

# **TOWN OF NISKAYUNA**

## ***Tree Council***

### **Agenda**

**March 11, 2021**

**6:00 PM**

#### **VIA REMOTE MEETING SOFTWARE**

#### **REGULAR AGENDA MEETING**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. ROLL CALL**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. February 11, 2021

**IV. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

**V. NEW BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS**

**VI. DISCUSSION ITEM**

1. 2538 River Road - Kelts Farm Tree Clearing Plan (attached)
2. 1380 Van Antwerp Subdivision (attached)
3. Rivers Ledge Park Update
4. Dean Street Neighborhood Planting

**VII. REPORTS**

1. Public Outreach Subcommittee
  - A. Arbor Day April 24th
2. Tree Inventory / Tree Master Plan Subcommittee
3. Tree Planting Subcommittee

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**NEXT MEETING: April 15, 2021**

**at 6:00 pm**

**to be held Virtually**

**TOWN OF NISKAYUNA  
Tree Council  
Minutes  
February 11, 2021**

Members Present: Carol Carey, Acting Chairwoman  
Jonathan Marr  
Andrea Worthington  
Amanda Matuszyk  
Amy Howansky  
Chris Zimmerman  
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**

Paul Sebesta was absent/excused.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the January meeting were presented. Ms. Howansky noted a dozen minor changes that included typos and sentence rephrasing. Mr. Marr and Chairwoman Carey noted a couple of more minor changes. Ms. Worthington placed a motion to accept the January minutes as modified/corrected. Ms. Howansky seconded the motion and all the Council approved. The January minutes were approved.

**IV. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

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

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Robertson reported that our Youth Representative, Faith Foley, will be approved by the Town Board and she will reach out to the Council's candidate to attend the March meeting. Two new Tree Council members will be approved by the Town Board for March.

**1. 2021 Goals**

Ms. Howansky noted some typos that should get corrected for the final version. The Council had a discussion on the name for the Master Plant list (Ongoing Responsibilities #4). It was determined to rename the list 'Master Tree and Plant List' and use terms like 'Prohibited Tree and Plant List' within the document, so people understood it also applied to trees.

Ms. Worthington asked if these Goals are obtainable with continued COVID restrictions. Ms. Robertson noted that the Council was able to accomplish a number of their 2020 Goals. They may not be able to host events like in the past but Arbor Day and tree plantings could still happen in a different format.

Mr. Zimmerman suggested the Council define their goals for unique tree plantings and make sure they are included in the Town Park's Master Plan. The use of the Park may promote the planting of specific trees or limit the planting of other trees. Chairwoman Carey noted that some communities have a theme for their parks. In Rochester parks, they are known for their lilacs. Defining a tree vision for the parks will be a benefit. Ms. Worthington noted that Town parks could become an arboretum and the Council would not need to stick to one theme. The Council could plant many species. Labeling the trees would educate people and give them ideas for tree planting on private property.

Chairwoman Carey asked if the Council will be responsible for the Blatnick Park sign or just the landscaping. Ms. Robertson noted that the Highway Department will take care of the sign and the Council would do the landscaping. She noted that the Highway Department agreed with the proposed alternate location for the sign. She noted that the Council reviewed their old records and found an image of the original sign with the Olympic rings. The Highway Department has a standard for park signs. They have a copy of the original sign and will take the information under consideration when they create the new sign.

Mr. Zimmerman asked who manages the parks (plantings and activities). Ms. Robertson stated that the Highway Department is responsible for the maintenance of the space, Community Programs plans the programs hosted in the parks, and the Supervisor oversees both Departments.

Ms. Howansky made a motion to accept the 2021 Goals with those minor modifications. Mr. Zimmerman seconded the motion and all the Council approved.

