

TOWN OF NISKAYUNA
Complete Streets Committee
A G E N D A
July 28, 2023
2:30 P.M.

Schaefer Room, Town Hall & Hybrid Google Meets

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

IV. MINUTES

1. July 7, 2023 (June Meeting)

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Grant Writer Assistance – Climate Smart Grants (Hillside & Birchwood Safe Routes to School)
 - i. Input from School District
 - ii. Draft maps (attached)
2. Draft Comprehensive Plan Chapter “Mobility and Transportation” (Duggal/Kuzsman)
 - i. Subcommittee Meeting
 - ii. Plan for draft of Chapter 7 – meet with Comp Plan August 15 or Sept 19

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Hillside Ave Tree Planting Project – discussion of multi-use path
2. Wyoming Ave – public hearing for stop sign

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Grant Updates – Crosswalks at St Josephs
2. Plum St Sidewalk Progress Report
3. Spring Complete Streets Demonstration Projects / Grand Boulevard Discussions
4. Winnie Road Easement – Audrey Cox
5. Priority Letter Update / Route 7 requests

VIII. REPORTS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING
August 25, 2023 at 2:30 pm

**TOWN OF NISKAYUNA
COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE**

**Hybrid In Person (Schaefer Room) / Remote Meeting (Google Meets)
Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2023 (June meeting)**

Members Present: William Chapman, Chairman
Karla Duggal
Andrew Millspaugh
Catherine Kuzsman
Elise Corbin, Student Representative
Avi Barr, Student Representative

Also Present: Laura Robertson, Town Planner
Trisha Bergami, Planning Department
Percy Davis, Student
James Lian, Student (Virtual)

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:30pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Theresa Healy, Jim Levy and Ben O'Shea were excused today.

III. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

James Lian spoke virtually about his support for adding more bike connections to the Town of Niskayuna and also connecting existing paths. He stated he was particularly interested in connecting Niskayuna with surrounding areas in a safer way.

Avi Barr stated his support for Complete Street connections.

Percy Davis spoke about the existing bike connections being a huge help to get around the Town. Mr. Davis also stated that with the ability to ride a bike to places - a ride from family or a friend is not needed so frequently which is helpful.

Elise Corbin asked Mr. Lian if he had specific concerns he wanted to share with the Complete Streets Committee at this time. Mr. Lian said he is just offering his support at this time but one concern that he finds particularly impactful is the lack of sidewalks or side paths on Rosendale Road. Chairman Chapman stated he shared this concern and has been advocating for sidewalks or side paths on Rosendale Road to connect people to the Iroquois and Rosendale schools.

IV. MINUTES

1. May 19, 2023

Chairman Chapman made a motion to approve the 5/19/2023 minutes, seconded by Karla Duggal. Upon voting the 5/19/2023 minutes were approved unanimously.

V. PUBLIC CONCERNS

There were no public concerns today.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Climate Smart Grant – Hillside Avenue & Birchwood Lane Safe Routes to School

Chairman Chapman stated this is a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Climate Smart Communities Grant Program, the same grant that the Town of Glenville received in 2019 for around one million dollars.

Chairman Chapman said Niskayuna is focused on Cornelius Avenue and Birchwood Lane side paths as well as rehabilitating one block that runs in front of Van Antwerp Middle School. The neighbors that surround these areas have been reached out to for input on the pros and cons. The Town engineer has also been asked to look at the options for these sidewalks.

Chairman Chapman said the Grant Writer asked for the number of walkers that attend both schools currently as well as how many students get dropped off currently to demonstrate the potential reduction in vehicle trips with the installation of a sidewalk. He felt this information could really strengthen the grant application. Chairman Chapman said that if half the trips parents make to the schools could be cut it would reduce greenhouse gases and get kids walking more.

Ms. Robertson said the Committee has more letters of support than the Grant requires which is good, but having the letters of support from the school would be really helpful. Chairman Chapman said the Superintendent of Schools for Niskayuna said he could get the numbers of students that walk and/or get driven. These numbers would be very helpful for the greenhouse gas reduction calculation. He also stated that a support letter of the schools should be forthcoming but he can reach out to them again with a reminder.

Ms. Robertson said a meeting next week would be a good next step to help finalize the grant application. Chairman Chapman agreed and added that Matt Yetto, Town Engineer should be there and maybe the Supervisor and Jim Levy who has been helping the grant writer.

