

TOWN OF NISKAYUNA
Complete Streets Committee
A G E N D A

October 27, 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. September 29, 2023
- V. OLD BUSINESS**
 - 1. Draft Comprehensive Plan Chapter “Mobility and Transportation”
(Duggal/Kuzsman) – Subcommittee meeting
 - 2. Linkage Study for Route 7 – TAP application for Route 7 (Jim Levy)
- VI. NEW BUSINESS**
 - 1. ShopRite Plaza updates - recommendations
 - 2. Planning Projects
 - i. GE Global Research – sketch plan application for 2 lot subdivision
 - ii. 2890 River Road – sketch plan application for 4 lot subdivision
- VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS**
 - 1. Plum St Sidewalk Progress Report
 - 2. Complete Streets Demonstration Projects
 - 3. Winnie Road Easement – Audrey Cox
 - 4. Priority Letter meetings
- VIII. REPORTS**
- IX. ADJOURNMENT**

NEXT MEETING
December 8 at 2:30 pm

**TOWN OF NISKAYUNA
COMPLETE STREETS COMMITTEE**

**Hybrid In Person (Schaefer Room) / Remote Meeting (Google Meets)
Meeting Minutes
September 29, 2023**

Members Present: William Chapman, Chairman
Jim Levy (virtual)
Andrew Millspaugh (virtual)
Karla Duggal
Ben O'Shea (virtual)
Theresa Healy

Also Present: Laura Robertson, Town Planner

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Catherine Kuzsman, Avi Barr and Percy Davis were excused today.

III. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

No one for Privilege of the Floor

IV. MINUTES

1. August 28, 2023

Including the correction of Karla Duggal being marked present, Chairman Chapman made a motion to approve the 8/28/2023 minutes. The 8/28/2023 minutes were approved unanimously.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Draft Comprehensive Plan Chapter "Mobility and Transportation"
(Duggal/Kuzsman)

i. Met with Comp Plan Sept 19

Chairman Chapman stated the 2013 Comprehensive Plan still focuses on traffic and car movement and he would like to see the next plan emphasize other modes of transportation including pedestrians and bicyclists even more. Chairman Chapman mentioned some of the concerns that came from their February 2020 survey were that residents were interested in safety issues like controlling speeding and more side paths and crosswalks. Chairman Chapman also mentioned bottle neck areas and ways to move around the Town more smoothly.

Chairman Chapman stated that July and August had record heat so if the Committee can advocate for more people to walk or bike it will cut down on fossil fuel use. Obesity is also a

problem plaguing not only adults but children as well. If the Town can add safer ways to walk to school and around Town, the Committee can create a way to get healthier children and adults by walking to school instead of driving children to school. Chairman Chapman stated the Committee needs to include these points in the Comprehensive Plan introduction as well as a discussion about climate change to justify why a community needs to be a push for safer walking and biking around town. He felt this ties safety, accessibility and mobility all together.

Ms. Robertson said her perception after the joint meeting with the Comprehensive Plan, was they liked the direction Complete Streets was going. Ms. Robertson said they are going to add a new table of priority connections and a Complete Streets map. The overall Comprehensive Plan is neighborhood based. The Mobility chapter is less neighborhood based but they will try to incorporate more neighborhood connection recommendations into the 2023 version so it is more consistent with the rest of the chapters. The plan is to have Complete Streets get a draft ready to share by November or December. Overall, the Comprehensive Plan Committee is happy with the Complete Streets work on the Mobility chapter.

Ms. Robertson said there was much discussion about Route 7 at the joint meeting. The majority of people at the meeting feel the safety issue of Route 7 should be in the Comprehensive Plan as a goal to improve traffic calming measures. Mr. Millspaugh said the DOT engineer that responded to the Town's letter was interested in having continued meetings about traffic calming on Route 7. Mr. Millspaugh stated he supports this information being in the Comprehensive Plan.

Ms. Robertson said the Comprehensive Plan members were going to look at where some good connections need to be made in their own neighborhoods. Mr. Levy asked if the map that the Complete Streets had put together was going to be shared with the Comprehensive Plan Committee first. Ms. Robertson said she will share the Complete Streets map with the Comprehensive Plan members. Mr. Robertson said updates can be made on GIS and then the map can be sent electronically to everyone.