## **VI. DISCUSSION ITEM**

### **1 Planning Projects**

#### **A. Rivers Ledge**

Ms. Robertson noted that she received a new landscaping plan. She believes it is not complete because there is still not enough vegetation between building 12 and the multi-use trail and the development and the single family home on Aqueduct (building 8). Also, the buffer was mostly trees so once they grew up, a ground level buffer would be needed.

Ms. Howansky asked if the Council could look at a full-sized set of prints. Ms. Robertson stated there are strict protocols for allowing people into Town Hall currently but hopefully the Town will be able to open to the public and members can stop over to view the full-sized plans in person soon. Ms. Howansky asked if they can take the plans to the site so they can relate the image to the site better. Ms. Robertson stated that can be done.

Chairwoman Carey asked about the Aqueduct Park area. Ms. Robertson stated that was a different project with different drawings. The land is owned by Canal Corp but the developer of Rivers Ledge will be paying for the upgrades to the park. Mr. Zimmerman asked how much of the understory will be cleared and how they will ensure it won't grow back.

Ms. Howansky noted that there are a number of plants on the list spelled incorrectly. She also questioned the diversity of the planting when the list includes 592 Boxwoods.

Ms. Matuszyk asked what the timeline for Aqueduct Park is. Ms. Robertson stated they will probably plan to take trees down soon since it is easier to use heavy equipment when the ground is frozen. It will take a while to clean out the blocks and find ways to use them effectively. Ms. Robertson noted that the developer wants the park done soon so the new residents have a nice park to visit while the development is being worked on. Some of the Aqueduct stones may be moved to the multi-use trail with a kiosk to remind people that the canal passed by here. Mr. Zimmerman asked who owns the park. Ms. Robertson

79 stated the Town maintains Aqueduct Park, Canal Corp owns the land, and it is a public park for anyone to  
80 enjoy.

81 Ms. Howansky, referring to the Rivers Ledge planting plan, wanted them to change some planting to  
82 diversify the bloom time. She noted that while its nice to see 500 plants blooming in May, she wanted  
83 blooms to continue into June, July, and August. Diversity and the continuous blooming will help  
84 pollinators. Ms. Howansky also noted that she learned of a new boxwood blight that may change their  
85 planting plan.

86 Mr. Zimmerman questioned whether the Highway Department realizes the maintenance requirements of  
87 the Aqueduct Park plan. Ms. Robertson noted that the Rivers Ledge project is maintained by the property  
88 owner. Aqueduct Park will need to be maintained by the Town. She noted it would be wonderful if a  
89 gardener or club to pick up maintenance of the space, but the Town cannot rely on that. Ultimately the  
90 Highway Department is responsible for maintenance so the goal is to have a space that is simple to  
91 maintain.

## 92 **B. Shannon Blvd Subdivisions**

93 Ms. Robertson stated that the location of the house and the trees on Lot 1 did not match the plans. She  
94 will talk to the developer about this. She also noted that there were a bunch of ribbons marking property  
95 boundaries, house locations and trees to be removed or saved. She will ask the developer to contact her  
96 two days before tree cutting so she or a Tree Council member can go back to the property and check the  
97 plan. It was very confusing seeing all the ribbons meaning different things and she doesn't want a tree  
98 cutter to get mixed up and take down the wrong trees.

99 Mr. Zimmerman felt comfortable stating the area of the land being donated to the Town is old growth  
100 forest. Its obvious the land was logged and used for agriculture in the past but some of these trees have  
101 been there for many, many years.

102 Mr. Zimmerman noted that the lots themselves appear to keep a lot of trees. He questioned where their  
103 lawns were going to be. Ms. Robertson stated that some additional trees may need to be removed to build  
104 the lawn.

105 Ms. Robertson noted that this subdivision is being sold to one family. The Council is dealing with the  
106 developer, but should also try and contact the initial owners of the land. Hopefully, they are listening and  
107 will keep the special trees on their lots. The next steps are for the developer and Town to work out the  
108 street trees for this subdivision and the new owners and the Town to develop a deal to mitigate the trees  
109 that need to come down for the new houses.

