



Kingston Conservation Advisory Council

Monthly Meeting: **Council Chambers**

MINUTES

Date: March 7, 2013 6:30-8:30 pm

Call to Order: 6:41pm

Attendance:

Julie Noble (Chair)
Lillian Childress (Secretary)
Casey Schwarz
Gregg Swanzey
Daine Bonavita
Karen Corey
Emilie Hauser

Guests:

Laura Heady, Hudson River Estuary Program
Tracy Brown, Riverkeeper
John Lipscomb, Riverkeeper
Richard Kelder
Sandy Snyder

Welcome and Call to Order: 6:41pm

There was no public comment.

Minutes: Under the heading of New Business, (1) Planning Board, the first sentence was agreed to be changed to: The CAC was shocked at the Planning Board's negative declaration of the Kingston Meadows environmental impact statement, and the CAC continues to ardently oppose the Kingston Meadows project. C.Schwarz moved to accept, K.Corey seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Special Presentations

6:30- 7:30pm Hudson River Estuary Program, Laura Heady, Progress on City of Kingston Habitat Summary, Q&A

Laura Heady's presentation was based on summing up all available data at the DEC and compiling it onto maps with the goal of incorporating it into Kingston's open space plan. The first slide of her presentation displayed forest patches in Kingston and its surrounding areas, showing how Kingston fits into the larger landscape, and can perhaps be helpful in asking which animals need forest. The third layer added freshwater wetlands, which are defined by the DEC as wetlands larger than 12.4 acres. Heady also suggested adding other sources of wetland information, such as the NYS wetland map and federal wetland inventory to show smaller and more detailed areas of wetland. Next, Heady added a layer of soil surveys, which she noted could be of help in identifying more potential places for wetlands. She then added "important areas" for different ecological communities, mapped by the Heritage program. Heady also recommended databases of rare and endangered species compiled by both SUNY ESF and

the DEC. The last layer Heady added was submerged aquatic vegetation. The map that Heady is creating can help both prioritization and management recommendations. Heady also added that the summary will have information from the Breeding Bird Atlas.

7:00-8:30 Riverkeeper: Tracy Brown, Rondout Creek citizen sampling Water Quality data presentation, Q&A

Tracy's presentation focused on presenting data about the level of contamination and pathogens that Riverkeeper has collected on the Rondout and some other New York bodies of water, namely the Hudson River. John Lipscomb, the Captain of the boat that does the sampling, also presented. One surprising thing that they mentioned was that the Hudson is actually cleaner than most of its tributaries, especially the Rondout and Sawkill. Part of what contributes to the Rondout's high level of contamination is the Kingston sewage treatment plant. The presenters suggested looking at the type of permit the treatment plant has, and reducing the amount of rainwater that gets into the CSO. They encouraged looking at examples of what other communities have done, such as Orangetown. Finally, they said that the problem can only be addressed if the public is aware of it and wants to deal with it.

Old Business

1) Year End Report: Review and adopt

The CAC suggested only a few minor changes in punctuation and sentence structure to the Year End Report. G.Swanzey moved to accept the report, C.Schwarz seconded. Vote was unanimous 7-0.

New Business

1) Proposed Event

The movie *The Island President* is being put on by the Bard Center for Environmental Policy. The organization Campus to Congress is supporting a nationwide screening of the movie. K.Corey asked if the CAC wanted to sponsor a showing of the film in Kingston. It was decided that while the CAC supports this, we have no funds to sponsor it, so perhaps the Kingston Library could host it with our support. E.Hauser said she would find out. G. Swanzey moved to accept, C. Schwarz seconded. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

Adjourn: C.Schwarz moved to adjourn and G.Swanzey seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.

NEXT MEETING: April 4, 2013, 6:30-8:30 pm

respectfully submitted by Lillian Childress