



Climate Smart Kingston Commission
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Minutes to the Climate Smart Kingston Commission Meeting, June 28, 2017
Kingston City Hall, Council Chambers 3:30-5:00 PM

Commission Members (Voting): Elizabeth Broad (via telephone), Pat Courtney Strong, Michael D'Arcy, Emilie Hauser, Nick Hvozda (not present), Kevin McEvoy (Secretary), Sarina Pepper (not present), Karen Sullivan, John Wackman (not present)

Commission Members (Non-Voting): Casey Schwarz, Amanda LaValle (Ulster County Dept of the Environment; excused)

Ex-Officio Members: Suzanne Cahill (Kingston Planning Dept.; not present), Brenna Robinson (Kingston Community & Economic Development, excused), Julie Noble (Kingston Parks & Recreation, Commission Chairperson), Bill Carey (City of Kingston Common Council- not present), NYS Assembly Member Kevin Cahill represented by Jillian Nodiak (not present), Kingston City Engineer (not present), Joe Chenier (Kingston Dept of Public Works; not present)

Guests: Randolph Horner, Dave Bruner, Hilary Harvey, Tanya Garment, Barbara Scott

- I. **Welcome Guests and Public Comment:** The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 4:46 pm. Several people spoke regarding LED lighting. Barbara Scott spoke during public comment indicating that she has been communicating with Commissioner Pat Courtney Strong concerning LED street lighting. Dave Bruner would also like to follow up on LED streetlights. Tanya Garment commented regarding on blue light from certain LED lighting.
- II. **Review and Approval May 2017 Meeting Minutes:** Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Mike D'Arcy and seconded by Commissioner Pat Courtney Strong, the voting commissioners presented unanimously approved the minutes to the May meeting.
- III. **Old Business**
 1. **Mid-Hudson Street Light Consortium:** Upon motion by Commissioner Karen Sullivan and seconded by Michael D'Arcy the streetlight matter was moved up on the agenda by unanimous vote of the commissioners present. Commissioner Pat Courtney Strong gave an introduction concerning the Mid-Hudson Street Light Consortium and discussed the purchase of the approximately 2200 streetlights by the City from Central Hudson, which is believed to providing a savings of \$30,000 per month. The Commissioner continued, referencing the installation of LED streetlights by Central Hudson prior to the City purchase, which resulted in bright overlighting; And that the City of Kingston is presently waiting for the consortium to complete a Request for Proposals for a group purchase of LED lighting still under review by NYSERDA. Under the group purchase arrangement, the individual municipalities would contract independently with the selected contractor. A design phase is expected to then follow to include, but not limited to, determining locations where brighter and softer LED streetlights lights should be placed. In the meantime, DPW has reported approximately 93 lights out of service, which will need to be replaced in the short term. Commissioner Pat Courtney Strong addressed the health issues concerning blue LED lighting. Commissioner Mike D'Arcy discussed public safety issues with respect to street lighting. Randolph Horner and David Bruner discussed streetlight design specifications including streetlight arms and light shields to mitigate overlighting. Dimming and the capability to change color of the light were mentioned as a possible design feature. Hillary Harvey spoke to safety and dimming. New lighting on Broadway was mentioned in further discussion. Zoning and building code considerations with respect to lighting were brought up by Hillary Harvey while Randolph Horner commented on having private developers install appropriate lighting on new development. It was suggested by several commissioners that the CAC might take up the lighting issue at a future time.

2. **Unified Solar Permit Modifications:** Commissioner Mike D’Arcy has forwarded the document to Europa McGovern and will be forwarded to NYSERDA. It will be on the City website shortly. Link to the City solar page is here: <https://kingston-ny.gov/Solar>
3. **Comprehensive Plan Zoning Review:** Next meeting is Thursday June 29 at 6PM. Tanya reported on discussions with the planning director on the zoning and at Comprehensive Plan Zoning Committee and discussed use based versus form-based code. Matters within scope of the Climate Action Plan may require Commission review and comment.
4. **Public Safety Committee Liaison;** Commissioner Betta Broad offered to take over from Commissioner Mike D’Arcy as the new liaison to the Common Council Public Safety Committee, which was approved by unanimous acclamation of the voting commissioners present.

