



**Kingston Conservation Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Kingston City Hall Conference Room 1
Date: August 8, 2017 6:30-9:30**

Council Members Elizabeth Broad (not present), Lorraine Farina, Emilie Hauser (Vice-Chair), Lynn Johnson (not present), Kevin McEvoy (Secretary), Julie Noble (Chair), Casey Schwarz

Common Council Liaison: Rennie Scott-Childress

Guest: John Mickelson, NRI Consultant

- I. Welcome Guests and Public Comment:** The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. There was no problem comment.
- II. Modifications to the Agenda:** There were no modifications to the agenda.
- III. Review and Approval July 2017 Monthly Meeting Minutes:** Upon motion made by Casey and seconded by Lorraine, the minutes to the July meeting as amended were unanimously approved by the Council members present.
- IV. Old Business**
 - 1. Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) and Open Space Project Update- Special Guest John Mickelson, NRI Consultant:** John began his presentation of the Open Space Index by pointing out that the tax map parcels should be a secondary consideration when analyzing an asset or feature as the significance of individual parcels may only be in a portion of the parcel especially with respect to larger parcels. Maps and assets reviewed for the Open Space Index included: (1) Historic mapping with adjacent areas; (2) Recreational mapping together with park deserts; (3) Steep slopes using a Digital Elevated Model aka DEM data (crest, ledge, talus) together with cemeteries (not likely to be changed); (4) Aquifers; (5) Aquatic Habitat including rivers, streams, floodplains and floodways, wetlands, vernal pools, tidal habitats noting that submerged aquatic vegetation was updated recently; (6) Terrestrial habitat (Hudsonia map); (7) Hydrology including ground water, riparian zones, flood zones and hydric soils; (8) Habitat diversity including all types of upland and wetland forest; (9) Parcels greater than 5 acres; (10) Surface waters; (11) Tree canopy greater than 40% per pixel forest cover; (12) Streams including Twaalfskill/Wilbur Avenue basin with Tannery Brook and Main St. brook to be included. Regarding priorities, John discussed forested areas, urban agriculture, steep slopes and the need to coordinate with the present City zoning initiative. John will also be writing up interpretation of the Natural Resource Inventory shortly. The Chairperson reported that no contract has been signed with Behan Planning as of date for the Open Space Plan. Presentation lasted from 6:30 to 7:45pm.
 - 2. 65-85 E. Strand Review:** Emilie presented the site plans for the site and the FEMA flood plain maps showing project areas in the 100 year (1% probability) and 500 year (.2% probability) flood plains. The consistency with the recommendations of the Tidal Rondout Flooding Task Force were reviewed in this regard. It was mentioned that the CAC could ask that a hydraulic analysis using an effective model be done with respect to this project pursuant to DEC Floodplain Planning and Floodway Guidance recommendations since it is unclear from the information available as to whether the “no adverse effect” criteria on the DEC Guidance is met. DEC defines “adverse effect”

as any physical damage to an adjoining or other property. See link to DEC Floodplain Planning and Floodway Guidance for further information: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/24281.html>

3. **Hudson River Superfund Review:** The Council reviewed the Ulster County EMC letter to EPA and determined that the letter was not clear with respect to the natural attenuation remedy in the EPA Hudson River Five Year Plan. As an action item Emilie will draft a letter to EPA during the present open comment period and will forward to the Council for review. Link to the EPA PCB Five Year Plan Fact Sheet:
https://www3.epa.gov/udon/pdf/Upper_Hudson_River_Fact_Sheet_June2017_Updated.pdf
4. **Wood Burning/Air Quality Sub Committee:** Lorraine met with Patti Ricci, coordinator of Charitable Giving at Ulster Savings Bank to discuss funding opportunities for an air quality monitor for the City of Kingston to facilitate enforcement of wood burning violations and reviewed the application process with respect to the City as applicant. Lorraine will proceed with grant application, and will forward any questions to Julie that are specific to the operations of Kingston City government. Julie suggested that perhaps the grant application should have a higher request amount to account for contingencies such as periodic calibration and additional training and adding to the grant an amount to cover copying costs for brochures on air quality and wood burning. Lorraine suggested a possible introduction to the proposed Mayor's Message regarding wood burning, in order to meet the mayor's request that the message be tied into a current event/need in the community. She will draft one and share with CAC members. Lorraine stated the importance of enforcement of current Kingston air pollution code, including entry of premises if there is a violation (City Code Section 135-7). A discussion ensued concerning possible further education for Fire and Building Safety Dept. employees to emphasize the City's priority and goal of clean air as it relates to wood smoke. Lorraine suggested that the Fire Dept, as part of their inspections of violations and inspections of wood burning devices, distribute copies of the CAC/City of Kingston brochure outlining the health and environmental risks of burning wood. Lorraine reviewed a potential smoke monitoring device operating on lithium batteries in the \$6500 cost range including training. There was a further discussion regarding air pollution and fuel burning generators. Julie reported City website has not been updated as yet to include air quality tab.

V. New Business

1. **Review: City Proposed change to Code Chapter 336. Sanitation and Weeds:** Common Council Member Rennie Scott Childress explained the code proposal indicating that the City follows the International Property Maintenance Code, which currently allows 30 days to correct weed violations. The current code proposes to limit the correction period to 7 days. The CAC is not taking action.
2. **Review: City Proposed Clean Energy and Paris Agreement Resolution:** Common Council Member Rennie Scott Childress explained that a language change in the proposed resolution caused the bill to be tabled. Questions regarding codifying the resolution rather than passing a memorializing resolution were discussed. The resolution will be brought up again as a memorializing resolution. The CAC, as an action item, will send the Common Council a list of officials and agencies to whom to send the letter, including but limited to the Governor, the Sierra Club and the Climate Mayors (Mayors National Climate Action Agenda), the organization that provided the resolution language.

VI. Announcements/Communications/Event: Community forums will be held to address parking issues in the City of Kingston on August 30, 31 and Sept 6.

VII. Reports/Updates

1. **Kingston Sidewalk Task Force (Lorraine Farina):** Lorraine spoke to Kristen Wilson regarding the Sidewalk Code recently approved. The financing phase is to be continued.
2. **Planning Board Liaison (Casey Schwarz):** There is no meeting in August. See above under Old Business regarding 65-85 East Strand.
3. **Public Safety Liaison (Betta Broad):** Kevin substituted for Betta at the July Common Council Public Safety Committee and reported to the Committee on wood burning, the NRI and the Climate

Smart Commission Letters of Support for the City Consolidated Funding Applications (NYS CFA grants).

4. **Climate Smart Kingston (*Julie Noble*):** The Unified Solar Permit is now approved at NYS level. Letters of Support for the City Consolidated Funding Applications (NYS CFA grants) were reviewed.
5. **Ulster County Environmental Management Council Liaison (*Emilie Hauser*):** PCB's were discussed together with the EMC letter discussed above under Super Fund Review.
6. **2017 Conference on the Environment (*Julie Noble*):** The Chairperson will be meeting with Amanda LaValle, Ulster County Dept of the Environment, to review the agenda and participants.
7. **City Grant Applications (*Julie Noble*):** The Chairperson provided an update on City Consolidated Funding Applications (NYS CFA) and other grant applications submitted which are pending. An electric vehicle charging station grant on City properties was reviewed.

VIII. Adjournment: Upon motion made by Casey, and seconded by Emilie, the Council members present unanimously agreed to adjourn at 9:50 pm.

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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.