## 110 **2. Street Tree Master Plan**

111 Ms. Robertson stated she needs to schedule a meeting on this.

## 112 **3. Subcommittee Assignment**

113 Ms. Carey announced that due to members leaving the Tree Council, the subcommittee members need to  
114 be redefined. Ms. Robertson has talked to the new members and they emailed her the Committees they  
115 were interested in. At this time, it looks like members will be:

116 Public Outreach – Ms. Matuszyk, Mr. Bray (new member), Ms. Carey, Ms. La Mena (new member), and  
117 Mr. Marr

118 Tree Planting – Ms. Howansky, Mr. Sebesta, Mr. Bray, and Ms. Worthington

Master Plan – Mr. Zimmerman, Ms. Worthington, and Ms. Carey

Mr. Zimmerman wanted to have public input on the ‘final’ version of the Master Tree Plan. With COVID that may be difficult. It would be nice if the contractor could host these public meetings.

## **VII. REPORTS**

### **1. Public Outreach**

Chairwoman Carey asked if our Arbor Day event will happen this year. Ms. Robertson stated it will. The Town supports events like this and the Council should order the trees. Chairwoman Carey asked if it will be a drive through event. Ms. Robertson suggested we use River Road Park since there is a lot of space to line up cars. Mr. Marr suggested the High School. Mr. Zimmerman suggested the park by the pool. Ms. Robertson will ask the Police Chief for their preference. Ms. Worthington noted there may be a high school club or a scout troop that may be interested in helping.

Chairwoman Carey noted that the website is not available. Ms. Robertson also noted the error but stated it was working 3 weeks ago. Ms. Carey will contact Steve Signell and ask him to fix it.

### **2. Tree Planting**

Ms. Howansky shared her screen. She showed a Niskayuna Tree Site Planting Checklist. Mr. Marr and Mr. Zimmerman noted some suggested changes. Everyone liked the idea of the list and the information it presented.

Ms. Howansky then showed an information page for the Recommended Tree List. Everyone liked the information. She then showed images of her proposed tree information spreadsheet. She showed different options and the Council agreed with her proposal. Mr. Zimmerman suggested the Council add goals to the cover page. Goals could be native vs. non-native and diversity of species. Ms. Matuszyk asked if the Council knew how many trees would be listed. Ms. Howansky stated it will be about the same as the old list but will include more trees. The old list listed a number of cultivars as if they were different trees. The new list will only list specific cultivars if they are prohibited. Mr. Zimmerman asked how to list subcategories. Ms. Howansky stated they will have tabs with lists of ‘specialty’ trees (short, flowering, skinny, etc.).

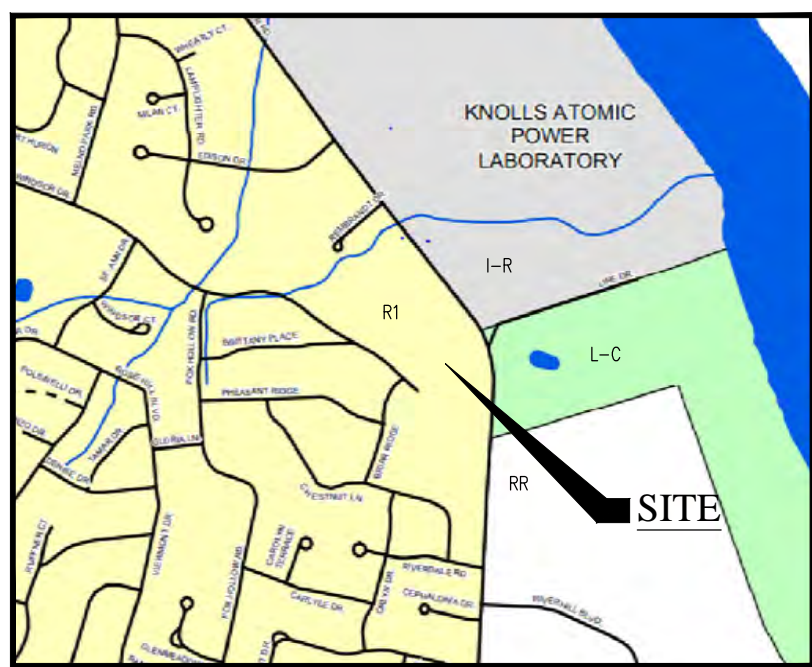
Mr. Marr asked if this list will be available on a Town website. Ms. Howansky stated that ultimately is the goal so homeowners can get access to the information.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

