



Kingston Conservation Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting, City Hall

Minutes

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

Attendance:

Julie Noble, Chair
Lillian Childress
Casey Schwarz
Gregg Swanzey

Guests:

Diane Bonavita
Emilie Hauser

Welcome and Call to Order: 6:41pm

There was no public comment.

Minutes: The November 2012 CAC minutes were accepted with no amendments; G.Swanzey moved to accept, C. Schwarz seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Old Business:

1) CAC membership

E. Hauser and D. Bonavita were asked to leave the room for the appointment discussion.

There was discussion about each prospective CAC member who had submitted applications. Three applications were received. G. Swanzey moved to recommend all three applicants for appointment to the Mayor, seconded by C. Schwarz, vote was unanimous 4-0. J. Noble will draft a letter to the Mayor with the recommendations, with resumes/applications attached.

E. Hauser and D. Bonavita returned to the room.

There was discussion about changing the CAC meeting time and date for 2013, final decision was to keep it the same. The consensus was that Conference Room 1 was preferable to room 2, J. Noble will check in about the availability.

There was discussion about selecting a new secretary, as Liz Higgins' term was up. J. Noble nominated L. Childress as Secretary, seconded by C. Schwarz, vote was unanimous 4-0.

2) Open Space/Natural Resources Inventory

Gretchen Stevens needs the CAC to contact the landowners of the properties that are remaining to complete the NRI. She had provided a spreadsheet with the parcels of interest. The group remotely viewed the parcels using the Ulster County Parcel viewer and divided up the contacts. A plan was established to first try calling or emailing the landowners and secondarily to send a letter in the mail, with subsequent follow up. G. Stevens has offered to draft the letter, which will go out from the CAC, on CAC letterhead. All info will then be shared with G. Stevens who will conduct the site visits, with the landowners, if they so desire. E. Hauser noted that she had sent G. Stevens the GEIS for the Hudson Landing, but that G. Stevens was interested in conducting her own site visit. G. Stevens will then complete the final Habitat Map of Kingston. It was noted that we should create a separate map, or layer, of vacant parcels in the City. What will be useful to the Comprehensive Plan will be this map, with a set of recommendations for planning. The Open Space Plan will then make priorities and conclusions regarding the maps.

There was discussion about the timeframe for completion of the NRI, which should be soon, as the Comprehensive Plan process is well underway. J.Noble suggested establishing an Open Space/NRI Committee, which will be tabled until next

meeting. In the meantime a list of people of interest for this sub-committee should be formulated for finalizing at the next meeting. Initial suggestions included Sandy Snyder and a GIS mapper.

New Business:

1) Planning Board Proposal Review

a. Item #13: Kingston Meadows

It was noted that the Ulster County Planning Board has recommended denying the Kingston Meadows proposal.

Discussion: The new plan is to remove soil in order to build up a hill on which to construct the units. This will contribute to erosion and sedimentation into the Esopus Creek. Also of concern is the lack of a secure second means of egress, as with the buildup, the second means could be underwater, creating an island of the developed property. Also, they'll need to ensure the SWPP requirements are met.

Comments: Deny the project due to:

- the habitat disturbance from the soil removal,
- erosion, runoff and sedimentation in the Esopus;
- dredging being placed into the floodway;
- location of entire parcel in floodplain;
- compromising riparian buffer;
- water quality integrity compromised;
- lack of capacity and retention potential of "flood storage area", as existing runoff will be channelized to this location

J.Noble will submit these comments.

Reports:

1) Public Safety

The Public Safety meeting for November falls on Thanksgiving. J. Noble will check on a reschedule date.

2) Kingston Waterfront Task Force

J. Noble reported that the KWTF had just held a very successful public meeting earlier in the day in City Hall, with about 75 attendees, including residents, business owners and concerned citizens. This event was very well planned and was rich in information sharing among the participants, as there were 4-5 breakout sessions for focused group discussions about flooding and its ramifications. There were also presentations by Scenic Hudson and the Hudson River Estuary Program, as well as a synopsis of Kingston's waterfront initiatives to date. All of the information from this meeting will be posted on the CAC website in the coming month.

3) Climate Smart Task Force

J. Noble reported that on January 15th VHB, an engineering firm, will be coming to a meeting to discuss an implementation strategy for the Climate Action Plan. J. Noble has been meeting with Angela Vincent of VHB, who is providing technical assistance to Kingston, among other Climate Smart Communities, to further their work.

Additional Business:

- 1) J. Noble informed the group about working with Michael Courtney from RUPCO and Steve Noble to plan an Energy Fair in the early Spring. This event would be geared towards residents and would have contractors, energy audit info, giveaways, presentations, and would be a venue to outreach about the Climate Action Plan. E. Hauser offered that the Kingston Library could be a good venue for this, possibly as a Super Saturday event. Also, the Library has a Climate Smart Committee, which could support this event. G. Swanzy mentioned that he has a connection with a member of the Arm of the Sea Theatre, which J. Noble had suggested might be a good idea for a presenter.

Adjourn: C. Schwarz moved and J. Noble seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

NEXT MEETING: January 3, 2013, 6:30-8:30pm

Submitted by Julie Noble