



**Kingston Conservation Advisory Council**  
**Monthly Meeting, City Hall Conference Room 2**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Date: May 19, 2015 6:30-8:30pm**

**Council Members:** Julie Noble (Chair), Emilie Hauser (Vice-Chair), Kevin McEvoy (Secretary), Elizabeth Broad (unable to attend), Jean Jacobs, Lynn Johnson, Casey Schwarz  
**Guests:** Lauren Laibach, Kaylee Miller

**Welcome Guests and Public Comment:** The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:31pm. The Council greeted new member Jean Jacobs. Public comment included Kaylee making a brief presentation on street recycling. Julie indicated that the Parks and Recreation Dept. has recycling and that the City has three “Mr. Big Belly” compacter containers on Broadway corridor, which have a solar panel used to charge an internal battery, located in Midtown as per the grant that was the funding source. One container is across Broadway from UPAC. The premium costs of the “Mr. Big Belly” compacter containers and street recycling was discussed including collection costs. Regarding City sponsored special events or special events on City property, recycling bins are provided. Kaylee suggested that a container should be in Rondout and the Stockade. It was noted that Gallo Park in Rondout should have recycling containers already. Information on “Mr. Big Belly” can be found at:  
<http://bigbelly.com/solutions/stations/>

- I. **Review and Approval April 2015 Meeting and May 2015 Special Meeting Minutes:** Upon motion made by Casey and seconded by Lynn, the Council members present voted unanimously to approve the April minutes as amended. Upon motion made by Casey and seconded by Lynn, the Council members present voted unanimously to approve the May 4<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting minutes.

II. **Old Business**

**1. City Plastic Bag Proposed Legislation:** The Council reviewed the plastic bag matter discussed at the last meeting. Kevin discussed recent events in Arizona regarding the Flagstaff proposal and state intervention to limit municipal implementation. Julie followed up with the Ulster County Dept of Environment and the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency but is still awaiting a response and information on plastic bag recycling. Emilie reviewed the New York State Plastic Bag Reduction, Reuse and Recycling Act. See link here:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/50034.html>

The Village of Hastings Plastic Bag and Styrofoam Ordinance was discussed.

[http://www.hastingsgov.org/Pages/HastingsNY\\_BComm/Conservation/PBS\\_FAQ](http://www.hastingsgov.org/Pages/HastingsNY_BComm/Conservation/PBS_FAQ)

The Hastings on Hudson Conservation Commission was awarded an Environmental Champion Award by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for helping the Village pass a ban on single-use plastic bags and Styrofoam containers and cups.

Jean discussed public outreach on the topic including educational aspects and public access television. Lynn suggested that the next steps should be to follow up with Common Council Member Brad Will regarding his discussions with County staff and or legislature.

**2. Natural Resources Inventory (NRI):** Julie and Emilie gave an overview of the NRI project to date for the benefit of the new council member and guests.

**a. Mapping Collaboration with Kingston Land Trust:** Kevin reviewed the collaborative mapping proposal which would enable the mapping and GIS work to move towards being completed over the summer. The proposal has been submitted to the Kingston Land Trust for consideration by its board on May 21.

**b. Public Input:** Emilie and Julie discussed public input while Jean discussed the inclusion of NRI into the update of City of Comprehensive Plan. Public input tabled until June 9 meeting.

**c. Map Interpretation & Grant Possibility:** Emilie discussed June 15 as the deadline for Hudson River Estuary Program Local Stewardship grant which Julie mentioned is a possibility through City of Kingston Parks & Recreation to complete interpretation of the NRI with a view towards a future open space plan or index.

### III. New Business

**a. Hudson River Comprehensive Restoration Plan:** Emilie discussed the May 21, 2015 event and the restoration plan which includes the Nature Conservancy, Scenic Hudson, Riverkeeper, Clearwater and the Cary Institute among its non profit partners and the Hudson River Estuary Program, NYS Dept. of State, US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Army Corp of Engineers and US Environmental Protection Agency among its governmental partners. The plan has several components including an assessment of current conditions, defining ecosystem goals and planning for future community resilience. Links to the event and plan are below:

<http://thehudsonweshare.org/event/community-workshop-kingston-ny/>  
<http://thehudsonweshare.org/about-the-plan/>

**b. Climate Action Plan Review:** Julie and Emilie gave an overview of the Climate Action Plan and Climate Smart Communities Pledge describing how the Climate Action Plan fits into the comprehensive plan and subsequent task force charged with implementation which evolved into the pending Climate Smart Kingston Commission. This discussion served as an orientation for the new council member and the guests.

IV. **Announcements/Communications:** Hudsonia is holding the 2015 Urban Biodiversity Workshop on August 24 at Teatown Lake Reservation near Ossining. Link to the flyer for the event:  
<http://hudsonia.org/events/>

### V. Reports:

1. **EMC Liaison:** Emilie had nothing to report this month.
2. **Planning Board Liaison:** Casey had nothing to report this month.
3. **Public Safety Liaison:** Lynn reviewed the Solarize presentation made by several representatives of Solarize. Lynn may miss the next meeting if it is held on the regularly scheduled day. Kevin offered to appear if needed.
4. **Comprehensive Plan Liaison:** Julie indicated that the next Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee will be held Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6-8pm and continued on June 4 if needed with the agenda being a review of comments made to the comprehensive plan draft.
5. **Solarize Kingston Liaison:** Julie reported on Solarize Kingston and Solarize Hudson Valley and the Common Council committee presentation and that three installers have been chosen, Hudson Solar, NYS Solar Farm and SOLARgeneration. Kevin reported on research on expedited permits in other NYS communities including protocols for solar installations on properties subject to an historic or architectural review board. Next events include May 21 at the Andy Murphy Neighborhood Center on Broadway at 5:30PM and June 9 at 6PM at Kingston Library as well as a solar house tour hosted by Emilie on June

6 from 1to4PM. Links for these events are below:

<http://www.saveenergyhudsonvalley.org/event/solarize-kingston-kworkshop-2/>

[http://www.saveenergyhudsonvalley.org/event/solarize-kingston-community-workshop/?instance\\_id=119099](http://www.saveenergyhudsonvalley.org/event/solarize-kingston-community-workshop/?instance_id=119099) <http://www.saveenergyhudsonvalley.org/event/solarize-kingston-solar-home-tour-emily-hauser/>

6. **Climate Smart Kingston Commission:** The commission has yet to be appointed. Next meeting is scheduled for May 27.

**VI. Adjournment:** Upon motion made by Casey and seconded by Lynn, the Council members present voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:34PM.