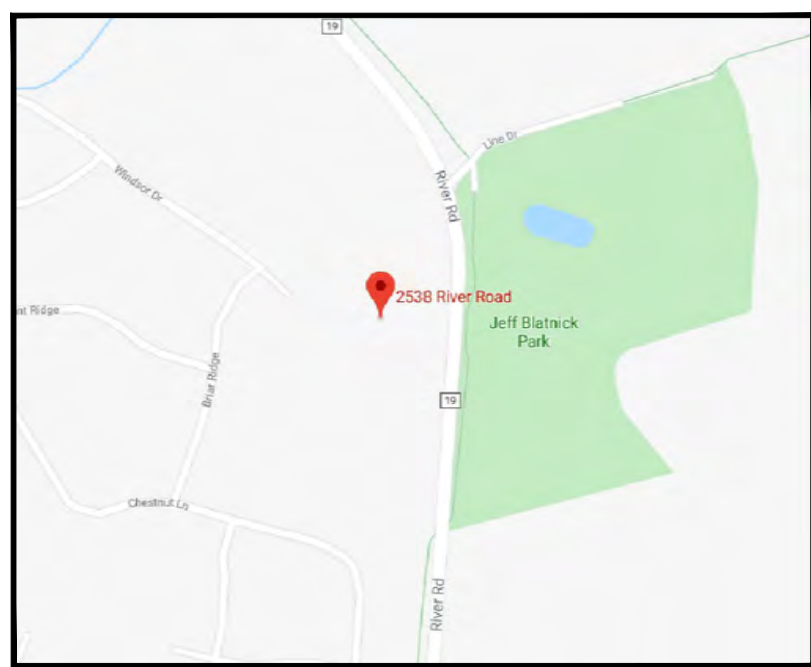
Chairwoman Carey thanked everyone for staying for such a long meeting. Ms. Worthington placed a motion to adjourn. Mr. Zimmerman seconded the motion and all members approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

