

**TOWN OF NISKAYUNA**  
***Tree Council***  
**Agenda**  
**January 14, 2021**  
**6:00 PM**

**VIA REMOTE MEETING SOFTWARE**

**REGULAR AGENDA MEETING**

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. ROLL CALL**
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - 1. October 8, 2020
  - 2. November 12, 2020
  - 3. December 10, 2020
- IV. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**
- V. NEW BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS**
  - 1. Youth Representative
  - 2. 2021 Goals
- VI. DISCUSSION ITEM**
  - 1. Planning Projects
    - A. Rivers Ledge
    - B. Hilltop Ave
    - C. Kelts / Shannon Blvd Subdivisions
  - 2. Street Tree Master Plan
- VII. REPORTS**
  - 1. Public Outreach Subcommittee
  - 2. Tree Inventory / Tree Master Plan Subcommittee
  - 3. Tree Planting Subcommittee
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**NEXT MEETING: February 11, 2021**  
**at 6:00 pm**  
**to be held Virtually**

**TOWN OF NISKAYUNA  
Tree Council  
Minutes  
October 8, 2020**

Members Present: Carol Carey, Chairwoman  
Amy Howansky  
Jonathon Marr  
Andrea Worthington  
Amanda Matuszyk  
Laura Robertson, Town Planner

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting came to order at 6:00 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Paul Sebesta and Chris Zimmerman were absent/excused.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The meeting was held at Blatnick Park so no minutes were reviewed.

**IV. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

No one contacted Ms. Robertson to speak. No messages were received by email. No one met the Council at the park.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Robertson reported that the 20 Liberty Elms were arriving within the next week. The meeting was a cooperative effort marking the hill where the trees will be planted. Flags were placed on the slope between the baseball field and the pavilion/pond.

The Council discussed relocating the park sign. After looking over the area, they suggested the sign be moved closer to the road up to the little league baseball parking lot, to the left and forward of the existing sign, so that it would align with entering into the Blatnick Park. It was basically 20 feet back from the 4<sup>th</sup> post in the parking lot. Members also suggested that the Olympic rings should be added to complete the sign. The Council also discussed whether or not the sign could be re-used or needed to be replaced, and generally decided a replacement was likely needed. Once the sign was replaced / relocated they could work on the landscaping.

**VI. DISCUSSION ITEM**

No items were presented

**VII. REPORTS**

No Reports were presented

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Robertson asked if there was anything else to discuss.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

**TOWN OF NISKAYUNA  
Tree Council  
Minutes  
November 12, 2020**

Members Present: Carol Carey, Chairwoman  
Amanda Matuszyk  
Amy Howansky  
Chris Zimmerman  
Andrea Worthington  
Paul Sebesta  
Jonathon Marr  
Laura Robertson, Town Planner  
Rosemarie Jaquith, Town Board

**Due to the Covid-19 virus and the quarantine, the meeting was conducted virtually via Google Meets software.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting came to order at 6:00 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

All members were present.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the September and October meetings were presented. Chairwoman Carey asked for a motion on the September minutes. Ms. Worthington made a motion to accept the September minutes as written. Ms. Matuszyk seconded the motion. Upon voting, Ms. Howansky abstained, and all other members approved the minutes.

Chairwoman Carey asked for a motion on the October minutes. Ms. Howansky noted that lines 25 and 26 should be more precise. Ms. Carey remembered that the sign was going to be placed 20' back from the 4<sup>th</sup> post of the parking lot. She also noted the sentence regarding 1984 and the Olympic rings needs to be reworded. Ms. Robertson presented an old image of the sign showing the Olympic rings on the sign. She also noted that she has spoken the Ray Smith, Highway Superintendent. They agreed the existing sign needs more than a paint job. He was happy we found the image of the original sign so he can work to recreate it. At this point it is a matter of finding the budget for the sign redesign and replacement and going out for bid on it. Ms. Robertson suggested that the Board not vote on the October minutes at this point. She will correct the wording as discussed and present the minutes for approval at the December meeting. All the Council agreed.