V. New Business

1. **Joint Energy Efficiency and Solarize Campaign:** Commissioner Mike D’Arcy gave a brief update in Commissioner John Wackman’s absence.
2. **Climate Mayors and Resolution for Paris Climate Agreement:** The Chairperson reported on the Mayors’ National Climate Action Agenda and the 323 Mayors who have confirmed their cities’ commitment to the Paris climate accords and a proposed City of Kingston memorializing resolution regarding specific climate action pledges and a commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement. Commissioner Betta Broad will attend the Public Safety Committee this evening and express support for the proposed memorializing resolution. Further information on the Mayors’ National Climate Action Agenda can be found at: <http://www.climate-mayors.org/mncaa-overview/>
3. **Sierra Club’s Mayors for 100 Percent Clean Energy:** The Chairperson discussed a proposed City commitment to 100 percent clean energy by 2050. Further information can be found at: <http://www.sierraclub.org/ready-for-100/mayors-for-clean-energy>.
4. **Letters of Support for City Grants:** The Chairperson asked for commission approval regarding letters of support for a DEC Hudson River Access grant application due July 12. Upon motion duly made Commissioner Mike D’Arcy and seconded by Commissioner Karen Sullivan, the voting commissioners present unanimously approved providing a letter or letters of support for the DEC Hudson River access grant application(s). The Chairperson reported on a Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) grant possibility for composting as a Climate Action Plan implementation initiative for the next year budget as well as several other funding opportunities. Randolph Horner recommended tying the language in the grant application into regional council priorities. Upon motion duly made Commissioner Emilie Hauser and seconded by Commissioner Mike D’Arcy, the voting commissioners present unanimously approved providing letter or letters of support as may be required for the City of Kingston Consolidated Funding Applications.

VI. Announcements/Communications/Events/Updates

1. **Sustainable Saturday Planning Team:** Commissioner Betta Broad provided a brief update and plans to meet with the planning team within the next two weeks. September 9th is the prospective date.
2. **Conference on the Environment Planning:** The Chairperson reported on conference planning for November 3rd and 4th. Three tracks included in the event planning land use including NRI and open space planning with Google Earth training, food production and waste management, clean energy initiatives and action including grant training. Mohonk phenology was mentioned as a possible topic.
3. **Electric Vehicles and Infrastructure:** The Chairperson provided a brief report on additional EV and charging station possibilities.
4. **Portfolio Manager Benchmarking and Energy Tracking:** Tabled.
5. **Residential Energy Efficiency Campaign Working Group:** Commissioner Mike D’Arcy reported that the Working Group is still planning on having Commissioner Karen Sullivan review the Residential Energy Efficiency Campaign from a real estate perspective.
6. **Mid-Hudson Street Light Consortium:** See above under Old Business.

7. **Ulster County Climate Smart Committee:** Tabled.
 8. **Sea Level Rise Implementation Learning Group:** The Chairperson reported on the June 19th meeting in Beacon NY regarding presentations and discussion concerning using green infrastructure to manage storm water runoff, analyses to support local adaptation strategies including flood area zoning and infrastructure and strengthening community engagement.
 9. **Anchorage:** Commissioner Emilie Hauser reported that the US Coast Guard has just announced anchorage proposals will not be moving forward.
 10. **Community Solar Training:** Commissioner Betta Broad announced a Community Solar Training event is expected to be held on July 11 at the Kirkland Hotel, 2 Main St.
- VII. **Adjournment:** The voting Commissioners present agreed by acclamation to adjourn the meeting at 6:01 pm.

NOTE: All links to outside information and websites are for reference purposes only. The Commission makes no representations regarding such information.

Vision: The City of Kingston will be a 'Model City' of energy, environmental and economic sustainability by 2020 within city government operations and throughout the community.