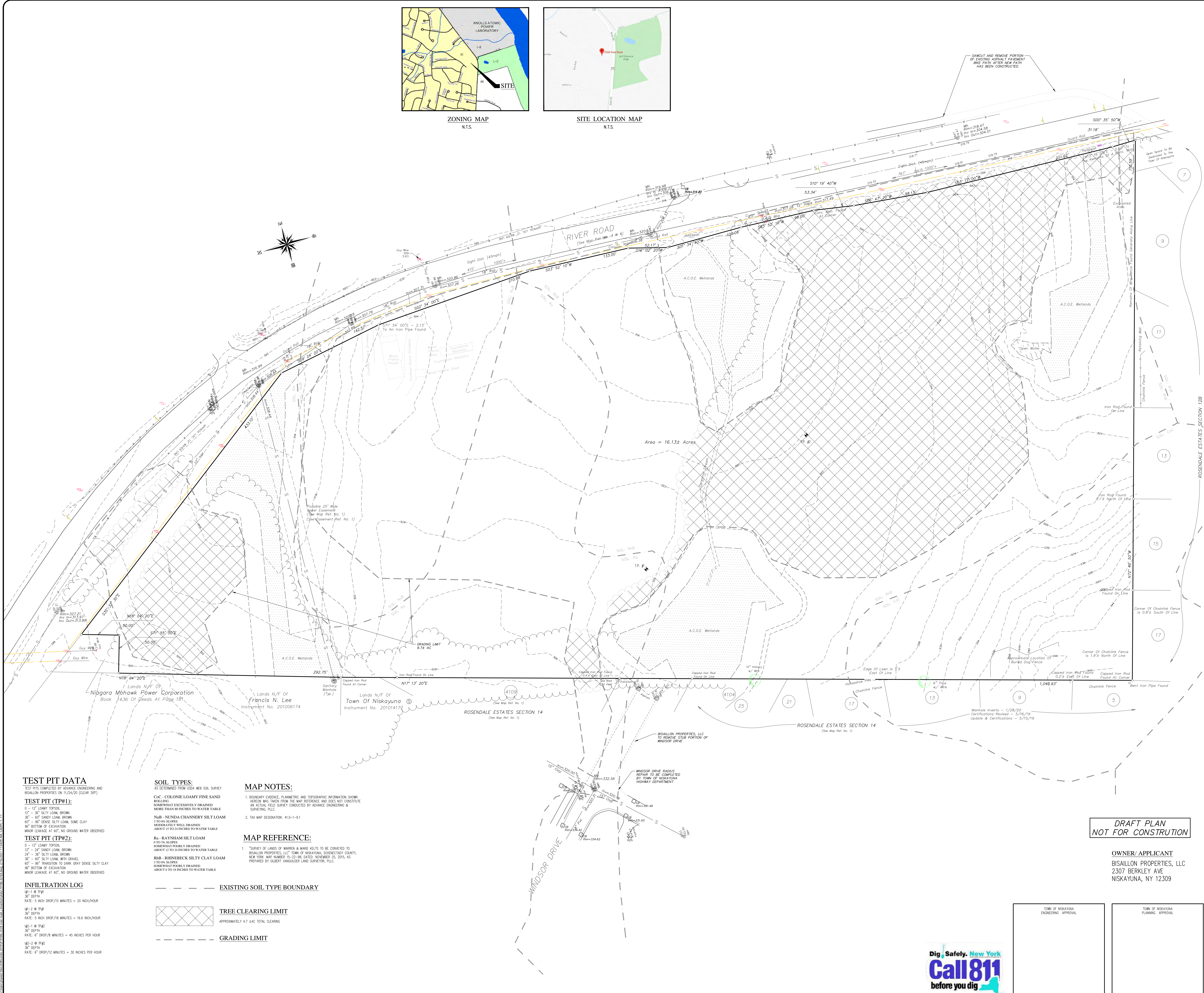




ZONING MAP  
N.T.S.



SITE LOCATION MAP  
N.T.S.



**TEST PIT DATA**

TEST PITS COMPLETED BY ADVANCE ENGINEERING AND  
BISAILLON PROPERTIES ON 11/24/20 (CLEAR 397)

**TEST PIT (TP#1):**  
0' - 12" LOAMY TOPSOIL  
12" - 36" SILTY LOAM, BROWN  
36" - 60" SANDY LOAM, BROWN  
60" - 96" SANDY SILTY LOAM, LIGHT CLAY  
96" BOTTOM OF EXCAVATION  
MINOR LEAKAGE AT 60", NO GROUND WATER OBSERVED

**TEST PIT (TP#2):**  
0' - 12" LOAMY TOPSOIL  
12" - 24" SANDY LOAM, BROWN  
24" - 36" SILTY LOAM, BROWN  
36" - 60" SILTY LOAM, WITH GRAVEL  
60" - 96" TRANSITION TO DARK GRAY DENSE SILTY CLAY  
96" BOTTOM OF EXCAVATION  
MINOR LEAKAGE AT 60", NO GROUND WATER OBSERVED