**IV. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

No one contacted Ms. Robertson to speak. No messages were received by email.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Youth Initiative

Ms. Jaquith presented a plan to create a Youth Initiative. She noted that 4 Committees/Councils are getting a youth member to join and be active with the groups. The Tree Council will be part of the pilot program for now. This program gives students government experience. Committee members review applications and recommend appointments to the Town Board. The position is a one-year appointment. The Town will be reaching out to high school juniors and seniors, Union College and SCCC students. Ms. Worthington noted that the high school has a couple of great clubs that would have students who would be perfect candidates for this. Ms. Jaquith stated that she has reached out to the advisors of some of these clubs and they were excited to hear of the opportunity. Chairwoman Carey asked what the next step was. Ms. Jaquith replied that Council must now wait for application to be sent out to the schools and replies received. Ms. Carey asked if there would be a description of what the Tree Council mission is and what we do. Ms. Robertson stated that the committee description will be included with the application. Mr. Zimmerman noted that the description should not only trees, but skill sets we apply: outreach, the GIS application, and phone app. Ms. Jaquith thanked everyone for their service and support and left the meeting.

## 2. 2627 Troy Schenectady Road

Ms. Robertson noted that the corner lot of Route 7 and Shannon Blvd was recently sold. It is a 13-acre lot. She noted there is an existing historic home which became more visible when the brush and landscaping was removed from around it. The developer plans to add 3 new houses off of Shannon Blvd. The developer will deed a portion of the property that is zoned Land Conservation to the Town or to the Lishakill Preserve. She noted that there are some really big trees on the land. Luckily most of them are in the L-C Zone. Some are on the proposed new lots, but Ms. Robertson hopes they can be preserved. She noted the developer will flag the proposed houses and driveways and then schedule a walk through with the Tree Council.

Mr. Zimmerman stated he needed to leave the meeting but noted that Lot 4 has quite a steep slope. Ms. Robertson noted that the developer realizes the situation and plans to build a house into the slope and remove the least number of trees possible. He noted the water runoff from this property could affect the Town land and the habitat in that area. Ms. Robertson will discuss this with the developer. Mr. Zimmerman signed off from the meeting.

Chairwoman Carey asked the timing of this project. Ms. Robertson noted that the Planning Board is reviewing the project for sketch plan review. The developer asked for the Tree Council to do a walkthrough on the property. Ms. Robertson noted a lot of the old growth can be preserved. Ms. Howansky asked if it considered an old growth forest. Ms. Robertson believes they are. The trees are on a slope so they were left alone when the lands in town were cleared for farming. Ms. Howansky asked if Fred Breglia from the Landis Arboretum can join the Council for a walkthrough. He is an expert on old growth forests. Ms. Robertson stated the Planning Board would welcome that expertise. She asked Ms. Howansky to send her contact information for Mr. Breglia. His presence will allow the town to

- a) Officially designate an area as old growth forest by and expert
- b) Allow the Town to state they are officially preserving the area
- c) Encourage the developer to preserve trees that an expert has designated as significant.

Ms. Matuszyk asked where the Council can park to walk the area previous to the official walkthrough. Ms. Robertson showed the location of a little driveway used by the police department to access the site off of Route 7.



**2538 River Road**

Ms. Robertson stated that the Council has seen this property before. She showed an overview of the whole development pointing out the land to be preserved and listing the native plants on that land. She then zoomed into the area where there currently exists a stub road at the end of Windsor Drive and Briar Ridge. She showed that the developer will be removing this stub road and developing the land into green space including trees and other plantings.

Ms. Howansky asked that the resolution include wording to the affect that the blacktop stub and subbase be removed and replaced with appropriate soils for a proper green space area. She noted that the compacted subbase is not good for plantings. Ms. Robertson stated that the developer did comment about this. He wanted to reuse the subbase for the multiuse path.