2. Wyoming Ave – stop sign approved

Chairman Chapman stated the stop sign on the corner of Wyoming and Baker Avenues has been installed. He suggested trying to get a stop sign on the corner of Lexington Parkway and Baker Avenue because he said traffic does not stop. Chairman Chapman would like a red flashing stop sign to be considered. Mr. Levy said regular stop signs cost between \$50 to \$100 each, the flashing stop signs are upwards of \$1000 each.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Linkage Study for Route 7

Ms. Robertson stated they received a letter back from DOT which stated they do not recommend lowering the speed limit on Route 7 but they were willing to meet with the Town about traffic calming. Mr. Millspaugh was not surprised by their response.

Ms. Robertson stated she will be setting up a meeting with the Town Supervisor and Chief of Police as a follow up to the letter. Ms. Robertson said she was at a meeting earlier in the week and DOT Region One gave her some advice to get moving on changes to Route 7. The one

major thing that was made very clear at the meeting was studies and pre-engineering are key to getting projects funded both with DOT and the Federal Government. Ms. Robertson said she had asked if the Town is allowed to submit for a study from Route 7 and DOT said yes, the Town can submit and it is recommended that they do so. Ms. Robertson said she promptly called CRTC and they mentioned they are proposing to release a solicitation for new linkage studies next week.

Ms. Robertson said if the Committee was able to secure a linkage study for Route 7 and it is completed, it will make it easier for the State to roll the project into their own budget as it is a State road, it also makes it eligible for Federal money. She felt the timing was good and they should try to capitalize on these opportunities.

Mr. Levy said this is a perfect time, the push is on for safety right now. Mr. O'Shea offered to work with Ms. Robertson on this. Ms. Robertson said a corridor study is the key.

Mr. Levy said its pretty typical in a linkage program that you will get concept designs. Mr. Levy recommended going for \$60,000 to \$80,00 for this study so you can get engineering done which the Committee will need if they are going to do a safety analysis.

Ms. Healy asked what linkage means, Ms. Robertson said it means linking transportation corridors with adjacent land uses.

Ms. Duggal spoke about adding a few medians in places that would not inhibit rescue vehicle maneuverability. Chairman Chapman said once you leave Colonie heading into Niskayuna, there aren't trees or crosswalks and it is very open so it doesn't feel like you should drive slowly. He thinks people see it as a highway which causes them to drive much faster.

Mr. Levy said the linkage study will combine engineering and planning to get those elements that the Committee is looking for.

Chairman Chapman made a motion that the Complete Streets to endorse the Town Planner with support in preparation of the linkage corridor study. Seconded by Ms. Healy. All were in favor.

There was discussion about Route 7, when it was built, and how it was built as a highway between Troy and Schenectady. The problem is that Niskayuna has residential neighborhoods on both sides of the street and needs to maintain those residential neighborhoods.

Mr. Levy stated as Transportation Planners he sees towns trying to improve what has been done over the last 50 years, but he thinks the linkage study is the way to tackle the Route 7 problem.

VII. DISCUSSIONS ITEMS

1. Grant Updates – Crosswalks at St. Josephs

Chairman Chapman said it's in place and working. Ms. Robertson said it might be a good idea to get the small sign like in the crosswalk by the library to remind people to stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk.

119 Mr. Millspaugh asked if the Highway Department was going to remove the old signs that are still
120 up. Ms. Robertson said she will ask about them.

121 Chairman Chapman stated County Legislature held a meeting at the High School on September
122 12. Several members of Complete Streets attended. Ms. Duggal wrote a letter on the importance
123 of a side path on Rosendale Road which was passed on to our County Legislators. Chairman
124 Chapman stated he spoke with a few legislators after the meeting and they were open to the
125 possibility of a side path on Rosendale Road. Chairman Chapman also stated that Ms. Kuzsman
126 asked the County if they would be advocates for either a linkage study or additional study on
127 Route 7, due to the number of accidents that have taken place.

128 Chairman Chapman said he requested they take a look at the section of sidewalk missing from
129 Baker Avenue to Lexington Parkway. He said Gary Hughes stated the cost would have to be
130 split between the County and the City. There are 4 houses that go from Baker Avenue to Garner
131 in Niskayuna and there are 5 houses that go from Garner to Lexington Parkway in Schenectady.

132 Ms. Robertson said this was bid but there wasn't enough money for Niskayuna to pay for it. She
133 stated that there are engineered plans and bid specs for this project. She will resend them to Mr.
134 Sheldon.

135 2. Plum St. Sidewalk Progress Report

136 Chairman Chapman said the sidewalk is under construction.

137 Ms. Robertson said the Town is paying for the Town side and the School District has committed
138 to do the school side. Ms. Robertson stated the School District has been a good partner with
139 Complete Streets and has been very responsive and helpful on the Plum St project.

