

Conservation Advisory Council

Minutes 3/11/09

Attendance: Julie Noble
Andrew Meyer
Allison Taylor
Nicole Schmidt
Elizabeth Higgins
Gregg Swanzey
Sidney Hymes(arrived 6:45pm)
Valeria Gheorghiu

Meeting called to order 6:05pm by Julie

We reviewed minutes from last meeting. Motion made by Gregg to accept minutes as amended. Elizabeth 2nd the motion. Allison will make changes and email to Julie.

1. Julie reviewed press release submitted to Kingston Times--- March 5, 2009.
2. Question asked---How can people join our board? Julie stated must fill out application and be approved by Mayor James Sottile. Valeria is interested in joining the council. Julie will email her an application.
3. Meetings are in Conference Room #2 in City Hall Building. Information is on the city website.
4. A meeting has been set up with City Planning Board. It will be April 13, 2009 during the regular planning board meeting. Our group would like to help make sound decisions regarding environmental issues concerning city and development.
5. March 12, 2009---a meeting has been set up with Sue Cahill-City Planner to discuss how we will work with her board. Gregg can go with Julie to represent our group. Andrew will let Julie know if he can go. What are our goals?
6. Financial Holdings for the C.A.C.?? Julie spoke with Ms. Janeczek. Should we hold the money through Parks and Rec. Dept. or apply through city to have our own account?? Julie will check with John Tuey (city comptroller) on how to set up an account. What is the best approach? In terms of grants? Trust accounts?
7. Julie has had an email change---new email JulieLNoble@kingston-ny.gov.
8. By-laws---Julie spoke with Janet, Corporate Council. How can we incorporate our background information into by-laws? Mike Cook (city lawyer) will review other non-profit/ corporate by-laws. We will draft our own according to his recommendation. We will be able to use Rules and Procedures (Except from NYS Conservation Commission Handbook.)
Beth Reicheld from the Woodstock C.A.C. may be a good contact---Elizabeth will check into this.
9. Andrew had a question regarding Rule #5 Agenda---- from the NYS Conservation Commission Handbook. Are some rules too rigid? Mike Cook may be able to add situational rules and procedures. What limitations, in terms of legislation, are we held to??
10. Should we set up a special advisory position for those individuals that would like to volunteer, but are not council members??

Elizabeth voiced concern. When we do our by-laws this will have to be included---how we utilize volunteers.

11. How are board members recruited?? Is it an open application process? Andrew voiced concern about turning interested individuals away that would like to get involved. Gregg stated we should set process of application for new members.

What will our recruitment process look like? Should we be reviewing applications ongoing? Julie will talk with other C.A.C. groups regarding new members. There were some suggestions---accept applications anytime and take up to our 9 member allotment this first start up year. Following year---set an application date.

***Julie will post application on the city website for our C.A.C. and announce a call for applications on the website, the Kingston Freeman, and the Kingston Times. We have 3 council seats to fill.

12. Julie will refine city letterhead with our group's title on top. She will have it approved by city clerk.

Every month we will notify the website and newspapers of our meeting times. Andrew volunteered to do this. Freeman requires 2 week advanced notice of press topics.

13. Mapping/MAPS-----Steve Noble uses a GIS ARC Map system. Kingston does not have a public system, but Steve will do research for us, as well as engineering dept... We looked at a map of Kingston, from GIS system, to look at city owned property, school district property, and Ulster County properties. Are there any requested maps we may need?

14. Valeria inquired about wind maps----for potential wind turbines. We added this into new business on agenda. She also asked about drainage maps---storm water maps.

15. Hudsonia/B.A.T. training-----4 council members are involved in the course (Julie, Elizabeth, Andrew, and Gregg). It is a study over 10 months to look at maps and photos to predict and recommend conservation action for habitats. Next class will look at soil mapping. There will be a crash course over the summer. More information to come from Andrew.

16. New Business---

- Amanda LaValle---coordinator for County Dept. of Environment will be sitting in on our next meeting.

What are our C.A.C. Priorities-

**these are included, but not limited to

- Provide input on conservation orientated goals. How are we going to influence planning board? Define what areas our CAC will have an opinion on. How much will we take on? How many of their proposals will we look at? What would they like us to focus on? How can we help?
- Storm Water Issues---policy issues
- Engage public/provide educational opportunities in regards to environmental concerns.
- Educate ourselves to help provide recommendations.

- Develop “green” pathways in the city.
- Focus C.A.C. appropriately, in terms of laws, procedures, and committees.

Individual Goals of Council Members

- **Sidney**---
 1. Public awareness to inform public of environmental issues in city.
 2. Recycling
- **Nicole**---
 1. Clean up city
 2. plant more foliage
 3. fundraising
- **Julie**---
 1. working with planning board
 2. education
 3. natural resource inventory
- **Allison**---
 1. Abolish law banning beekeeping
 2. City going “green”
 3. Education for low-income families in city
- **Andrew**---
 1. Lower the climate change impact---DEC Climate Smart Communities
 2. Green Map of Kingston---familiar local farms/markets
- **Valeria**---
 1. Reduce Community emissions---Green Pledge(Van Jones)
 2. Wind Energy turbine---alternate energy sources
 3. Community gardens
- **Elizabeth**---
 1. Storm water/development
 2. Recycling
- **Gregg**---
 1. Educate Kingston Residents re: habitats and protect them. What animals are around?

Elizabeth made a motion to end meeting. Allison 2nd motion.

Meeting adjourned 8:23pm

Next Meeting---April 8, 2009 6:00pm Conference Room #2