Ms. Howansky asked that the developer not seed the area with grass when they finish the development. She noted if the Council was going to plant pollinator friendly plants than they don't want to start with a grassed area. Ms. Robertson agreed. She noted that there will be areas of the property that are being developed that contain lupines that will have to be removed prior to house placement. She hopes to dig these plants out and replant them, wondering also if they could put them in other areas including under the newly planted elm trees in Blatnick Park. Ms. Howansky stated that the Council can make a wonderful pollinator friendly area. She noted that the Xerces Society is a consortium of many experts that try to improve pollinator habitats. She attended one of their workshops and has their book. If the Council follows their suggestions on this property, they could develop a complete pollinator habitat area between the forest area and along the bike path to the lupine field they plan to preserve. Pollinators need a safe place to survive the winter, to nest, to reproduce, to eat. This property and surrounding area can be managed to provide all the needs. Pollinators can fly limited distances. If the Council doesn't provide places for all their needs in a limited area then they won't survive. Ms. Matuszyk asked if the forest can play a part in the life cycle of the pollinators. Ms. Robertson showed the property image again and noted it is close enough to be part of the plan. Ms. Howansky suggested the multiuse path be called Lupine Lane. Ms. Robertson stated that she will create a memo to the Planning Board stating that the Tree Council will develop a pollinator pathway along the multiuse path on the Kelts Farm property. She noted they could educate the public by putting signs along the pollinator pathway.

**VI. DISCUSSION ITEM**

No items presented.

**VII. REPORTS****1. Public Outreach Subcommittee**

Chairwoman Carey noted that she could not log into the Tree City account to update the Town's records. Ms. Robertson noted that she doesn't remember the password but will figure it out and get the information to Chairwoman Carey. They should be able to qualify since the Town had an Arbor Day event and planted the Elm trees. She stated they need to think about the 2021 Arbor Day event. She noted that the Public Outreach subcommittee needs additional members. She suggested in January when the Council discusses its goals, the subcommittees members should be reorganized. Ms. Robertson stated that she needs to update the website. She also noted that they have the magnets to hand out at the next public event.

**2. Tree Inventory / Tree Master Plan Subcommittee**

Ms. Robertson gave the report since Mr. Zimmerman had to leave the meeting. She the Master Plan budget will be used up by the Engineer working on the plan. She noted that she needs help with information gathering. Chairwoman Carey and Ms. Worthington stated they were available and Ms. Robertson will send them the list of information needed.

Ms. Robertson noted that she stopped over to Blatnick Park while the Highway Department was planting the Elm trees. A gentleman came up to her and Ray Smith and asked what was going on. After Ms. Robertson explained about the disease resistant Elms being planted, he identified himself as the DEC Forester for our region. He and the staff from the Community Forestry Grant were all there for a meeting. They proceeded to have a great conversation with Mr. Smith about training for his staff and other ways they can help our Town. They noted that they are still moving forward with the community forestry grant, but the reviews have been delayed due to COVID. Ms. Robertson feels the Council's chances of getting the grant are still good because with all the recent work they had done, their application was very competitive.

Chairwoman Carey asked that she receive information on the training that the Highway Department receive. Their training counts for the Tree City certification.

Chairwoman Carey asked for the name for the disease resistant Elms. Ms. Robertson noted they are Liberty Elms from Keene, NH. These trees are the closest to the old Elm trees in height.

### 3. Tree Planting Subcommittee

Ms. Robertson noted that the Highway Department planted a lot of trees this fall. They were able to plant trees at all the locations that were marked. They replaced a number of dead trees from the spring and summer planting. Ms. Howansky asked if anyone knew why the sweetgums on Cornelius died. Ms. Robertson noted that she drove through the neighborhood in the spring but didn't follow up over the summer. She didn't know when or why they died. The trees were replaced with the same species.

Ms. Howansky asked about the dead trees at River Road Park. Ms. Robertson stated she forgot about those so they did not get on the list she sent to the Highway Department. She also noted that the upgrades to the fields at River Road Park have begun. She also noted a neighbor to the park asked for evergreens to be planted to buffer the noise from the park.

Chairwoman Carey asked why the large Ash tree was not removed at Aqueduct Park. Ms. Robertson stated that the tree may is not an Ash but potentially a Box Elder. It was decided to leave it because although it was old, it was not dead and if it was not an ash – it wouldn't necessarily die over the next year or two. Ms. Robertson also noted that she was walking the park and noticed new trees were planted with volcano mulching. When she removed the volcano mulch, she noticed the trees still had the burlap sack around the root ball. She then called the contractor and had them correctly replant the trees.