140 3. Complete Streets Demonstration Projects

141 Chairman Chapman mentioned asking the Town about getting the sharrows painted on Orchard
142 Park Drive. He also mentioned the crosswalks on the entrance to ShopRite and Comanche Trail
143 /Orchard Park Drive because they are roads next to the hike bike path.

144 4. Winnie Road Easement – Audrey Cox

145 Chairman Chapman said calls are still being made and he would like to see some progress on this
146 agenda item.

147 5. Priority Letter Update / Route 7 requests

148 Ms. Robertson said a follow meeting should be scheduled with the County Supervisor to go over
149 Complete Streets priority letters.

150 **VIII. REPORTS**

151 Chairman Chapman said for 2024 he would like to change the meeting day and time to the
152 second Monday of the month from 3:00 to 4:30.

153 Chairman Chapman handed out a couple articles with information on calming ideas and passive
154 steps to help reduce traffic.

155 Mr. O'Shea spoke about the intersection at ShopRite, the Post Office and Starbucks being
156 dangerous. He said it is impossible to see because it is right on the rise of the hill. Mr. O'Shea
157 feels this should be looked into.

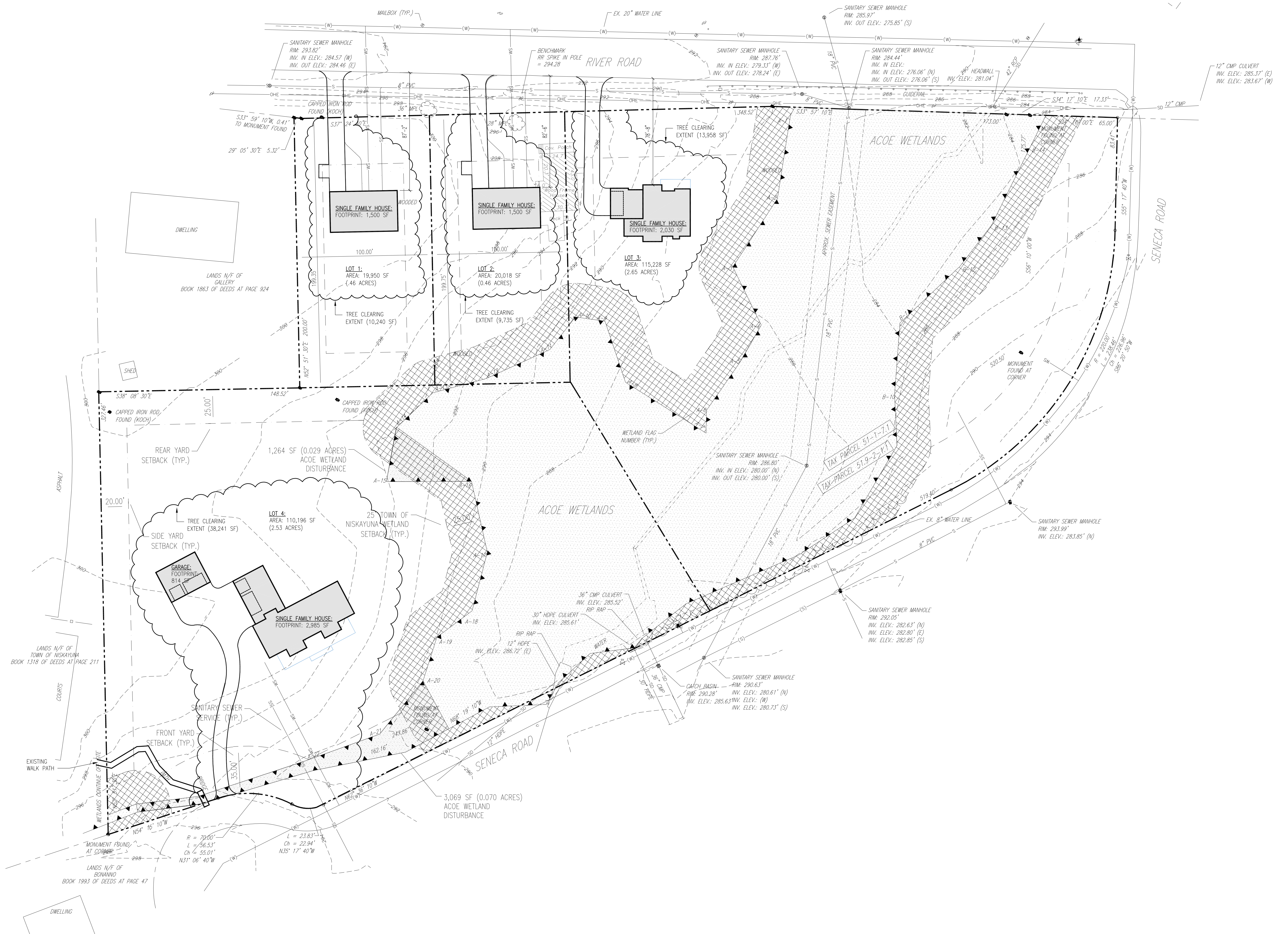
158 Ms. Robertson said the Committee can take a look at it and see if they can make some
159 recommendations. Ms. Robertson stated she looked at the ShopRite plans and noticed a piece of
160 connector sidewalk is also missing. She suggested to get a good plan together and possibly
161 contacting Metroplex to see if they would be willing to partner with some small site
162 improvements to help with pedestrian connections.

