



Kingston Conservation Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting, City Hall
Minutes
April 5, 2012 6:30-8:30pm

Attendance:

Julie Noble, Chair
Casey Schwarz
Gregg Swanzey

Guests:

Kathleen Smith, Town of Ulster resident
Lillian Childress, KHS Student

Welcome and Call to Order: 6:35pm

Minutes: The March 2012 CAC minutes were accepted with no amendments.

Old Business:

- 1) CAC Member Recruitment: There has been interest by a few community members to join the CAC: Kathleen Smith was referred by Judith, but she lives in the Town of Ulster; Paula Wisneski was referred by Maryann Mills, but can't make the Thursday meetings; Lillian Childress may apply to fill the student position. It was suggested that we create a CAC flyer about the CAC positions and new website, to post at environmentally minded places such as libraries, Farmer's Market, Mother Earth, Adam's, etc.
- 2) Governmental Meeting Liaisons for May: Casey will go to Planning Board, Gregg to Public Safety, Liz and Julie to UCEMC
- 3) Website: www.kingstoncac.org will be launched May 1st; suggestions for channels to outreach: CCE listserv, KLT website, our local environmental agencies/initiatives (from list of links for website), human services listserv, post on main page of City website, press release to newspapers, Facebook, UC Dept of the Environment website, NYSACC.org; everyone should get any content to Julie as soon as possible for posting
- 4) Green Guide: Judith had shared the template/format she is using by email prior to the meeting, which we reviewed; suggestion for Liz and Judith to be sure to work together as much of their info is overlapping for the website LINKS page and the Green Guide; the current version of the Green Guide that Judith is producing is in Word, when it is done we should publish in pdf then post on the website, with the links live and make it printable

New Business:

- 1) Farm Code Review and Update: Julie explained the Kingston Land Trust's new initiative through the KLT Urban Agriculture Committee to review and update Kingston's City Code regarding farm language/ the keeping of animals. Suggestions that were discussed, for the KLT to consider as part of the process:
 - a. Definition of "Farm" (commercial/non-commercial, space restrictions?)
 - b. Clarify "Farm" animals vs. animals you would find on a farm
 - c. Address Nuisance, Safety, Sanitation, Animal Cruelty, Disposal of animals/food production waste, Slaughtering
 - d. Be clear as to yes/no what is and what is not permitted as far as animals and food production
 - e. Compile all into a separate "Food Production" Section of the code

- f. Consult with Comprehensive Plan committee/consultant for assistance with writing the code
- g. Be clear about the difference between farming and gardening
- h. Address enforcement
- i. Outreach to SPCA re: animal welfare and about what situations they have seen in Kingston
- j. Be clear about the difference between keeping animals vs. farming
- k. Look into other animal protection issues, possibly with Humane Society?
- l. Licensing Livestock?
- m. Consider a code for reach individual species and be specific about species (ie beekeeping, chickens, guinea fowl, etc.)

Also, when the code is drafted by the KLT, the CAC would be happy to review. Generally, we support a sustainable lifestyle and food production as a means to that. From that end, we are supportive of the reexamination of existing code to better reflect and detail how this is possible in Kingston. It needs to be clear and practical from the community's perspective and the enforcer's perspective.

- 2) Dog Park Pet Waste Disposal: This topic was referred to the CAC by Rich Schiafo as an issue that had come up at a Council meeting. Upon discussion, and review of other municipal dog park policies/practices, we recommend that the Dog Park group look into the feasibility of off-site composting as is done in Ithaca, the feasibility of a self-contained bucket on-site with sawdust and a shovel and the waste going to the WWTP, or the feasibility of an on-site composter.

Reports:

- 1) EMC Report (Julie): Woodstock EC has developed and has proposed for adoption language that prohibits hydrofracking and the associated processes in the Town. When this is approved, the Kingston CAC may review this and consider proposing similar legislation in Kingston. NYSACC annual dues have been invoiced. Steve and Julie Noble will pay for this, as they do annually.
- 2) Planning Board (Casey): The Hurley Avenue project is moving ahead; Julie will ask Sue Cahill if the CAC member attending the Planning Board meeting could receive the Planning Board Prep Packet before hand as the Planning Board members do, to prepare comments/concerns/advice prior to the meeting.
- 3) Public Safety (Julie): Total Green Geothermal presented their services. Casey mentioned that their process is 30% more efficient than other companies since the product (copper) that they use is more efficient, the hole that is dug is smaller, and the closed loop system is more efficient. Hardin Geothermal will be presenting at the April Public Safety meeting
- 4) CSGJ Task Force (Julie): The Task Force is reviewing Version 3 of the Climate Action Plan for edits/changes, Version 4 will go out for public review with the website launch
- 5) Comprehensive Plan Committee (Gregg): The consultant was chosen: Shuster and Turner, but has not yet begun the work.
- 6) Tree Commission (from report from Judith): Judith has been attending their meetings; they are working on mapping Ash trees in Midtown and have an Arbor Day celebration planned at Kingston Catholic. Also, the grids around the street trees have been addressed as encroaching and the city will be cutting them back.
- 7) Other Reports/Announcements:
 - a. April 21 Kingston Clean Sweep, Rail Trail Clean up, Love Your Parks Day
 - b. June 2 Riverkeeper, KLT cleanup on waterfront (National Trails Day)
 - c. The power line going down the Hudson River has been approved.

NEXT MEETING: May 3, 2012, 6:30-8:30pm

Adjournment: 8:34pm