Ms. Howansky asked what the next steps were for Blatnick Park. Ms. Robertson stated that the sign will probably be ordered and installed in the spring.

Ms. Howansky asked if someone can review the data collected by Mr. Zimmerman to find locations for spring planting projects. Ms. Robertson stated she will try and schedule that.

## VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairwoman Carey asked the Council to collect ideas for 2021 goals. Ms. Robertson showed the 2021 Calendar and noted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month except for November works.

163 Chairwoman Carey asked if there was anything else to discuss. Ms. Robertson stated the meetings will  
164 continue to be virtual into January. Ms. Worthington placed a motion to adjourn. Ms. Howansky  
165 seconded the motion. All members agreed.

166 The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

DRAFT

**TOWN OF NISKAYUNA  
Tree Council  
Minutes  
December 10, 2020**

Members Present: Carol Carey, Chairwoman (late)  
Amanda Matuszyk  
Chris Zimmerman  
Paul Sebesta (late)  
Laura Robertson, Town Planner

**Due to the Covid-19 virus and the quarantine, the meeting was conducted virtually via Google Meets software.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting came to order at 6:00 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Andrea Worthington, Amy Howansky, and Jonathon Marr were absent/excused.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Corrected minutes from October and minutes from the November meeting were presented. Ms. Robertson noted a quorum was not present so the minutes will be held and approved at the January meeting.

**IV. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

No one contacted Ms. Robertson to speak. No messages were received by email.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was presented.

**VI. DISCUSSION ITEM**

1. 2627 Troy Schenectady Road

Ms. Robertson noted that a date for the Council to do a walk thru of the property needs to be set. She noted she will invite an expert from the Landis Arboretum for the walk. The developer has marked the property. The goal of the walk thru would be to help guide the developer on house and driveway placement to preserve trees.

Mr. Zimmerman asked who would develop the new trail down to the Lishakill Preserve. Ms. Robertson stated the highway and Parks & Rec will take over that aspect of the project. The trailhead will be off of the curb cut on Troy Road. A trailhead already exists on the curve on Shannon Road but that will be for local residents and not the general public.

2. Elm Trees at Blatnick Park

Ms. Robertson stated that she walked around the new elms planted at Blatnick Park. Some are now looking crooked and should be re-settled before the ground totally freezes. Mulch should also be placed

around the trees. Ms. Robertson asked who may be available to help with the work. Ms. Carey stated she could help.

### 3. Master Plan

The contractor working on the Master Plan worked out the format of the document. The Tree Council needs to provide a lot of details. Ms. Robertson asked who was available and members stated their interest in helping.

The contractor will also be contacting the Highway Department for their input.

Ms. Robertson noted that the document needs additional details entered before the document is made available for the public to comment.

Ms. Robertson and Mr. Zimmerman will schedule a meeting next week to itemize the information needed. Once listed the items will be divided amongst members and hopefully the information will be collected in a timely manner. Ms. Carey noted she would like to be included in the initial meeting.

Ms. Robertson noted that the Tree Council is short 2 members. The subcommittees are lacking members. She asked members to keep their eyes open for possible new members. If they find anyone interested, tell them to send a resume to the Town.

Chairwoman Carey noted that the Tree City application for 2020 needs to be filed. Ms. Robertson asked the Chairwoman to do as much as she can on the application. Chairwoman Carey noted that she could not fill out the financial side of the application. Ms. Robertson stated that she will and is confident we have the numbers appropriate for the application.

Mr. Zimmerman noted that the 2021 Arbor Day event will need a larger park if it will again be a drive thru event. River Road Park was suggested. Blatnick Park does not have a good driving loop. Ms. Robertson noted that River Road Park would be a good option for an in-person event. A lot of work was done to the fields recently and additional tree planting is needed to complete the project.

## VII. REPORTS

### 1. Public Outreach Subcommittee

Chairwoman Carey noted that she is working on the Tree City application.