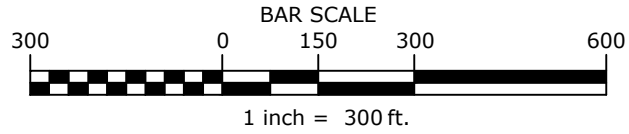
163 Mr. Levy said he agrees with Mr. O'Shea about the safety issue with that intersection. Mr. Levy
164 said another area with no sidewalk that is heavily used by students is the path between ShopRite
165 and the High School near Balltown Road. He feels this ties in with the other paths that have
166 been discussed. Ms. Robertson asked that Mr. Levy send her some recommendations and she
167 will add them to next month's agenda.

168 **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

169 Chairman Chapman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Levy. All were in
170 favor.

171 The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.





MAP REFERENCES:

- "Barge Canal State of New York, Eastern Division, Erie Canal, Section 2" dated March 29, 1922 Sheets 17, 18 and 19 filed in the Office of the New York State Canal Corporation.
- New York State Route 146, S.H. No. 1872, Balltown Road acquisition map "Mohawk Golf Club-Aqueduct County Highway" Map Numbers 11A and B William Green (Reputed Owner) dated April 3, 1930 filed in the Region One Office of New York State Department of Transportation.
- New York State Route 146, S.H. No. 1872, Balltown Road acquisition map "Mohawk Golf Club-Aqueduct County Highway" Map No. 13 Beatrice Shopmeyer (Reputed Owner) dated April 3, 1930 filed in the Region One Office of the New York State Department of Transportation.
- "River Road, County Highway No. 4-N" Map No. 3, G. Albert & Marian A. Finke (Reputed Owners) dated August 1951 filed in the Region One Office of New York State Department of Transportation.
- "River Road, County Highway No. 4-N" Map No's 7, 8 and 9, General Electric Company (Reputed Owner) dated October 23, 1951 filed in the Region One Office of the New York State Department of Transportation.
- "River Road, County Highway No. 4-N" Map No. 10, General Electric Company (Reputed Owner) dated December 28, 1951 filed in the Region One Office of the New York State Department of Transportation.
- "River Road, County Highway No. 4-N" Map No. 11, General Electric Company (Reputed Owner) dated October 23, 1951 filed in the Region One Office of the New York State Department of Transportation.
- "Sewer District 6 - Extension 22 North Trunk Sewer Extension, Proposed Easement Lands Now or Formerly of General Electric Company to be Granted to the Town of Niskayuna" prepared by C.T. Male Associates, P.C. dated August 26, 1977, Project No. 42-05-1207, Map No. 77-186-6/2.
- "Town of Niskayuna Bike Path, Easements on Lands of General Electric Company Granted to the Town of Niskayuna" prepared by C.T. Male Associates, P.C. dated December 29, 1982 last revised December 24, 1986, DWG No. 83-5.
- "Property Line Survey of a Portion of Lands of Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory United States of America" prepared by C.T. Male Associates, P.C. dated November 15, 1974 and revised January 2, 1975, Project No. 42-05-01069, DWG No. 74-392.
- "Boundary Survey Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory, 2401 River Road" prepared by C.T. Male Associates, P.C. dated December 14, 2005 revised January 13, 2006, Project No. 02.8087, DWG. No. 05-899.
- "Survey of Portion of Lands Now or Formerly of Fred C. & Gladys Joy Ewing prepared for Rosemarie Rossi" prepared by C.T. Male Associates, P.C. dated April 4, 1985 last revised October 25, 1987, Project No. 398, DWG. No. 85-128R.
- "Moorelighten Belonging to Daniel Danes in the Town of Niskayuna" dated June 23, 1902 by William Gifford, Surveyor and filed in the Schenectady County Clerk's Office December 20, 1905 in Plat Cabinet C as Map Nos. 174, 175, 178 and 179.
- "Crimson Oak Estates" prepared by C.T. Male Associates, P.C., dated August 25, 1987 filed in the Schenectady County Clerk's Office on August 28, 1989 in Cabinet H in Sleeve No. 274 & 275.
- "Subdivision Plan Fossil Estate" prepared by C.T. Male Associates, P.C. dated February 9, 1989 last revised June 29, 1990, Project No. 88.2618, DWG No. 89-85R filed in the Schenectady County Clerk's Office on September 21, 1990 in Cabinet H as Maps No. 375 and 377.
- "Phase 2 Edison Woods" prepared by C.T. Male Associates, P.C. dated January 3, 1986 last revised August 11, 1993, Project No. 90.3318, DWG. No. 86-140R filed in the Schenectady County Clerk's Office on October 24, 1994 in Drawer I as Map No. 372 & 373.
- "Subdivision Plan - Amendment No. 1, Phase 3A Edison Woods" prepared by C.T. Male Associates dated March 7, 2000 last revised August 23, 2001, Project No. 00.6082, DWG. No. 86-141R, filed in the Schenectady County Clerk's Office on September 6, 2001 in Drawer K as Map No. 20 & 21.
- "Phase 3B Edison Woods" prepared by C.T. Male Associates, P.C. dated July 22, 2002 last revised November 19, 2004, project No. 00.6082, DWG No. 02-292 filed in the Schenectady County Clerk's Office on December 8, 2004 in Cabinet K as Maps No. 340 and 341.
- Boundary and Partial Topographic Survey Lands Now or Formerly of General Electric Company prepared for GE Global Research Company 1 Research Circle" Town of Niskayuna, Schenectady County, New York prepared by C.T. Male Associates, Engineering, Surveying, Architecture, Landscape Architecture & Geology, D.P.C. dated May 25, 2022, Project No. 22.2326, Drawing No. 22-424.

