



Kingston Conservation Advisory Council Monthly Meeting
City Hall Conference Room 1
Minutes
Date: June 9, 2015 6:30-8:30pm

Council Members: Julie Noble (Chair), Emilie Hauser (Vice-Chair), Kevin McEvoy (Secretary), Elizabeth Broad, Jean Jacobs, Lynn Johnson, Casey Schwarz

Guest: Lorraine Farina

- I. **Welcome Guests and Public Comment :** The meeting was called to order at 6:38PM by the Chairperson. Guest Lorraine Farina brought up air quality especially with regards to the effects of wood smoke. City Code Chapter 135 was reviewed during the discussion. Particulates, hydrocarbons and other substances some of which are known carcinogens were discussed with respect to wood smoke. Lorraine recommended permits for wood stoves such as requiring EPA certified wood stoves and regulations regarding pellet stoves and direct venting. Council members discussed whether a chimney of adequate and safe height should be required rather than direct venting. Lorraine was asked to submit any sample legislation she has reviewed during her research on the topic.
Kingston City Code Chapter 135: Air Pollution and Smoke Control
<http://ecode360.com/12699897>

II. **Review and Approval May Meeting Minutes: Upon motion by** Casey and seconded by Lynn the minutes to the May meeting as amended were approved.

III. **Old Business**

a. Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)

i. Kingston Land Trust (KLT) funding update, collaboration strategy: Julie will be principal contact on the next phase of together with Emilie and Kevin. Kevin updated on status of KLT contract which was approved on May 21. Matt Akin had a problem with a broken computer and needs to upload the geospatial data. Kevin will be contact for Kingston Land Trust.

ii. Hudson River Estuary Program grant application : Emilie discussed the Hudson River Estuary Program the grant application due on June 15 to fund a consultant to work on the interpretative text for the NRI. The Council brought Gregg Swanzey, City of Kingston Economic Development Director in a conference call to discuss questions regarding writing the grant proposal including framing out tasks, deliverables, budgets, letters of support, grant administration such as contracts, any required reporting and any Request for Proposals (RFP). As an action item, Emilie with support from Julie and Kevin will work on the grant with Gregg.

iii. Public input process: Laura Heady from Hudson River Estuary Program has indicated a willingness to participate in the public input process. It is anticipated that the CAC would to set up a public meeting with a projector and hard copies of maps for public comment and mark up. Emilie reviewed the recommended public input process. As an action item, CAC is looking at the August meeting for public comment on draft maps. Emilie discussed other venues for public input for the maps. The new Hudson River Estuary Program Natural Resource Inventory Guide is located at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/100925.html>

b. City Plastic Bag proposed legislation- discussion, follow up: Julie discussed the Bedford NY

and Westchester County plastic bag and Styrofoam ban and a website listing plastic legislation, litigation and studies. It was reported that one Ulster County legislator recently suggested that a wait and see approach on a plastic bag ban would be prudent in order to see how the Styrofoam ban implementation goes at the County level. A discussion regarding Kingston becoming a zero waste community followed. Links to Bedford NY, the plastic bag website and the Zero Waste International Alliance are below:

<http://www.bedfordny.gov/plastic-and-the-environment/>

<http://plasticbaglaws.org/>

<http://zwia.org>

V. Announcements/Communications

a. NYS Association of Conservation Advisory Councils (NYSACAC): The \$75 for the NYSACAC annual fee is due. Julie will ask Gregg Swanzey if his office has funding to cover this.

b. Kayak Festival: The Kingston Kayak Festival is Saturday, June 13. Link is below.
https://apm.activecommunities.com/kingstonparksandrec/Activity_Search/kingston-kayak-festival/648

c. Rockaway Waterfront Alliance: Kevin and his wife Barbara Epstein volunteered on April 18 with the Rockaway Waterfront Alliance in their dune restoration project planting beach plum and bayberry to restore primary and secondary sand dunes damaged by Hurricane Sandy in the Arverne section of Rockaway Beach, Queens, NY. This is a youth led initiative with multiple public and private partners. Link follows here. <http://www.rwalliance.org/rwa/projects/RDRP/>

d. Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipeline-NY (CAPP-NY) : A march near the railroad bridge over Broadway and a forum at Kingston City Hall organized by CAPP-NY will be held July 9 to bring attention to the dangers of oil trains passing through Kingston and Ulster County. Sue Rosenberg of CAPP-NY and Jeremy Cherson of Riverkeeper will appear on WGHQ on July 13 at 8:30AM to discuss the dangers of oil trains further. Links are below.
<http://www.riverkeeper.org/news-events/news/preserve-river-ecology/oil-transport/public-forum-highlights-opposition-to-crude-oil-fracking-transport/>
<http://www.riverkeeper.org/news-events/events/crude-oil-transport-in-the-hudson-valley-kingston-on-am-920-wghq/>

e. Citizens for Local Power (CLP): Citizens for Local Power and Catskill Mountainkeeper are co-sponsoring a workshop on June 27 from 9AM to 12:30PM at SUNY New Paltz covering basics on how New York's current energy system works and Community Choice Aggregation. Speakers will include Betta, Jennifer Metzger from CLP, Manna Jo Greene, Jessica Barry, Pat Courtney Strong and keynote speaker Karl Rabago, Executive Director of Pace Energy and Climate Center, and former Texas Public Utility Commissioner and Deputy Assistant Secretary, US Department of Energy.
<http://www.citizensforlocalpower.com/upcoming-events.html>

f. Tree Stewards : A Tree Steward class is to be held at Cornell Cooperative on June 27 from 9AM to 4PM which will include the Emerald Ash Borer on its agenda. Link is below.
<http://ulster.cce.cornell.edu/events/2015/06/07/-tree-steward-class>

VI. Reports

a. Ulster County Environmental Management Council (EMC) Liaison (Emilie Hauser) : It was reported that electric car docking stations are installed at the following parking lots in Kingston : the Ulster County Office Building, the Probation Dept., the Sophie Finn School and the Ulster County Courthouse. The former landfill near the mall in the Town of Ulster is to get a large solar array. There was an update on Creek week to be held in September 19th-27th with a clean up possible. The Emerald

Ash Borer was discussed as was the upcoming Tree Steward class at Cornell Cooperative mentioned above under announcements.

b. NYS DEC Meeting : Julie attended the Annual CAC and EMC at the DEC offices in Albany and discussed the Emerald Ash Borer issues at Kingston Point Park that required trees to be taken down.

c. Planning Board Liaison (Casey Schwarz): There was no business to report this month.

d. Public Safety Liaison (Lynn Johnson) : The May meeting date was changed. On the agenda was the proposed local law to amend the city's charter to require the council and mayor to approve of any sale of city water outside of the municipality's corporate limits before the Kingston Board of Water Commissioners could enter into a contract to do so. The proposal was forwarded to the full Common Council for a first reading.

f. Comprehensive Plan Liaison (Julie Noble):: The committee reviewed the public comments and made recommendations as to what to include in the next draft. Clear goals were discussed with historic preservation to be made more prominent including language supporting a preservation plan and arts district and a stockade district transportation plan but excluding taking a position on the Catskill Mountain Rail Road. It was discussed that the plan needs more graphics. Jean asked whether animal emergency language that she recommended was included in the latest draft comprehensive plan or discussed citing the Woodstock feral cat project as an example. Julie indicated it was not brought up.

f. Solarize Kingston Liaison (Betta Broad) : It was discussed that the Solarize Kingston program is up and running. Emilie had an open solar house on June 6 and a community event was held on June 9 at the Kingston Library 9 (same date as this meeting). Betta will send out a community endorsement form as an action item.

g. Climate Smart Kingston Commission (Julie Noble): The pending commission will meet on June 24 from 430PM to 6PM. A letter is being sent to Mayor Gallo inquiring about the status of appointments.

VII. **Adjournment:** Upon motion made by Emilie and seconded by Casey, the CAC unanimously decided to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm.

Mission: Ensure the conservation of the City of Kingston's natural resources and the enhancement and protection of its environment while fostering unified action on environmental matters.