### 2. Tree Inventory / Tree Master Plan Subcommittee

Mr. Zimmerman asked if the Town had applied for any Tree grants. Ms. Robertson noted the Forestry Grants are being handed out for applicants in 2019. Niskayuna did not apply for this grant. Niskayuna had tried for the grant in 2018 but hadn't started our tree inventory yet. The Town skipped 2019 in order to have a stronger application in 2020. Unfortunately, with Covid, the grant was not offered in 2020 and DEC is just finalizing the 2019 grants. Niskayuna will apply for the next round of forestry grants when they are offered.

Chairwoman Carey asked if there were any other grant opportunities. Ms. Robertson stated there may be Federal grants which are more complicated to process. Niskayuna has better luck with State grants. Ms. Robertson stated she will keep her eyes open for new opportunities.

### 3. Tree Planting Subcommittee

No report.

75 Mr. Zimmerman asked if there were any unused funds to direct to additional tree purchases. Ms.  
76 Robertson stated that due to budget issues, the Town was trying to direct all unused funds into the 2021  
77 budget.

78 Mr. Sebesta apologized for missing most of the meeting but reminded Ms. Robertson that some of the  
79 miscellaneous funds are needed for the dead and dying Silver Maples. Some of these trees are so large  
80 they would need a crane to remove them properly. He noted we have been trying to build the budget for  
81 tree removal over the last couple of years. Just because we haven't used it yet doesn't mean we will not  
82 need it. We should work to get these funds back into future budgets because we know there are a lot of  
83 silver maples in Town and they will start dying. Mr. Zimmerman and Mr. Sebesta agreed to meet and  
84 calculate the number of trees, their mortality rate, and the cost of removal. Having the numbers on paper  
85 will help getting funds into the Town budget.

86 **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

87 Chairwoman Carey asked the status of the Youth Participation pilot program. Ms. Robertson stated the  
88 application and the committee descriptions are almost complete. She hoped the Council will have  
89 applications to review at the January meeting.

90 Chairwoman Carey asked if there was anything else to discuss. Ms. Robertson stated the meetings will  
91 continue to be virtual into January.

92 The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.



# Town of Niskayuna

One Niskayuna Circle, Niskayuna, NY 12309

## Youth Representative Position Application

The Niskayuna Town Board is welcoming the next generation of town leaders to participate in local government and has established a policy for the appointment of student representatives to Town Advisory Committees. To be eligible, the student must be a resident of the Town of Niskayuna who is a junior or senior in high school. Students enrolled full- or part-time in a university, two or four-year college, trade or vocational school, or graduate program may also qualify.

If you are interested in participating in local government by membership on any of the following committees, please email this completed form to Laura Robertson, Town Planner, at [lrobertson@niskayuna.org](mailto:lrobertson@niskayuna.org) by **January 11, 2021 by 5pm**. One student representative will be selected by each committee annually, with appointment beginning in February of 2021. Youths can expect approximately 20 –30 hours of service annually and can expect to participate in functions such as local project reviews, community programs and outreach and Town policy updates. For a description of each committee see the following page.

Check the committee/council/task force in which you are interested (check all that apply):

☐ Climate Smart Communities Task Force

☐ Complete Streets Committee

☐ Conservation Advisory Council

☐ Tree Council

Date: \_1/7/21

Name: Mia Etkin

Address: 2267 Dean street

City: Niskayuna

Zip Code: 12309

Phone

Home: N/A

Cell: (518) 878-0288

EMAIL: miaetkin@icloud.com

School Attending: Niskayuna High School

Current Grade Level: 11th

Can attend monthly: Day Meetings? when not in school Night Meetings? Yes

**Briefly list aspects of your experience that you believe qualify you for this advisory committee/council/ task force and why you are interested in serving:**

I believe I would be qualified for either of these positions because of my prior volunteer work experience through the Town of Niskayuna (parents night out, children's events, etc) as well as being employed by the town for the last several years at the town summer camps, town pool, and

high school pool. I love being involved in my community and keeping as busy as possible. I'm very passionate about advocating for change when it is needed and working with others to enact those changes. I'm a student athlete, I've worked in customer service/retail which has given me communication skills. I volunteered to be the modified dive coach during the winter of 2020 where I put in several hours of volunteer work a week. I was also a part of student council during 7th and 8th grade where I developed leadership skills and a liking for student involvement. I really enjoy nature and the environment and think it's great that students are being invited to participate and get involved in bettering our community. Thank you!

