

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

3
4 **MINUTES**
5 October 7, 2022
6 **8:30 am**
7

8 **Members Present:**

9 Jaime Puccioni, Supervisor
10 John Della Ratta, Chairperson
11 Laura Robertson, Town Planner
12 Alaina Finan, Town Attorney
13 Matthew Yetto, Superintendent, Water, Sewer & Engineering (Virtual)
14 Beth Greenwood, Comptroller
15 Kevin Walsh, Chairman of Planning Board
16 Denis Brennan, Town Historian
17
18

19 **a. Public Concerns**

20
21 There were no public concerns today.
22

23 **b. Minutes**

24 The approval of the minutes was moved to the October meeting.
25

26 **c. Resolutions / Finance Committee**

- 27 • **A Resolution accepting a \$5000 grant award from NYSERDA towards the purchase of**
28 **LED Lights**

29 Ms. Robertson noted that LED lights will be purchased for a Town park. She thought this resolution
30 should be ready for the end of the month.
31

- 32 • **A Resolution appointing members to the Historic Preservation Committee**

33 Ms. Robertson noted that a mass email will be sent out looking for member applications for the
34 Historical Committee and other committees with openings.

- 35 • **A Resolution appointing members to certain Committees**

- 36 • **A Resolution accepting bids for Critical Pedestrian Connections Grants and Bonding**

37 Ms. Robertson stated the bid for the critical pedestrian connections went out to the public and she is
38 hoping to have responses in time for the Town Board meeting.
39

40 **d. Planning Board**

41 Mr. Walsh gave updates on Planning Board projects. He highlighted the Hillside Apartments signage
42 project, the Chase Bank ATM approval, and the Capital Kids Care approval and special use permit. He
43 noted that River's Ledge received the height variance for the 66 unit senior living apartments and there
44 were 2 public hearings at the last Planning Board meeting, one for a 2 lot subdivision on Van Antwerp
45 and another for a 2 lot subdivision on Empire Drive. Mr. Walsh discussed the upcoming project for a
46 new restaurant in Shop Rite Plaza and Five Below in Mohawk Commons. He stated the Razaida Mart
47 project on Union Street is on-going and will return to the Planning Board this month. The committee
48 discussed the updates to the possible Broken Inn outdoor seating project.
49

50 **e. Zoning Board** – There are 4 cases for ZBA in September.

51 **f. Grants Update**

52 Ms. Robertson stated she is working on some new NYSERDA / clean energy grant thresholds, stating
53 the next round is has a possibility of 15,000 dollars.
54

55 **g. Complete Streets**

56 Ms. Robertson discussed with the Committee that the committee will be reviewing some of the
57 upcoming Planning Board projects.
58

59 **h. Tree Council**

60 Ms. Robertson announced that the Tree Council will be doing a tree hunt with the Town residents. This
61 contest will challenge residents to find the biggest living trees in Niskayuna. Ms. Robertson stated the
62 Council is close to finalizing the street trees master plan.
63

64 **Conservation Advisory Council**

65 Ms. Robertson stated the low mow initiative and pesticide free campaigns are still doing well. She
66 thanked the Town Board for recognizing and reviewing the NRI project. She added the CAC will begin
67 an active plan to start identifying projects for the findings of the NRI report.
68

69 Ms. Robertson added that resident Mr. Jim Thornton sent her pictures noting how many species of birds
70 have returned since the low mow initiative has been in progress. He counted around 50 species of birds
71 habituating in the area.
72

73 **i. Climate Smart Community Task Force**

74 Ms. Robertson stated that the task force has been working on solidifying a day for the compost
75 giveaway. She added that an email was sent out to all departments that could possibly find candidates
76 for an electric vehicle.
77

78 **j. Architectural Review Board**

79 Ms. Robertson stated they continue to work on planning and zoning projects.

80 **k. Comprehensive Plan Committee**

81 The committee has had 2 working meetings so far.

82 **l. Building Department / Enforcement**

83 Ms. Robertson stated that the Building Department continues to be very busy.
84

85 **m. Planning**

86 The Planning Department continues to be busy with Kelts Farm, Vincenzo subdivision, 1850 Union
87 Street and 2 new minor subdivisions. Ms. Robertson stated she is in the planning process of getting a
88 design for the Consaul Road sidewalk.
89

90 **n. Legal**

91 There was nothing new from legal this month.
92

93 **o. Historical**

94 The assessment of the train station is ongoing. The initial assessment of the Grange project has begun.
95

96 **p. Adjournment**

97 Chairman Della Ratta made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Mr. Walsh. The
98 meeting was adjourned at 8:50am.