Chairman Chapman asked about including school property in the grant. Ms. Robertson felt the focus should be on the Hillside and Birchwood sidewalks on Town property and the Complete Streets Committee could work with the School District to try and connect the school piece after. She stated they have been open to making the connections but want to see the Town of Niskayuna work on their pieces as well.

Transportation Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan

VII. NEW BUSINESS

i. Draft Comprehensive Plan Chapter "Mobility and Transportation"

75 Chairman Chapman said that they are proposing to change the title of Chapter 7 to “Mobility and
76 Transportation.”

77 Ms. Kuzsman said the decision to change the title to Transportation and Mobility was to
78 incorporate all forms of mobility, not just vehicles. She said they are not married to the title but
79 for now it works. Ms. Kuzsman said this title incorporates more of a Complete Streets approach.
80 She said the introduction highlights the whole concept of Complete Streets and what it is. Ms.
81 Kuzsman said the plan before was more about vehicles, traffic and connecting roads and less
82 about pedestrians and bicycles. She also mentioned that in the introduction they included what
83 Complete Streets has been doing. Ms. Kuzsman’s hope is that throughout this chapter Complete
84 Streets can be woven into the future goals for Niskayuna.

85 Chairman Chapman said the answers to question 14 of their survey could be an appendix or a
86 chapter could be added specific to it. He stated they need to get out their map and look at all the
87 neighborhoods where connections still need to be made. Chairman Chapman said he knows
88 there are a lot of them but suggested an excel spreadsheet with a link or an appendix that lets
89 people look at the list to see what connections are proposed for their neighborhood.

90 Ms. Kuzsman brought up that they need to go through the plan and indicate the items that are no
91 longer valid.

92 Mr. Barr asked about a Town resident survey. Chairman Chapman said there will be a survey
93 available to residents allowing input about the Comprehensive Plan to the Town.

94 **VIII. DISCUSSIONS ITEMS**

95 Chairman Chapman stated they still want to finish the sidewalk on Nott Street going from Baker
96 Avenue down to Lexington Parkway. This is the only block without a sidewalk.

97 a. Saint Joseph’s and Upper Union Street

98 The landscaping has been put in at St. Joseph’s but the pushbutton has not been installed yet.
99 The pushbutton should be installed within the month. Upper Union Street has been completed.

100 b. Plum St Sidewalk Progress Report

101 Ms. Robertson received a quote from a contractor for the sidewalk on Plum Street and is working
102 on putting the pieces together for the funding. Ms. Robertson believes there is enough money
103 allocated to do the sidewalk she just needs to make sure it is allocated correctly.

104 c. Spring Complete Streets Demonstration Projects

105 Chairman Chapman said they are still interested in painting some bike lanes on Lexington
106 Parkway between Clifton Park Road and Regent or Dean Street. Chairman Chapman said this
107 should be fairly easy to do. He suggested they could start by getting a bike path map drawn on
108 the computer and get out and talk to the people. The goal is to get 70% of the people on
109 Lexington in favor of it. Chairman Chapman brought up the mini informational table, it would

110 be set up after two or three weeks of the bike path being painted. The purpose would be to talk
111 about Complete Streets goals and get people's thoughts on the bike path.

112 Ms. Corbin said she thought the table was going to be up in the beginning for a couple days to
113 explain that the bike lanes weren't a permanent thing - that they were a demonstration project.

114 Chairman Chapman said they would send a letter before the bike lanes were painted explaining
115 about the demonstration and stating the lines weren't permanent. The table would be set up after
116 a few weeks of use and people would be notified that the Committee was there. This would be a
117 way to get feedback on what people thought and their opinions on future bike lanes.

118 Ms. Corbin felt there should be a table in the beginning as well. She thinks there would be a lot
119 more questions at the start. Chairman Chapman said that could be done but he is hoping that they
120 explain it well enough in the beginning before it starts to avoid a lot of initial questions.

121 Mr. Millspaugh said he could get the map together for the bike path.

122 Chairman Chapman said before this is in place a meeting should be set up with the Highway
123 Department, Police Department and Fire Department so they are all aware it is being done.