(attach additional pages if necessary)

## **Committee Descriptions**

### **Climate Smart Communities Task Force**

The Climate Smart Communities Task Force was created to support the Town of Niskayuna's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate. The Town is participating in the Climate Smart Communities Certification program, which requires that the Town take specific actions related to climate change and is organized around ten pledge elements. The CSC Task Force will develop a strategy and work plan for establishing a baseline for the Town's and communities current emissions, recommend reduction targets, identify new strategies for reductions and energy efficiency, and propose ways in which these strategies can be incorporated into the Town's economic development and planning efforts. They work with the Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC) and different Town Departments to identify grants and other ways for the Town to achieve its Climate Smart goals. Usually meets monthly on Mondays at 5pm.

### **Complete Streets Committee (CSC)**

The Complete Streets Committee is a 9 member board that was created to study areas of Town where Complete Streets solutions could be implemented and advise the Town Board or Planning Board as to the best practices for such implementation. "Complete Streets" are defined as roadways that enable safe and convenient access for all users, including bicyclists, pedestrians of all ages and abilities, motorists, movers of commercial goods, and public transportation. The Complete Streets Committee's mission is to create streets that support and invite multiple uses, include safe, active and ample space for those uses and promote pedestrian, bicycle and public transportation travel as an alternative to the automobile in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote healthy living. They promote pedestrian, bicycle and public transportation travel through public outreach and events such as pop-up festivals and bike rodeos. They review new street construction and street reconstruction with the Highway Department to try and implement Complete Streets elements when possible. They review Planning Board projects and share ideas between the Boards to implement Complete Streets solutions to private projects and approvals whenever possible. And they try to coordinate between the Niskayuna Central School District and the Town of Niskayuna to develop safe routes to schools and daycares for Niskayuna families. Usually meets the fourth Friday of the month at 9am.

### **Conservation Advisory Council (CAC)**

The Conservation Advisory Council is a 9 member board that was created to provide an environmental perspective on land use proposals, comprehensive plans, stewardship of natural areas, and other issues. They work to protect the biologic integrity of the natural environment by building cooperation and participation between Niskayuna residents, local and state officials, and various public and private industries, agencies, and organizations. The CAC reviews local projects under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and contributes to local land use decision-making and conservation. They advocate for the "big picture" view needed for natural resource-based planning. In addition to reviewing projects for the Planning Board, Zoning Board or Town Board, they also work



on public outreach and environmental protection initiatives such as a biodiversity / low mow initiatives for Town properties and a pesticide reduction / lawn care outreach to Town residents. Usually meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm.

### **Tree Council**

The Tree Council is a board that was created to help preserve the quality and character of the natural environment in Niskayuna in recognition that trees, shrubs and associated vegetation are an important natural resource. The Tree Council's mission is to ensure trees and their associated practical and aesthetic benefits are assured for future generations of Town residents to enjoy. They are in charge of creating a Street Tree Master plan and they work on inventorying the trees that are currently established in Niskayuna. They review development plans for the Planning Board and advocate for retaining existing trees, adding additional plantings and increasing species diversity / using native species whenever possible. They organize Arbor Day and manage the Town's status as a Tree City. They try to work with the Highway Department on Spring and Fall planting projects, maintain a website with information for residents on how to plant and maintain trees, and also work on a variety of different public outreach projects. Usually meets on the second Thursday of the month at 6pm.





Town of Niskayuna  
One Niskayuna Circle, Niskayuna, NY 12309

## Youth Representative Position Application

The Niskayuna Town Board is welcoming the next generation of town leaders to participate in local government and has established a policy for the appointment of student representatives to Town Advisory Committees. To be eligible, the student must be a resident of the Town of Niskayuna who is a junior or senior in high school. Students enrolled full- or part-time in a university, two or four-year college, trade or vocational school, or graduate program may also qualify.

If you are interested in participating in local government by membership on any of the following committees, please email this completed form to Laura Robertson, Town Planner, at [lrobertson@niskayuna.org](mailto:lrobertson@niskayuna.org) by **January 11, 2021 by 5pm**. One student representative will be selected by each committee annually, with appointment beginning in February of 2021. Youths can expect approximately 20 –30 hours of service annually and can expect to participate in functions such as local project reviews, community programs and outreach and Town policy updates. For a description of each committee see the following page.

