



Kingston Conservation Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting, City Hall
Minutes
November 1, 2012 6:30-8:30pm

Attendance:

Julie Noble, Chair
Casey Schwarz
Gregg Swanzey

Guests:
Diane Bonavita
Emilie Hauser

Welcome and Call to Order: 6:40pm

There was no public comment.

Minutes: The October 2012 CAC minutes were accepted with no amendments; Gregg moved to accept, Casey seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business:

1) Tidal Waterfront Task Force (reported by Emilie)

-30-35 people have been invited to sit on the Task Force, which includes Hudson River and Rondout Creek waterfront businesses, marinas, institutions, property owners, and city staff. So far 10 have replied yes and 2 have declined.

-There will be a kickoff event on Thursday December 6th from 3-6pm at City Call Common Council Chambers. This event is open to the public and the larger stakeholder group to explain the process that the Task Force will go through. Leads will be facilitating the event and break out sessions; some goals would be to see how existing plans like the LWRP can be tweaked to better reflect climate change and to do a cost-benefit analysis of adaptation plans, for example the cost of a sea wall. It will also be important not to duplicate the work of the Comprehensive Plan. A company from Maine is being hired for this process to do a cost-benefit analysis.

-There was a discussion about sea walls, whether NYC sea walls would have local impacts; discussion about WWTP sea walls, Gregg mentioned that there is money available to mitigate against future flooding.

-There was a discussion about whether kingstonCAC.org could be the host for the Tidal Waterfront Task Force online data, and conclusion that this is a good place for a clearinghouse of info to direct people to for this initiative. Julie will set up the framework on the website for this.

2) Climate Action Plan

-VHB (an engineering firm) has a regional coordinator for Climate Smart Communities to provide technical assistance for climate planning. Angela Vincent is the local regional coordinator, who met with Julie to discuss Kingston's community profile and how they can assist our process. It was determined that the best technical support they can provide is to provide a framework for implementation of the recently adopted Climate Action Plan. Angela will attend the next meeting of the Climate Smart Task Force.

-Emilie suggested that if NYSERDA had not been notified of the adopted CAP, that Julie should send it to them. Julie has posted the Executive Summary of the CAP online, in addition to the full CAP.

3) Facebook

Julie still needs to meet up with Lillian to set up a framework and procedure for keeping the CAC Facebook page updated. Gregg noted that Lillian just needs to "Like" the CAC page and then he will be able to make her an administrator. Gregg will post the Climate Action Plan on Facebook.

4) CAC members

Julie will send out a reminder to potential new members that applications to sit on the Kingston CAC will be due by December 5th in order to be reviewed and processed by the first of the year.

New Business:

Planning Board Proposal Review

- 1) Item #12 for November Planning Board Meeting: 351 Abeel Street Excavation
 - a. Casey will ask Kyla whether this is to make up for not having a permit for previous excavation, or whether this is new work
 - b. Casey will also see about having the planning department get the CAC a planning packet prior to planning board meetings. This has been requested before.
 - c. Concerns: runoff, noise pollution, effects on local properties from potential explosive use
 - d. Formal comments tabled until follow up from Casey
- 2) General: once the new CAC members join on January 1st, we will rearrange the CAC meeting dates to better correspond with the Planning Board meeting dates. The appropriate process would be for the planning department to send us a copy of the information packet ahead of the meeting, we would review the packet, then have the CAC meeting, with enough lead time to then compile comments and submit them to the planning board, before they hold their meeting. We will look into this change after the first of the year.
- 3) Item #14: Irish Cultural Center
 - a. Comments: Keep/manage drainage on property, maintain the integrity of the Company Hill Path, avoid Runoff
 - b. Not formally submitting comments
- 4) Item #15: Kingston Meadows
 - a. Comments: Not accessible; sprawl, not infill-recommend compact infill development; 2nd means of egress doesn't (shouldn't) depend on rail trail; located in known floodplain, water has been visibly seen on site following storm events; noise from highway; located in wet meadow, a biologically sensitive habitat; no filtration of storm water apparent except a short distance from rip rap discharge to creek; no active access to Esopus Creek; City management of proposed donated land in question; reduce the number of units to reduce automobile impact; improve rail trail; need to retain and manage storm water on site through retention ponds, rain gardens, bioswales, green roofs (which will also reduce energy use); increasing impervious surfaces- should use pervious pavement
 - b. City should not take the property due to severe storm water runoff concerns, since there is no good place for access or launch to the Esopus Creek, if that's the intent; this is a floodplain, which can't be built in and there is no recreational value, don't want to eliminate the natural buffer to the creek by opening it up; be considerate of ecological sensitivity
 - c. Refer to the Climate Action Plan: recommends not building in floodplains, minimizing runoff, limiting vehicle miles by encouraging infill development, not sprawl; specifically link recommendations to pages and sections of the CAP; there are implications for diminishing open space opportunities on the rail trails, and there is a potential negative impact on economic development
 - d. Julie will formalize the comments, referencing specific points in the Climate Action Plan, circulate for review and comments to the CAC and then submit to the planning department before the planning board meeting
- 5) Casey will attend the planning board meeting in November for follow up

Reports:

1) Public Safety: The CAC was not on the agenda for the Public Safety meeting in October, so Gregg did attend but did not speak. Julie followed up with Carly Williams who suggested speaking directly with Shirley now that Shirley has officially taken the committee back over, and to request speaking time at each meeting that we would like to present at or to ask to be put on the agenda permanently even if only for 5 minutes.

Additional Business:

Open Space Plan:

There was a great discussion about the CAC's upcoming Open Space Planning process. Points:

- there is not necessarily a lot of work to be done to complete the NRI, might take someone about 20 hours to complete the data compilation and map creation. A list of maps and their attributes has already been created.
- Steps to getting the NRI done:

- Have Hudsonia finish the mapping of Kingston that they are working on and get this data from them
 - Get all of the layers together
 - Create maps
- Emilie will talk to Gretchen Stevens about the status of the Hudsonia data

Casey went to the Green Building Council's green product event at the Hillside Manor and mentioned that it was a good event.

Adjourn: Casey moved and Julie seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:06pm.

NEXT MEETING: December 6, 2012, 6:30-8:30pm

Submitted by Julie Noble