



**Kingston Conservation Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting Final Minutes
Kingston City Hall Conference Room 1
Date: June 11, 2019 6:00pm**

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

Common Council Liaison: Andrea Shaut (excused)

Guests: Fire Chief Mark Brown, Officer Shultis (KPD)

- I. Welcome Guests and Public Comment:** The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:02pm. No public comment was made.
- II. Modifications to the Agenda:** Upon motion duly made by Emilie and seconded by Casey, the commissioners present unanimously approved that street trees be put on the agenda for this meeting under New Business.
- III. Review and Approval May 2019 Monthly Meeting Minutes:** Upon motion duly made by Casey, and seconded by Lorraine, the minutes to the April meeting as amended were approved by the council members present with Emilie abstaining.

IV. Old Business:

a. Wood Smoke/Air Quality Sub Committee

i. Special Guest: Fire Chief Mark Brown: Chief Brown began his presentation by reviewing City Code Section 135 ([Air Pollution and Smoke Control](#)) and the \$20K population references. The Chief mentioned several of the last 14 open burn matters that the Fire Dept has been called on. The Chief pointed out inconsistencies between the City Charter (Article XII, Fire Dept), City Code (Section 135) and NYS Code concerning open burns, dense smoke code provisions and campfire provisions. The Chief recommended clean wood on permissible fires and propane gas for other uses. The Chief indicating that he is willing to write or assist in writing new guidelines and/or draft legislation to clarify smoke issues. NYS open burn information is available here: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/58519.html>
Lorraine also submitted a brief written report indicating she has provided Melinda Herzog at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Healthy Ulster Initiative with CAC Woodsmoke Pollution brochures.

ii. Grant update: The Chairperson reported on the grant application submitted to the Pollution Prevention Institute affiliated with the Rochester Institute of Technology for air monitoring data collection on which Bard Center for the Study of Land, Air, and Water, is partnering with the City of Kingston. Lorraine also reported on the grant opportunity in her written report. The Chairperson mentioned that UCRRA has also applied for a zero waste initiative from the same funding source.

b. NRI and Open Space Project

i. Draft Plan Review: Comment period for the Open Space Plan is open until June 14. Comments received from Rich Schiafo, former consultant for the Climate Action Plan and former Scenic Hudson staff member and from Greg Shaheen (Kingston Land Trust) with responses to both from Behan Planning project consultant were discussed.

ii. Next Steps: Public comment period is still open. The executive summary needs to be completed. The CAC is expected to put the adoption of the final plan on a future CAC meeting agenda, possibly as soon as July but a communication is expected to be sent to the Common Council at the end of June to begin the adoption process. Formal adoption as an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan is recommended by the consultant and should come later as this requires SEQRA compliance with a public hearing and review period.

The City website link to the Open Space Plan is below: <https://www.kingston-ny.gov/content/8399/8491/8495/10452/10485.aspx>

- V. New Business: Street Trees:** A discussion concerning the concerns expressed by Tanya Garment regarding street trees and tree canopy. The Henry St. street tree comments from Tanya were mentioned. Regarding Broadway, trees are being put in bioretention areas with specific trees. No motions were made and no resolutions were presented.

VI. Announcements/Events/Communications/Reports/Updates

1. **Kingston Sidewalk Task Force (Lorraine Farina):** No update this month.
2. **Planning Board Liaison (Casey Schwarz):** The Kingstonian public hearing was held at the last meeting. The project is also expected on the agenda again. Kevin reported on the possibility of a joint Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission and Planning Board meeting on the matter.
3. **Public Safety Liaison (Kevin McEvoy):** Kevin attended and reported to the committee on the Open Space Plan public meeting in May. Kevin also reported on the Climate Smart Kingston goals at the committee meeting.
4. **Zoning Task Force** Kevin reported that the next meeting is June 18, He could use help on draft language for the consultant's proposed scope of work. He would share this draft language with the Task Force.
5. **Climate Smart Kingston (Kevin or Emilie or Casey or Betta)** Casey reported on Sean Koester's presentation on greenhouse gas emissions and further reported on the composting survey which is open until June 14.
6. **Glidepath:** Nothing new to report at this time.
7. **Ulster County Environmental Management Council Liaison (Emilie Hauser):** Emilie reported on the "Bring Your Own Bag Initiative". Solid waste management options are still under consideration. Danskammer utility plant natural gas proposal was discussed. The Chairperson reported that the Mayor has signed a letter opposing the Danskammer proposal. Emilie indicated that she has been tasked with coming up with a list of actions that our CAC has done that could be implemented in other communities in Ulster County. The Chairperson, Emilie and the commission together discussed the NRI and Open Space Plan, reviews of land use development proposals, sea level rise, projects and concerns such as PCP dredging, cell towers, wood smoke pollution, anchorages, harbor barriers, match time on municipal grants and community engagement as well as implementation initiatives of the Kingston Climate Action Plan by the Climate Smart Commission, and acting as liaison to other governmental bodies.
8. **Clean Power Expo Marbletown:** Betta reported on a renewable energy for all event to be held on June 23 from 12-3pm at the Marbletown Community Center in Stone Ridge,

- VII. Adjournment:** Upon motion made by Casey and seconded by Lorraine, the Council members present unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 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.

Note that website links are informational only. The Commission makes no representations as to content therein. These minutes represent a summarization of the meeting and not a transcription.