



**Kingston Conservation Advisory Council  
Monthly Meeting FINAL Minutes  
Kingston City Hall Conference Room 1  
Date: September 12, 2017 6:30-9:30**

**Council Members** Elizabeth Broad (excused), Lorraine Farina, Emilie Hauser (Vice-Chair, excused), Lynn Johnson, Kevin McEvoy (Secretary), Julie Noble (Chair), Casey Schwarz

**Common Council Liaison:** Rennie Scott-Childress (excused)

**Guest:** John Mickelson, NRI Consultant, Adrienne Hazel, Tanya Garment

**I. Welcome Guests and Public Comment:** The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:27pm. There was no public comment.

**II. Modifications to the Agenda:** There were no modifications to the agenda.

**III. Review and Approval August 2017 Monthly Meeting Minutes:** Upon motion made by Casey and seconded by Lorraine, the minutes to the August 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 explaining the Open Space Index criteria development matrix and his consistency review of Hudsonia habitat mapping. John pointed out overlap in criteria and included the tax map parcel level information from the Assessor's records. The data can be sorted in various ways to determine priority of open space. John reviewed individual criteria including biologically important terrestrial and aquatic, habitat diversity, forested areas (tree canopy greater than 40%), surface waters, riparian buffers, aquifers, flood plains and floodways including coastal zones, vernal pools, wetlands and hydric soils, submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) beds, "problem" water areas (Main St, Tannery Brook and Twaalfskill), existing parks, areas adjacent to parks, potential parks, park deserts, rail trail corridor, historic/cultural, protected lands, adjacent to protected land, steep slopes (greater than 15% grade), vacant parcels, protected lands including adjacent parcels, large parcels (greater than 5 acres), include urban agriculture later with Jennifer Schwartz Berky's work. The Chairperson announced that John Mickelson's contract is to be extended until the end of December and that the Behan planning contract for the Open Space Plan is still pending. Presentation lasted from 6:30pm to 7:15pm.
- 2. 65-85 E. Strand Review:** The Chairperson reviewed with the Council the comments Emilie has prepared with respect to flooding and projected sea level rise. The comments are summarized as follows: (1) request that the local flood administrator require a technical analysis, by a licensed professional engineer, which shows whether proposed development to be located in an area of special flood hazard may result in physical damage to any other property. City of Kingston Zoning Code, Flood Hazard Overlay District § 405-26 was cited as a reference. (Link to code: <http://ecode360.com/6727255 - 6727947>); (2) elevate the proposed development area by adding 2 feet to the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) and at least an additional 36 inches to account for sea-level rise, as recommended by the Sea Level Rise Task Force for the 2060s, or 68 inches for 2100. Planning for Rising Waters: Final Report of the City of Kingston Tidal Waterfront Flooding

Task Force (2013) was cited as a reference. Additional documentation and references were also cited and discussed in the letter. The Climate Smart Kingston Commission has already agreed to the letter. Kevin suggested that the letter be addressed to the Heritage Area Commission (HAC) in addition to the Planning Board since HAC will be charged with conducting a Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP) review. The Council members present resolved by unanimous acclamation that the letter be sent as a joint letter from the Climate Smart Kingston Commission and the Conservation Advisory Council and be sent to the Planning Dept and the Heritage Area Commission.