Check the committee/council/task force in which you are interested (check all that apply):

- ☒ Climate Smart Communities Task Force
- ☐ Complete Streets Committee
- ☐ Conservation Advisory Council
- ☒ Tree Council

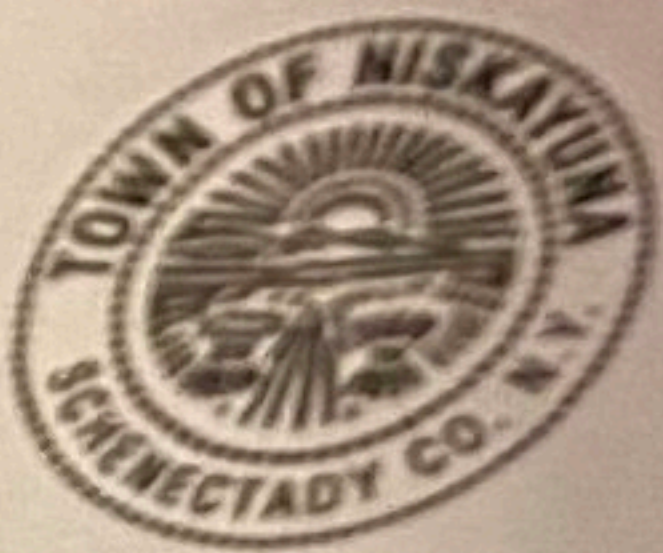
Date: 1/10/21  
Name: Faith Foley  
Address: 11 Pinecrest Drive  
City: Niskayuna Zip Code: 12309  
Phone: Home (518) 785-8547 Cell (518) 605-1161  
EMAIL: FoleyF22@gmail.com  
School Attending: Niskayuna High School  
Current Grade Level: 11<sup>th</sup>  
Can attend monthly: Day Meetings? NO Night Meetings? yes

**Briefly list aspects of your experience that you believe qualify you for this advisory committee/council/task force and why you are interested in serving:**

I have always been passionate about the environment & learning ways to do my part in helping to take care of our planet. This desire to create change started early on. In third grade I created Paws for the Park, an initiative to help raise money for the rebuild of Birchwood Elementary School's nature park. I have been active in volunteering, even earning the President's Volunteer Service Award in ninth grade, but there are not many volunteer opportunities geared specifically towards the environment. I'm interested in pursuing a major in environmental engineering or environmental science & I feel that serving on one of these Town Advisory Committees would be a great opportunity to gain experience. I hold a leadership position with the Niskayuna High School Nisky Friends Club, but would appreciate the opportunity to serve as a student representative for the town. Thank you very much for considering my application.

(attach additional pages if necessary)





Town of Niskayuna  
One Niskayuna Circle, Niskayuna, NY 12309

## Youth Representative Position Application

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- ☐ Climate Smart Communities Task Force
- ☐ Complete Streets Committee
- ☐ Conservation Advisory Council
- ☒ Tree Council

Date: 1-11-2021

Name Jenna Gresen

Address 1028 Merlin Drive

City Niskayuna, NY

Zip Code 12309

Phone: Home (518)-608-5269 Cell (518)-949-9368

EMAIL jenna.m.gresen@gmail.com + gre08259@niskyschools.org

School Attending Niskayuna High School

Current Grade Level 12th

Can attend monthly: Day Meetings? \_\_\_\_\_ Night Meetings? Yes at 6 PM

**Briefly list aspects of your experience that you believe qualify you for this advisory committee/council/task force and why you are interested in serving:**

I don't have experience but I am willing to learn since I'm a fast learner! I'm interested in serving for the Tree Council because I believe it's important to increase the diversity/species of trees in the town of Niskayuna, and I believe that teaching the residents how to plant and maintain trees will create a difference in our community.

