



Kingston Conservation Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting, City Hall
Minutes
May 3, 2012 6:30-8:30pm

Attendance:

Julie Noble, Chair
Casey Schwarz
Judith Deming

Guests:

Jean Jacobs
Ellen DiFalco
Joe DiFalco

Welcome and Call to Order: 6:38pm

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

Old Business:

- 1) www.kingstonCAC.org: Website was launched live on May 1st. Julie had a meeting with CIXdesigns to discuss to process for transferring the website management over to the CAC. CIXdesigns finalized the design and format layout and Julie will maintain the website content on an ongoing basis. CIXdesigns is available with any questions or concerns that come up.
- 2) Climate Action Plan Launch: In conjunction with the website launch, the CAP was launched on May 1st. Press releases were sent out and hard copies are available for review at the Kingston Library, Monkey Joe Roasting Co., Hudson Coffee Traders, the Parks and Recreation office and the Clerk's Office. Digital copies are available on the City of Kingston website, the CAC website, and the Daily Freeman website. May 1-June 30 is the 60 day public comment period. A Survey Monkey link was set up and posted wherever the CAP is located, for the public to digitally comment on specific sections of the CAP or to make recommendations, or submit their contact information for future involvement in the Implementation Phase. All of this data will be compiled by Steve Noble for review by the Climate Smart TaskForce at the close of the public comment period. There will be a public hearing on the CAP at the next monthly CAC meeting on June 7th, 2012, 7:00pm at City Hall.
- 3) Green Guide: Judith is working through the data for formalizing the Green Guide. She is currently working independently on it, so if we can get additional CAC members, they might help. She could also consider forming a Green Guide subcommittee. The goal of completion is December 31, 2012. At that point, it will be posted as a tab on the CAC website.
- 4) Farm Code Review and Update: Julie attended the KLT Urban Agriculture committee meeting and shared the CAC's comments and recommendations for the review and revision of the City's animal codes. She also informed the UAC about the process for changing codes in the City. Ellen mentioned that there is a difference between a local law and an ordinance, and that a local law change requires public notices and public hearings, and that ordinances go through the Common Council. Either one would need to be reviewed by Corporation Council. Julie will pass this info on to the UAC.
- 5) Solar power in the City: Casey informed the group and provided a pamphlet from his eye doctor (Vision Excel, on 9W) who recently installed a solar system on the business' rooftop using Solar City. Casey will

contact Matt Dunn with the info about Solar City and their Power Purchase Agreement options for municipalities. He will recommend that the Common Council invite Solar City in for a presentation as a potential PPA for the city.

- 6) Judith mentioned that she spoke with someone who is interested in the elimination of pesticides on landscaping in Kingston. She will speak with Rebecca Martin to make a connection.

New Business:

- 1) Cat Concerns in Kingston: Presentation by Jean Jacobs
 - a. Jean presented the CAC with documents that had been created by herself and the Cat Advisory Task Force. These documents outline the history of the cat issues in Kingston and steps taken to address the issues. The Cat Advisory Task Force (“Kingston Cats”) is no longer a formal committee. Prior to dissolving, this group did present a 52 page summary of actions and recommendations to the Common Council and then Mayor Jim Sottile. There is nothing currently in the City Code regarding cats. For 5 years prior to December 2011, Marie Post contractually managed some of the feral cat population in the City for \$2500/year. She has now resigned. According to Jean, previous Mayor Sottile ended his support of the Task Force and the current Mayor Shayne Gallo has said that there is no money to support any formal cat management plan. The Task Force has not met since June 2011, and the original Task Force was appointed by Mayor Sottile. There was a question as to whether the line item that had been funding Marie Post was still in the 2012 budget. Ellen suggested applying for grants for a shelter and to address issues, as Jean mentioned that she believes the City needs its own cat shelter. Jean mentioned that currently money is paid to Esopus and Saugerties for each dog captured in Kingston, for their care.
 - b. Jean brought these issues before the Kingston CAC to see if we can help to reinstate the Taskforce, help acquire monies to support efforts, speak with the Mayor to garner his support, and keep the cat issue on the Common Council radar. Julie mentioned that the CAC did already spend a significant amount of time conducting research, interviews and compiling a set of recommendations which were presented to the Common Council in May 2010 and that at that time we forwarded all matters over to the Task Force. She also mentioned that it is not within the scope of the Kingston CAC to be handling these matters as we’ve already done what we feel is sufficient regarding the cat issue. Julie did mention that she would speak with Carly Williams (City Clerk) and Mayor Gallo regarding the existing cat nuisance situation.

Reports:

- 1) EMC Report (Julie): The UCCEMC meeting in April hosted Kathy Nolan of Catskill MountainKeeper, who spoke about their work. There will be a CAC roundtable for all CAC members in Ulster County at the Rosendale Rec Center on the last Wednesday in June at 6:30. Amanda LaValle and Steve Noble are conducting a CAC survey to collect the most up to date info about Ulster County CACs. Julie has completed this survey.
- 2) Planning Board (Casey): Casey will follow up with Sue Cahill about getting the Planning Board Packets for himself and Judith prior to the meetings for review. He mentioned that there was a lot of discussion about the Lace Factory (redeveloping for artists lofts and exhibit space and that the developer was going to follow Energy Star Standards.
- 3) Other Reports/Announcements
 - a. May 5th there will be 350.org events at the Hudson River Maritime Museum

NEXT MEETING: June 7, 2012, 6:30-8:30pm

Adjournment: 7:59pm

Submitted by Julie Noble

DRAFT