



Kingston Conservation Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
June 7, 2012 7:00-9:00pm

Attendance:

Julie Noble (CAC Chair)	Jennifer Schwartz-Berky
Liz Higgins (CAC Secretary)	Gerald Berke
Gregg Swanzey (CAC)	Alderman Tom Hoffay
Judith Deming (CAC)	Karen Miller
Casey Schwarz (CAC)	Lillian Childress
Emilie Hauser (CSGJTF)	Adele Calcavecchio
Guy Kempe (CSGJTF)	June Marks
Michael Courtney (CSGJTF)	Michael D'Arcy
Rich Schiafo (CSGJTF/former Climate Analyst)	Anne Outwater
	Joseph Bodeito

Welcome and Call to Order: 7:07pm

Minutes: The minutes from the May CAC meeting were tabled until the July meeting.

Public Presentation: Julie presented a powerpoint presentation on the Draft Climate Action Plan. Public Comment followed. Emilie Hauser recorded comments on a flip chart, see notes below.

Comments:

Emilie Hauser: Tom Hoffay helped to get this going and is the only alderman present. She encouraged feedback from the attendees.

Jennifer Schwartz-Berkey: Excellent recommendations, numbers were good, snapshot of costs, where would savings be, where would fees be, pay back, emphasized the need to emphasize savings

Rich Schiafo: Full cost analysis was not done, would be next step

Julie Noble: We were not able to work out an agreement with the City to continue to fund staff to do this; we need to create a hierarchy of recommendations.

Rich S.: ICLEI provides tools for cost savings analysis but some of the tools are general.

Tom Hoffay: A challenge the CAC and committee will have is to have and use language for lay people. He recommended more visuals that people relate to and noted that the document is too inaccessible. He noted that public perception will be important.

Emilie H.: Thought more people would be interested in saving money than longterm concern about water.

Unidentified speaker: People's resistance to change will be responded to?, and this is an outstanding piece of work.

Emilie H.: There are only 4 people on the committee so if there are a lot of comments, it will be a challenge.

Judith: Have we gotten specific feedback from the Mayor?

Julie N.: The Mayor did provide a letter of support, but not any specific comments otherwise.

Gregg S.: (Addressed to Alderman Tom Hoffay): How can we build support with the Common Council?

Tom H.: There is turnover on the Council every two years, so attending the meetings, as we currently do, is most important for maintaining open dialogue.

Jennifer S.: How will this be coordinated with the Comprehensive Plan?

Julie: Not sure exactly how, but I do sit on the Comprehensive Plan committee as an Environmental Interest.

Jennifer S.: Discussed the importance of adaptation planning and also the work of her Bard Students.

Additional Comments recorded:

Tom Hoffay noted that vocabulary is a challenge... hard for everyone to understand. However pictures are very persuasive. Photo of blue line on Broadway near Dermott Mahoney's Irish Pub.

Government to CAC communication (and vice versa).

Government must deal with two percent tax increase cap.

Common Council decides and is affected by public opinion.

Flooding along Esopus Creek and flooding along Washington Avenue are visible issues.

Must change and adapt.

Comment: Change energy use .. lighting. Lights are on at night in gov't office buildings and schools. Cleaning staff need to turn off lights. This will result in monetary savings.

Show how turning off lights saves money. Resistance in New Paltz?

Comment: Using energy savings one year to buy more energy saving devices the next.

Discussion of idling of emergency vehicles (police and ambulance); Can not turn off because of computers and medicine.

However there are solutions with batteries. Police vehicles get six mph.

Use message of saving money

Vehicle Idling: Should there be a law against it? Or education?

Illegal to idle diesel for more than a few minutes.

Julie: Kingston Parks Department has applied for an NYSDEC air pollution grant to see what air pollution is like near Parks: Andretta Pool, Kingston Point, Academy Green and Block Park. Do not know if grant will be awarded.

Jennifer Schwartz noted that air pollution emissions data is available from UC Transportation.

Question: If people comment will they expect to get an answer to their comments?

Question: How can we engage Aldermen? Only one, T. Hoffay, in attendance.

T. Hoffay: One problem is that there is turn over every two years. So there is little institutional memory and knowledge.

Mayor's interest and support is needed in order to work with department staff.

Strategy at Common Council committee meetings?

An example is that Water Dept shows new alderman around, via bus

Comprehensive Plan?

Is there representation on Comp Plan with CSGJTF? Yes, Julie

How can CAP be integrated with Comp Plan? Albany included their CAP in their Comp Plan.

What is status of Comp Plan? A: It is just beginning.

Comment: The Cleaner Greener NY initiative has set up Regional Councils. Sustainability Plans and implementation are being funded. \$1 million for planning per region, \$90 for NYS for implementation.

A: The Regional Councils are mentioned in the CAP.

Adaptation Planning:

Bard College students did some work on this spring semester; green infrastructure and shoreline analysis.

Center for Neighborhood Technology has good information on green infrastructure. A: The Center is mentioned in CAP.

GI saves energy at the wastewater treatment plant.

Planning for land use is important for energy savings and adaptation.

Comment: Sullivan County has a sustainability Plan??

Comment: Give snap shot of savings in one table.

Answer: The cost analysis has not totally been done.

Next steps:

Bedford example

Show where savings are. What are the paybacks? What is return on investment. Look in to cost savings in order to pay for a position for energy or sustainability coordinator. Set up an energy fund.

ICLEI has a tool to calculate and help prioritize cost savings. Other Climate Action Plans use ICLEI

Meeting of Climate Smart Communities and Green Jobs Task Force: **Thursday July 12, 4:00-6:00pm at City Hall.**

Adjournment: Casey moved, Judith 2nd. Meeting adjourned 8:26pm.