

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

**MINUTES**

July 7, 2023

**8:40 am**

Members Present:

- John Della Ratta, Chairman
- Laura Robertson, Town Planner
- Kevin Walsh, Chairman of Planning Board
- Matt Yetto, Engineering
- Jaime Puccioni, Supervisor
- Clark Henry Assistant Planner

**a. Public Concerns**

Ms. Michela of 2525 Antonia Drive spoke about the importance of the Quiet Niskayuna initiative. Ms. Michela spoke about Quiet Communities, a nationwide initiative with a sub organization, Quiet Transition. This organization specifically deals with lawn care equipment (leaf blowers). With this in mind Ms. Michela and Mr. Marr created Quiet Niskayuna last year to focus on the noise and harmful effects of leaf blowers and other lawn care equipment in the Town of Niskayuna.

Mr. Marr of 2521 Antonia Drive spoke about the options of leaf blowers, two stroke, four stroke and electric. The leaf blower that is the issue is the two stroke which burns oil and gas together. The two stroke emits more pollution in 30 minutes than a Ford F-150 Raptor does driving 3500 miles.

**b. Minutes**

**June 9, 2023**

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

**c. Resolutions / Finance Committee**

- a. A Non-Binding Resolution encouraging pesticide free lawn practices in the Town of Niskayuna (see sample from Town of Bethlehem, attached)

Ms. Robertson stated this was on for last month but it wasn't possible to get it written up but it should be able to be done this month. She thanked the Supervisor and Town Board for their support and patience with the resolution.

- b. A Resolution recognizing and supporting the Quiet Niskayuna Initiative

36 Ms. Robertson stated that this resolution proposes to recognize the Quiet Niskayuna initiative and attach  
 37 some information and links about it to the Town website through the CAC. Ms. Robertson discussed  
 38 some attachments to the EDHPEC packet this month showed initiatives in other Town's that were going  
 39 quiet a bit farther than proposed for Niskayuna. She stated right now they were just trying to do educa-  
 40 tion and outreach. Chairman Della Ratta stated he thought the material was interesting and appreciated  
 41 the concept but because it was so new – he wanted to wait until potentially next month to take action on  
 42 any initiative.

43

44 **d. Discussions:**

45 a. **Next steps** – Positive SEQR determination for a special use permit for a 22-lot Average  
 46 Density Development at 1851 Union St / 1245 Ruffner Road consisting of 10 single  
 47 family homes and 12 townhomes

48

49 Ms. Robertson stated with the positive SEQR determination there will be 60 days to complete the scop-  
 50 ing document. She stated Mr. Henry was working with a consultant to help make sure all the steps were  
 51 being met.

52

53 b. Removal of sections of Polsinelli Dr and Vincenzo Dr from the Town's Official Street  
 54 Map

55 Ms. Robertson stated that with the subdivision that was approved and the two properties being deed re-  
 56 stricted, the dotted lines should be removed from the Town's Official Street Map to make sure there is  
 57 no confusion in the future. Ms. Robertson added that the dotted lines from Windsor Drive and River  
 58 Road should be removed as well. Chairman Della Ratta suggested looking at the map wholistically to  
 59 capture all the updates needed prior to bringing it forward to the Town Board.

60 **e. Planning Board**

61 Mr. Walsh stated the Planning Board approved Antonia Park/Polsinelli two-lot subdivision with a lot  
 62 line adjustment for a piece of land going to Lou Lecce, the adjacent homeowner.

63 Mr. Walsh stated that Algonquin Road is a new application for a lot line adjustment that possibly  
 64 requires an area variance, both neighbors are working together on this.

65 1222 Troy Schenectady Road is being considered for a religious use/daycare and partial food pantry.  
 66 The building is predominately in the Town of Colonie. The Planning Board is hoping to have a  
 67 resolution at Monday night's meeting to move this forward.

68 Mr. Walsh stated that for new Projects, the Town had received an application for 2890 River Road  
 69 minor lot subdivision. The Planning Department has also been reviewing 1743 Union Street, which is  
 70 actually in Schenectady but may need to come to the Niskayuna Planning Board because the parking is  
 71 tied in with the businesses on Van Antwerp Road.

72 **f. Zoning Board**

73 Ms. Robertson stated it was a full agenda for July with 6 cases, 1 lot line adjustment, 1 fence variance,  
 74 and 4 shed variance requests.

75 **g. Grants Update**

76 Ms. Robertson stated that the Town received notification from the DEC for a potential award on the  
 77 Natural Resources Inventory Grant. This is a \$15,000 grant that she is very excited to move forward  
 78 with and she will keep the Board updated on any finalized details.

79 **h. Complete Streets**

80 Ms. Robertson stated that the Complete Streets June meeting had been moved to this afternoon (July 7).  
 81 Complete Streets is working on the Transportation chapter of the Comprehensive Plan.

82 **i. Tree Council**

83 Ms. Robertson stated that the Tree Council is planning to meet on Hillside Avenue for the July 13  
 84 meeting to put together a tree planting plan project using the National Grid Grant and the Town's last  
 85 delivery of disease resistant Elm trees.

86 **j. Conservation Advisory Council**

87 Ms. Robertson spoke about the Bethlehem easement program, and all it takes to put it into place. She  
 88 said that Ellen Daviero and Roy Thorton met with Highway and Parks Department to go over invasive  
 89 species at Blatnick Park and some here at Town Hall.

90 **k. Climate Smart Committee Task Force**

91 Ms. Robertson stated she has a quarterly report coming due for that grant.

92 **l. Architectural Review Board**

93 Mr. Henry stated that the Town received grant money for a new pavilion at River Road Park. The  
 94 Architectural Review Board has also been working on the grant funded project to replace the deck at the  
 95 historic Train Station at Lion's Park.

96 **m. Comprehensive Plan Committee**

97 No items

98 **n. Building Department**

99 Ms. Robertson mentioned that the Building Department has a couple high grass complaints that they are  
 100 working on.

101 **o. Planning Department**

102 Ms. Robertson said that there is still the outstanding item of the Consaul Road sidewalk.

103 **p. Metroplex**

104 Ms. Robertson stated that she saw a newspaper article that Jayme Lahut retired and David Hogenkamp  
 105 took his place. She spoke highly of working with Mr. Lahut and Mr. Hogenkamp and was excited for  
 106 both of their next chapters.

107 **q. Legal**

108 No items

109 **r. Historical**

110 No items

111 **Adjournment**

112 Chairman Della Ratta made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Walsh seconded, all were in favor.

113 The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 am.