

Economic Development, Historic Preservation & Environmental Conservation Committee

MINUTES

January 6, 2023

8:30 am

Members Present:

Jaime Puccioni, Supervisor
John Della Ratta, Chairman
Laura Robertson, Town Planner
Alaina Finan, Town Attorney
Beth Greenwood, Comptroller
Matthew Yetto, Superintendent, Water, Sewer & Engineering
Seth Goldstein, Systems Administrator
Dart Strayer, Chairman of the Conservation Advisory Council
Kevin Walsh, Chairman of Planning Board
Denis Brennan, Town Historian
Hayward Horton, Metroplex
Jean Foti, Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor
Jack Connolly, Planning Intern

Public Concerns

There were no public concerns today. Dr. Horton representing Metroplex was present virtually for the meeting.

Minutes

- **December 2, 2022**

Mr. Walsh made a motion to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Mr. Strayer. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Resolutions / Finance Committee

Ms. Robertson discussed the resolutions that will be discussed at the Town Board Organizational meeting and the regular Town Board meeting. The Committee discussed the possible upcoming appointments to Boards and Committees. Ms. Robertson discussed the upcoming change to the 19 NYCRR Part 1203 Uniform Code and the Energy Code: Minimum Standards for Administration and Enforcement. She noted that she will meet with Ms. Finan to discuss the next steps.

Planning Board

Mr. Walsh discussed the present and upcoming projects that are being reviewed the Planning Board. He noted that the Board has some projects finishing up like the 1515 Hillside signage change and new projects like 1851 Union Street that are continuing through the planning process. He noted that there will need to be a public hearing for this project at the Planning Board level and Town Board level before

48 it is approved. Ms. Finan discussed the possible need for 2 Town Board members to recuse themselves
49 due to their relationship with the Mohawk Country Club. Ms. Robertson noted that the vote from the
50 other 3 Board members will need to be unanimous for the special use permit to be approved. Mr. Walsh
51 informed the committee that the project at 2721 Balltown Road for an additional apartment building was
52 denied a use variance from the ZBA and has not returned to the Planning Board.
53

54 **Zoning Board**

55 Ms. Robertson stated that there were 2 cases for January.
56

57 **Grants Update**

58 Ms. Robertson noted that she is working on quotes for the Lions Park Train Station. The Committee
59 discussed the project and the improvements being made to the area.
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61 **Complete Streets**

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63 Ms. Robertson stated that the committee continues to advise projects that are being reviewed by the
64 Planning Board and are working on the Plum Street sidewalk project that will have funding to be
65 completed in 2023.
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67 **Tree Council**

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69 Ms. Robertson stated that the Tree Council continues to work hard on the tree master plan.
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71 **Conservation Advisory Council**

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73 Mr. Strayer discussed the continuation of the “low mow” initiative at Blatnick Park and the wildflower
74 seeds that were planted this week. He noted that the Council has reached out to GE and Momentive to
75 possible adopt the initiative for areas of their property.
76

77 **Climate Smart Committee Task Force**

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79 Ms. Robertson discussed the collaboration of the CAC and Climate Smart Committee to plan the
80 “Compost Bin Day” which will happen this spring.
81

82 **Architectural Review Board**

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84 Ms. Robertson stated that the Board continues to review plans for the Planning Board and Building
85 Department.
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87 **Comprehensive Plan Committee**

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89 Mr. Strayer stated that the Comprehensive Plan Committee has been working on a public survey that
90 will be released to the Town residents soon. The committee discussed the best survey method to use.
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92 **Building Department**

93

94 Ms. Robertson stated the department continues to work with the Land Bank on the vacant homes MOU
95 and the local law was finally adopted. She noted that there are 7 homes that have been identified as the
96 highest priorities of vacancy with the Land Bank.

97

98 **Planning Department**

99 Ms. Robertson stated she received a quote for the Consaul Road sidewalk. She noted that it was
100 incredibly high with the engineering quote at \$29,500.

101

102 **Legal**

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104 Ms. Finan did not have an update today.

105

106 **Historical**

107 Mr. Brennan discussed the recent article regarding in the Gazette regarding the history of the roads in
108 Niskayuna.

109

110 **Adjournment**

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