- 3. Wood Burning/Air Quality Sub Committee:** The Council reviewed the air quality brochure now on the City website (<https://kingston-ny.gov/airquality>). Lorraine has continued reviewing air quality sensors and their specifications and has been further investigating the characteristics of particular air quality monitors that measure PM (particulate matter) 2.5 in advance of requesting grant funding. Lorraine has been in touch with the Quality Assurance Manager of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) in Southern California, Dr. Andrea Polidori. They have been conducting tests through EPA to evaluate the effectiveness of PM 2.5, low-cost air quality sensors. Lorraine has researched various technical aspects relating to the City of Kingston's particular needs and environmental conditions/parameters such as temp/intended use of the monitor. Dr. Polidori also recommended we wait until late fall, as the SCAQMD is currently testing a device (called Clarity) that takes into account all variables such as temperature and relative humidity (and might therefore be helpful in winter conditions). Test results will be published in late fall. Dr. Polidori referred Lorraine to a Brooklyn-based non-profit environmental health justice organization called Habitatmap ([http://habitatmap.org/about\\_us](http://habitatmap.org/about_us)), as they have developed and are employing an air quality sensor called Airbeam in a cold climate similar to Kingston's climate, and it has been successful. The general testing has thus far revealed some limitations on effectiveness of most sensors in one of many technical areas. This is true of the Airbeam as well, but the Habitatmap group has remedied the problem in response to the EPA testing findings. It is very low cost: \$250.00. Michael Heim binder, the director of Habitatmap, said the group provides free technical support via email and phone, and agreed to do training if time allows, but the devices are simple to use as they are intended for citizen science use as well and come with instructions. 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. A member of the public suggested that film crews might buy electricity from the City. The Chairperson said she would look into this. Lorraine has sent to the CAC members a draft of potential introduction to 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 and has asked for CAC input. 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 woodburning devices, distribute copies of the CAC/City of Kingston brochure outlining the health and environmental risks of burning wood. Lorraine indicated that the Chairperson has reviewed the updated CAC website, which now includes a tab for air quality as it relates to both wood burning and idling of vehicles. Lorraine asked how we might assure that Building Safety/FD hand out the CAC Wood Burning brochure during calls to inspect a premises after a complaint. The Chairperson said she would contact them to be sure they are handing them out during Fire Safety week in the schools, as was done last year, and will recommend distributing the brochures when responding to possible violation complaints. During a discussion of whether there was any tracking of responses to potential violation of air quality code, it was noted that the dispatcher might do this. The Chairperson followed up on last month's question about generators running all day on large trucks in connection with film crews indicating she learned that companies are supposed to let neighbors

know in advance concerning parking and filming, that currently no regulations exist specifically about this, other than a general nuisance code and the Noise Control Code which includes a “no noise disturbance” after 10 pm provision. Link to Noise Control Code:  
[http://ecode360.com/12699939?highlight=noises,noise - 12699939](http://ecode360.com/12699939?highlight=noises,noise-12699939)

4. **Review: City Proposed change to Code Chapter 336. Sanitation and Weeds:** The Council discussed the recent communications regarding urban agriculture. Action was deferred until the urban agriculture committee can provide comments to the Kingston Laws and Rules Committee, which has the matter on its upcoming agenda.

#### V. New Business

1. **Agendas and minutes on Granicus:** The Chairperson reviewed the Granicus software the City is using for meetings and agendas. Agenda items will need to be provided a week in advance. Lynn reviewed her work as Legislative Assistant using Granicus.
2. **340 Abeel Street:** Bulkhead was discussed. No action was taken.

VI. **Announcements/Communications/Events:** None reported.

#### VII. Reports/Updates

1. **Kingston Sidewalk Task Force (Lorraine Farina):** Lorraine reported no further update to date.
2. **Planning Board Liaison (Casey Schwarz):** See above under Old Business regarding 65-85 East Strand and 340 Abeel St.
3. **Public Safety Liaison (Betta Broad):** Betta attended last month.
4. **Climate Smart Kingston (Julie Noble):** 65-85 East Strand was discussed as noted above, together with City grant applications and social media outreach.
5. **Ulster County Environmental Management Council Liaison (Emilie Hauser):** The EMC letter regarding the EPA Super Fund Review and PCB’s was among matters discussed.
6. **2017 Conference on the Environment (Julie Noble):** The event has been changed to November 17 & 18 at the Chateau (formerly Hillside Manor). Topics are expected to include clean transport and energy as well as conservation planning for economic development. Living Local: Linking Local Economies and the Environment. Link: [www.nysaccny.org/2017-conference-on-the-environment](http://www.nysaccny.org/2017-conference-on-the-environment)
7. **City Grant Applications (Julie Noble):** The Chairperson provided an update on NYSERDA Clean Energy grant for City Hall upgrades.

VIII. **Adjournment:** Upon motion made by Casey, and seconded by Lynn, the Council members present unanimously agreed to adjourn at 8:28 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.*