124 d. Winne Road Easement- Audrey Cox

125 No discussion today.

126 **IX. REPORTS**

127 There were no Committee Reports this meeting.

128 **X. ADJOURNMENT**

129 Chairman Chapman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Duggal. All were
130 in favor.

131 The meeting adjourned at 3:39 pm.

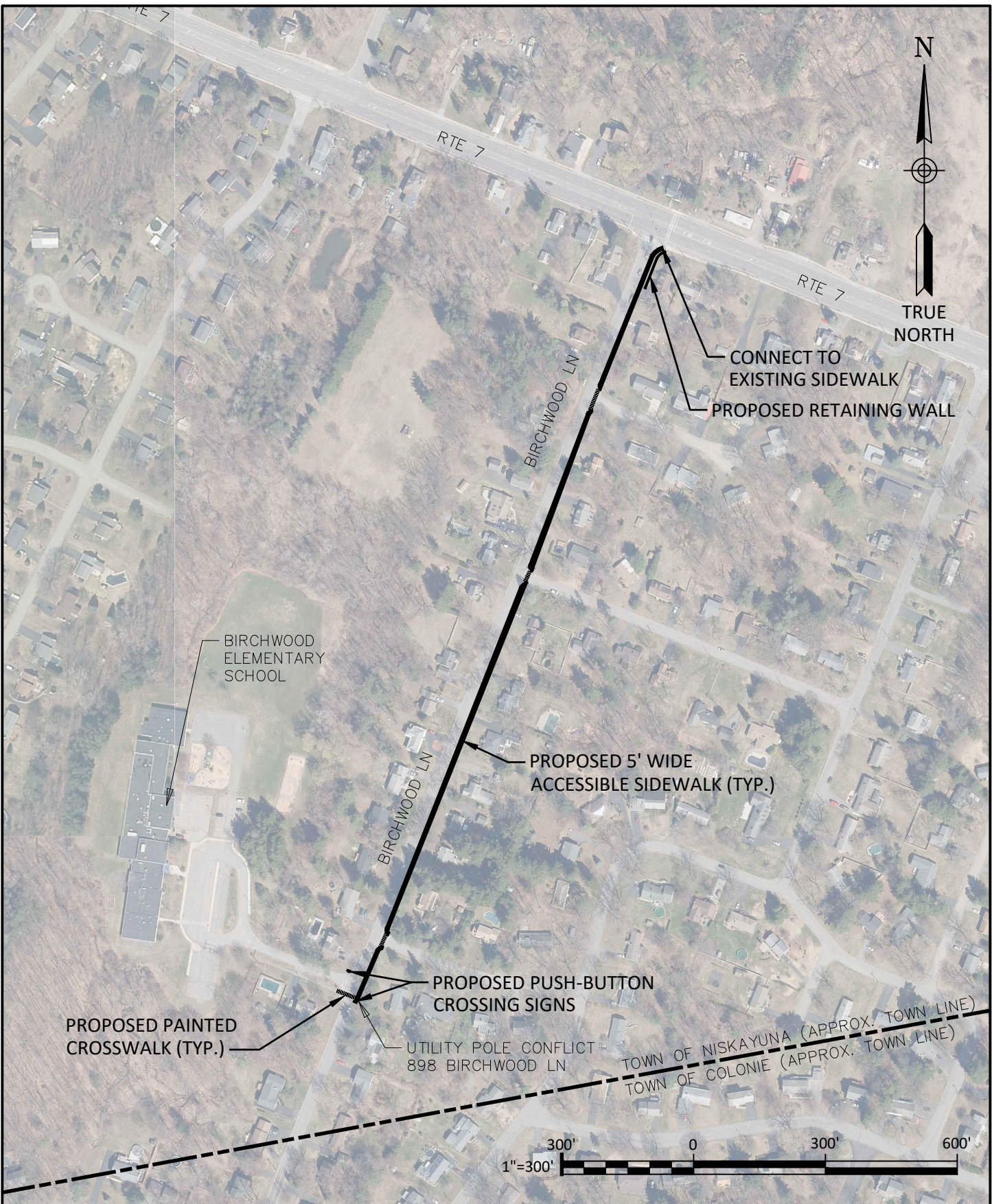
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SYR By: Iregan



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<div>Date</div> <div>JULY 2023</div>	<div>Scale</div> <div>1" = 300'</div>			

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<div>Date</div> <div>JULY 2023</div>	<div>Scale</div> <div>1" = 300'</div>	<div>TOWN OF NISKAYUNA</div> <div>SCHENECTADY COUNTY, NEW YORK</div>		<div>Project Number</div> <div>402.022.001</div>