

1 **Economic Development, Historic Preservation**  
2 **& Environmental Conservation Committee**

3  
4 **MINUTES**

5 July 1, 2022

6 **8:30 am**

7  
8 **Members Present:**

9 Jaime Puccioni, Supervisor  
10 John Della Ratta, Chairperson  
11 Laura Robertson, Town Planner  
12 Clark Henry, Assistant Planner  
13 Janet Wynne, Assistant to the Comptroller  
14 Kevin Walsh, Planning Board Chairman  
15 Denis Brennan, Town Historian  
16 Alaina Finan, Town Attorney  
17

18 **a. Public Concerns**

19  
20 There were no public concerns today.  
21

22 **b. Minutes**

- 23 • May 6, 2022

24 Mr. Walsh made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Chairman Della Ratta. The minutes were  
25 approved unanimously.  
26

- 27 • June 3, 2022

28 Mr. Walsh made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Chairman Della Ratta. The minutes were  
29 approved unanimously.  
30

31 **c. Resolutions / Finance Committee**

- 32 • **A Resolution accepting certain roads and utilities for the Kelts Farm Subdivision**

33 Ms. Robertson detailed where the project is at with the Planning Board. She stated that there are a few  
34 open items the Planning Board has with Mr. Bisailon before they can adopt the subdivision. This will  
35 delay the Town Board resolution to accept the road. Her hope is to have it finalized before the end of  
36 the month.

- 37 • **A Resolution accepting a sewer easement for Vincenzo Subdivision**

38 Ms. Robertson stated the resolution for accepting the sewer easement will ready.  
39

- 40 • **A Resolution for a Special Use Permit for a daycare in a place of worship at 1850 Union**  
41 **St.**

42 Ms. Robertson stated that the Planning Board called for a public hearing for this project. She  
43 recommended scheduling a public hearing at the Town Board and suggested having the tentative

44 resolution on the same date for this project due to the fact that this site had been approved for the exact  
45 same special use in the past and nothing is being changed in the site.

46  
47 • **For Finance : Pay annual SIMS bill (\$5,500)**

48 Ms. Robertson stated the Schenectady Internet Mapping System (SIMS) bill was due and explained this  
49 is the annual fee to maintain a GIS system that is used both by Town staff and residents of Niskayuna.

50  
51 **d. Discussions**

52 • **Clifton Park / Crescent Area – on street parking**

53 The Committee discussed options to change parking on Crescent to designated on street 2 hour parking  
54 and allow residents to have a parking sticker that would allow overnight parking.

55  
56 **e. Planning Board**

57 Mr. Walsh reviewed the projects that have recently been approved by the Planning Board which  
58 included updates to Starbucks and a tenant change with Five Below moving in. He added that some  
59 projects are still being finalized for approval. The projects include the Rivers Ledge senior housing,  
60 Chase Bank ATM and Kelts Farm. The Planning Boards next meeting is July 11.

61  
62 **f. Zoning Board** – There are 4 cases for ZBA in July.

63  
64 **g. Grants Update**

- 65 a. **Combining bid documents for**  
66 **i. Upper Union St**  
67 **ii. Critical Bike Pedestrian Grant**  
68 **iii. Plum St**

69  
70 Ms. Robertson reported that all three grants will be combined in the bidding process. She stated it will  
71 help with cost savings for the projects.

72  
73 **h. Complete Streets**

74 Ms. Robertson discussed a meeting she had with the Police Chief and Supervisor Puccioni regarding  
75 traffic calming measures. She stated that there is interest in demonstrating a mini-roundabout within  
76 Niskayuna to see how it works as an alternative traffic calming measure instead of stop signs. Ms.  
77 Robertson stated she will be presenting this idea to the Committee to get feedback on it and possibly  
78 change the original bike lane demonstration to this.

79  
80 Ms. Robertson discussed the Safe Streets for All grant and how Niskayuna could benefit from this  
81 extensive grant.

82 **i. Tree Council**

83 Ms. Robertson discussed the spongy moth epidemic happening in NY right now and stated the Tree  
84 Council held a presentation by a forester from the DEC for residents. Mr. Scott Moxham presented to  
85 the residents information on how to alleviate the damage to their trees by this moth and what the moth  
86 life cycles looked like, etc. She stated it was very successful and was recorded and is on our YouTube  
87 channel for anyone to watch.

89 Ms. Robertson stated the spring photo contest was a success with many beautiful photos submitted.

90

91 **j. Conservation Advisory Council**

92 Ms. Robertson stated that the pesticide free program has updated its information on the website and  
93 they are still selling pesticide free lawn signs. She stated the low mow initiative is doing well but she  
94 still needs to put the signs up. Ms. Robertson stated the NRI has done a draft report of its findings and  
95 will be reviewed by the Council.

96

97 **k. Climate Smart Community Task Force**

98 Ms. Robertson discussed with the Committee that the grant is in for the compost bins and she still needs  
99 to schedule a day to give them away and educate residents on composting.

100

101 Ms. Robertson stated the Town has launched the Solarize Niskayuna Campaign. She stated it has been  
102 a success and she already has the number of residents signed up to apply for the grant.

103

104 **Architectural Review Board**

105

106 Mr. Henry highlighted the projects that are being reviewed in June. He stated there are 6 active  
107 projects in front of the ARB currently. This includes a garage on Grand Blvd. He updated the  
108 Committee on the new plans for the Glen Eddy and new photos of Kelts Farm.

109

110 **l. Building Department / Enforcement**

111 Ms. Robertson stated that the Building Department continues to be very busy. She added that they have  
112 an intern returning for the summer to assist with scanning building permits.

113

114 **m. Planning**

115 The Planning Department continues to be busy with Kelts Farm, Vincenzo subdivision and 2340 Nott  
116 St East projects.

117 Ms. Robertson stated she is in the planning process of getting a design for the Consaul Road sidewalk.

118

119 **n. Legal**

120 Ms. Finan stated there are 2 court cases currently going to trial and 2 Article 78's pending. She added  
121 that she has been working with the Planning and Building Department on various easements needed for  
122 permits.

123

124 **o. Historical**

125 **• Rosendale Road Train Station**

126 Ms. Robertson stated that she and Mr. Brennen met with an architect that will be working with the  
127 Rosendale Train Station on its renovation. Mr. Brennen stated that the architect Mr. McKinney has  
128 volunteered his services to restore the train station. Mr. Brennen added that this architect volunteered to  
129 work on the Grange School also. Ms. Robertson stated that this is the type of shovel ready projects that  
130 the Town can work to get grants for. They will need to initially pay for the copies of the original plans  
131 which will cost approximately \$1,000. Ms. Robertson described the work that will need to be

132 accomplished and stated that they have identified grants that would help with this project once it  
133 becomes shovel ready.

134  
135 Supervisor Puccioni added that she has secured a grant from Congressman Phil Steck to rehab the deck  
136 on the Rosendale Train Station. She stressed the importance of coordinating this historic preservation  
137 work with the future rehab work. This will help with keeping the improvements aligned with each  
138 other. Ms. Robertson stated that she had discussed that information with Mr. McKinney and he is aware  
139 of the repairs to the deck. Ms. Puccioni added that she felt confident that she will be able to secure more  
140 grant money for this important project.

141  
142 Ms. Robertson stated that a new email blast went out looking for members for the Historical  
143 Preservation Committee. Ms. Finan stated she received a couple names for the committee to review.

144  
145 **Adjournment**

146 Chairman Della Ratta made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Mr. Walsh. The  
147 meeting was adjourned at 9:20am.