(attach additional pages if necessary)





# Town of Niskayuna

One Niskayuna Circle, Niskayuna, NY 12309

## Youth Representative Position Application

The Niskayuna Town Board is welcoming the next generation of town leaders to participate in local government and has established a policy for the appointment of student representatives to Town Advisory Committees. To be eligible, the student must be a resident of the Town of Niskayuna who is a junior or senior in high school. Students enrolled full- or part-time in a university, two or four-year college, trade or vocational school, or graduate program may also qualify.

If you are interested in participating in local government by membership on any of the following committees, please email this completed form to Laura Robertson, Town Planner, at [lrobertson@niskayuna.org](mailto:lrobertson@niskayuna.org) by **January 11, 2021 by 5pm**. One student representative will be selected by each committee annually, with appointment beginning in February of 2021. Youths can expect approximately 20 –30 hours of service annually and can expect to participate in functions such as local project reviews, community programs and outreach and Town policy updates. For a description of each committee see the following page.

Check the committee/council/task force in which you are interested (check all that apply):

- ☐ Climate Smart Communities Task Force
- ☐ Complete Streets Committee
- ☐ Conservation Advisory Council
- ☒ Tree Council

Date: 1/11/2021

Name Shivani Patel

Address 15 Schwaber Drive

City Niskayuna

Zip Code 12309

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_

Cell (518) 901-9643

EMAIL shivani514.sp@gmail.com

School Attending Niskayuna High School

Current Grade Level 11<sup>th</sup> grade

Can attend monthly: Day Meetings? ☒

Night Meetings? ☒

(not during school hours)

**Briefly list aspects of your experience that you believe qualify you for this advisory committee/council/task force and why you are interested in serving:**

I am interested in serving because I love nature. I believe that we should try to protect nature and not exploit it. I believe that I am qualified for this council because I have previous experience with trees. For three years, I helped fundraise for BAPS Charities' walk green events. We would collect money and BAPS Charities would then donate all of it to the Nature Conservancy's efforts to plant a billion trees. We would also have a walk-a-thon to raise awareness for the cause.

(attach additional pages if necessary)





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- ☐ Climate Smart Communities Task Force
- ☐ Complete Streets Committee
- ☒ Conservation Advisory Council
- ☒ Tree Council

Date: 1/7/2021

Name Melissa Ochoa

Address 1885 Hexam Rd W

City Niskayuna

Zip Code 12309

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_

Cell (929)-262-8287

EMAIL melissa.8ab@gmail.com

School Attending Niskayuna High School

Current Grade Level 12<sup>th</sup> grade

Can attend monthly: Day Meetings? \_\_\_\_\_ Night Meetings? ☒

**Briefly list aspects of your experience that you believe qualify you for this advisory committee/council/task force and why you are interested in serving:**

Currently, I do not have much experience on these competitions, however, I am willing to learn and cooperate to accomplish the goals and objectives of these following committees. I will use my leadership skills from working as a Niskayuna Camp Counselor and give ideas so that more people can love Niskayuna even more.

(attach additional pages if necessary)

# **TOWN OF NISKAYUNA**

## ***Tree Council***

### ***2020 Goals***

#### **Primary Goals**

1. Street Tree Inventory
  - a. Continue collecting data in Fulcrum
2. Tree Master Plan
  - a. Create a sample tree master plan from Old Niskayuna neighborhood data
  - b. Diversify Street Tree species
3. Public Outreach
  - a. Educational Events
    - i. Arbor Day
    - ii. Community Action Day
    - iii. Niska-day Booth
  - b. Website
  - c. Develop Education and Outreach Materials
  - d. Maintain Tree City Certification
4. Tree Planting
  - a. Streamline tree request procedure for residents
  - b. Purchase unique and special trees for parks
  - c. Pilot program of Tree Planting
  - d. Coordinate roles with Highway Department
  - e. Support Highway Department
  - f. Plan 2020 Tree Plantings
  - g. Understand and organize budget
  - h. Bring in training opportunities
5. Adopt definition of “Tree of Value”

#### **Ongoing Responsibilities**

1. Code Updates
2. Review Subdivision and Site plans for street tree recommendations and existing vegetation assessments /impacts
3. Address any private homeowner question / concerns / issues
4. Update Master plant list
5. Pursue Forestry Grants

#### **Committees:**