MAP NOTES:

- Information shown hereon was compiled from an actual field survey conducted during the months of May and June, 2020.
- North orientation and bearings are Grid North based on the New York State Plane Coordinate System, East Zone, NAD 83/2011 epoch 2010.00 as obtained from GPS observations.
- Topographic information shown hereon was prepared from Aerial Stereo Photogrammetry prepared by Blue Sky Geospatial, Ltd. and flown June, 2020. Data shown was taken from digitally compiled manuscripts. National Mapping Standards indicate that 90% of all contours shown shall be correct to within one half (1/2) of the contour interval, and the remaining 10% shall not be in error by more than the contour interval.
- The location of underground improvements or encroachments, if any exist, or as shown hereon, are not certified. There may be underground utilities, the existence of which are not known to the undersigned. Size and location of all underground utilities and structures must be verified by the appropriate authorities. Dig Safely New York must be notified prior to conducting test borings, excavation and construction.
- Wetlands and other waters of the U.S. were delineated on April 23, 2020 by a C.T. Male representative in accordance with the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual. Wetland flags were field located by a C.T. Male survey crew during the month of June 2020.
- Together with a permanent easement for ingress and egress and the placement of utilities granted by Schenectady Chemicals, Inc. to General Electric Company in deed dated May 11, 1967 and recorded in the Schenectady County Clerk's Office on May 21, 1967 in Book 888 of Deeds at Page 155.

2023.09.29 PROGRESS FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT

| SKETCH PLAN PROPOSED TWO LOT SUBDIVISION | |
|--|--|
| LANDS NOW OR FORMERLY OF | |
| GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY | |
| 1 RESEARCH CIRCLE | |
| TOWN OF NISKAYUNA | SCHENECTADY COUNTY, NEW YORK |
| C.T. MALE ASSOCIATES Engineering, Surveying, Architecture, Landscape Architecture & Geology, D.P.C. 50 CENTURY HILL DRIVE, LATHAM, NY 12110 PH 518.786.7400 CORBESKILL, NY • GLENS FALLS, NY • Poughkeepsie, NY JOHNSTOWN, NY • RED HOOK, NY • SYRACUSE, NY www.ctmale.com | PROJECT NO. 22.2326 DWG. NO. 23-594 SHEET 1 OF 1 DATE: SEPT. 29, 2023 |