershed of the Tidal Rondout Creek is 11.25 square miles. The scope of work for this project will include developing a conceptual model, making recommendations and then an implementation strategy. To date, a kickoff meeting has occurred; they have done field reconnaissance, and some initial mapping. The model will include a fully delineated watershed, demographics, infrastructure, topography, climate, hydrology, flows, soils, water quality, and a look at existing plans/policies/regulations pertaining to the Rondout watershed.

The field reconnaissance done to date has included stream profile and characteristics, sub watershed land uses, and storm water management. During this process, some issues that were identified included those related to sanitary/septic sewer systems, erosion, flooding, bacteria, agriculture, a need for education, and recreation protection.

Initial strategies that have been identified to be included in the management plan include: water quality, storm water management, stream management, septic, sanitary sewers, land management, habitat, education, stewardship, monitoring and research.

They also shared potential vision statements and goals. A Draft Management plan is set for completion in the Fall of 2013, with a Final Plan out in December 2013. There will be two additional public meetings during the process.

After questions and answers, the CAC collectively relocated to conference room 2 to continue with the rest of the agenda.

Minutes: Minor grammatical changes were made to the March CAC minutes. C.Schwarz moved to accept, K.Corey seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Old Business

- 1) **Hudsonia Map:** Gretchen Stevens has submitted Hudsonia's final work product of the Kingston Habitat Map; they also have the GIS maps of the data. The areas that were mapped included the large tracts of green space on the perimeter of the City, as was initially decided by S.Noble, J.Noble and Gretchen as part of the scope of their work. There were questions as to some additional areas and whether or not Hudsonia could map those as well, including: the Sailor's Cove property, vacant properties, Kingston Point Beach, parks, large lawns, right of ways, play fields, the Tannery Brook, Wiltwyck Cemetary, and Twaalfskill golf course. There was a question about a large plot off of North Street being misclassified as upland swamp versus wet meadow. E.Hauser will follow up with Gretchen on these questions and also about the time frame for completion, in order to help inform the Rondout Creek Watershed Management Plan. Kevin McEvoy offered to do some GIS mapping as needed.
- 2) **Screening of Island President:** The Bard Center for Environmental Policy will be sponsoring, with the support of the CAC, a screening of the *Island President* at the Kingston Library on April 17th, 6:00pm. K. Corey will post this event on the CAC Facebook page and will make a flyer for marketing. This full length movie tells the story of the past President of the Maldives and their plight, having drawn public attention to climate change.
- 3) **Energize Kingston,** a community energy fair, will take place on April 20th from 11-3 at the YMCA. There will be contractors with info about energy audits, an electric car, composting and rain barrel presentations, local food, children's activities, and more. J. Noble will make sure the Clean Sweep (also April 20th) participants are told about the event, perhaps with post cards of the event given to site leaders. J. Noble will make a sign with the CAC logo and website for more info about the Climate Action Plan to post at the event.

New Business

- 1) **Website Hosting, Invoice:** The annual invoice has been received from CIXdesigns to renew the hosting fee for www.kingstoncac.org. The fee is \$100. It was suggested that the CAC ask Scenic Hudson if they could sponsor this fee for May 1, 2013-April 30, 2014, with funding from the Flooding Task Force project. The CAC is hosting the project website for the Flooding Task Force and is one of the groups convening this project. This Task Force is supported by Scenic Hudson. J. Noble will ask Sacha Spector about the possibility of this. If they decline, the CAC members will each pitch in to cover the cost.
- 2) The **annual membership for the New York State Association of Conservation Commissions** is due. The fee is \$75. A discussion was had about requesting a CAC budget line item from the Common Council, in the amount of \$500 for the 2014 budget. In the short term, CAC members will pitch in for this.
- 3) **Green Infrastructure Work:** Kevin Pagini, a student at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry is doing a project to consider other solutions to the City of Kingston's Long Term Control Plan to fix a flooding storage tank that has failed. He is creating a thesis on the alternate option of using green infrastructure as a solution. E. Hauser presented some of his work to date and will invite him to come (or Skype into) a future CAC meeting with more information, which could then be used to inform the Rondout Creek Watershed Management Plan.

- 4) **Commercial Pesticide Application:** Mark DeDea, on behalf of the John Burroughs Natural History Society, had brought forth a proposal for the CAC to sponsor a local initiative to promote commercial landscapers who do not use toxic landscape management that includes secondary rodenticide. The CAC agreed, if the John Burroughs NHS would provide more background information and put together the language, to support this initiative. On this same topic, E. Hauser will look into specifics of the Neighborhood Notification Law, and that will be posted on the CAC Facebook page in the meantime.
- 5) **Farm Code:** Rebecca Martin, on behalf of the Urban Agriculture Committee, had brought forth a proposal for the CAC to sponsor an update to the City of Kingston Farm Code. Representatives from the Urban Agriculture Committee will attend the June 6th CAC meeting to present the proposal in full.

Additional Business

Fortis-CH Energy Merger: Susan Gillespie presented information to the CAC regarding the opposition of the proposal for CH Energy to be bought out by Fortis, Inc. The Public Service Commission will make the decision on this merger. Susan Gillespie directed the CAC to read "Last Flight of the Scarlet Macaw" as relevant literature. She noted that to date New Paltz, Woodstock, and Ulster County, among others, have signed resolutions opposing the merger. She informed the CAC that there will be a public meeting on April 18th at City Hall regarding this matter. The case # in the PSC is 12-14-0192. Upon discussion the CAC decided to forward this information on to the Public Safety Committee to inform them of the upcoming public meeting and of the merger.

Updates/Reports:

Public Safety: Diane can't go to either the April or May Public Safety meeting, there will need to be an alternate in her place.

Planning Board: Judith will go in April.

Climate Action Task Force: The next meeting will be April 23rd, 6-8:30pm, City Hall to continue prioritizing the initiatives in the Climate Action Plan.

Flooding Task Force: The next meeting will be April 23rd, 3:00-6:00pm, in City Hall. All proceedings from this initiative are posted online at www.kingstoncac.org, under Tidal Waterfront Flooding Task Force.

Adjourn: C.Schwarz moved to adjourn and D. Bonavita seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:29 pm.

NEXT MEETING: May 2, 2013, 6:30-8:30 pm

respectfully submitted by Julie Noble