**INFILTRATION LOG**

U1-1 @ TP#1  
36" DEPTH  
RATE: 5 INCH DROP/15 MINUTES = 20 INCH/HOUR

U1-2 @ TP#1  
36" DEPTH  
RATE: 5 INCH DROP/15 MINUTES = 16.6 INCH/HOUR

U2-1 @ TP#2  
36" DEPTH  
RATE: 6" DROP/8 MINUTES = 45 INCHES PER HOUR

U2-2 @ TP#2  
36" DEPTH  
RATE: 6" DROP/12 MINUTES = 30 INCHES PER HOUR

**SOIL TYPES:**

AS DETERMINED FROM USDA WEB SOIL SURVEY

**COC - COLONIE LOAMY FINE SAND**  
ROLLING  
SOMWHAT EXCESSIVELY DRAINED  
MORE THAN 60 INCHES TO WATER TABLE

**NIB - NUNDA CHANNERY SILT LOAM**  
1 TO 1% SLOPES  
MODERATELY WELL DRAINED  
ABOUT 15 TO 24 INCHES TO WATER TABLE

**RA - RAYNHAM SILT LOAM**  
0 TO 1% SLOPES  
SOMWHAT POORLY DRAINED  
ABOUT 12 TO 24 INCHES TO WATER TABLE

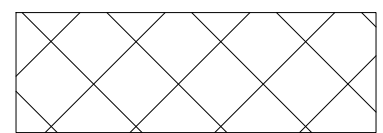
**RBD - RHINEBECK SILTY CLAY LOAM**  
1 TO 1% SLOPES  
SOMWHAT POORLY DRAINED  
ABOUT 6 TO 14 INCHES TO WATER TABLE

**MAP NOTES:**

1. BOUNDARY EVIDENCE, PLANNING AND TOPOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SHOWN HEREON WAS TAKEN FROM THE MAP REFERENCES AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN ACTUAL FIELD SURVEY CONDUCTED BY ADVANCE ENGINEERING & SURVEYING, PLLC.
2. TAX MAP DESIGNATION: 410-1-1-1

**MAP REFERENCE:**

1. "SURVEY OF LANDS OF WARREN & MARE KELTS TO BE CONVERTED TO BIGHORN PROPERTIES, LLC, TOWN OF NISKAYUNA, SHERIDAN COUNTY, NEW YORK, MAP NUMBER 19-22-98, DATED: NOVEMBER 23, 2015, AS PREPARED BY GILBERT VANDERLINDER LAND SURVEYOR, PLLC

- EXISTING SOIL TYPE BOUNDARY
-  TREE CLEARING LIMIT  
APPROXIMATELY 4.7 ± AC TOTAL CLEARING
- GRADING LIMIT

**DRAFT PLAN  
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION**

**OWNER/ APPLICANT**  
BISAILLON PROPERTIES, LLC  
2307 BERKLEY AVE  
NISKAYUNA, NY 12039

|   |  |
|---|--|
| TOWN OF NISKAYUNA<br>ENGINEERING APPROVAL | TOWN OF NISKAYUNA<br>PLANNING APPROVAL |
|---|--|



|     |  |   |  |        |  |      |  |          |  |
|-----|--|---|--|--------|--|------|--|----------|--|
| NO. |  | BY  |  | APPRO. |  | DATE |  | REVISION |  |
| 1)  |  | IN  |  | NO.    |  | DATE |  | REVISION |  |
| 1)  |  | PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING PLANS ISSUED FOR REVIEW |  | NO.    |  | DATE |  | REVISION |  |

**DESIGN OF:**  
**ADVANCE ENGINEERING & SURVEYING, PLLC**  
CONSULTING IN:  
CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING  
LAND SURVEYING & DEVELOPMENT  
COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL

**EXISTING CONDITION PLAN**  
KELT'S FARM SUBDIVISION  
ST. NO. 2538 RIVER ROAD  
COUNTY OF SHERIDAN  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
DATE: DECEMBER 13, 2019  
SCALE: 1" = 40'

**OWNER/ APPLICANT**  
BISAILLON PROPERTIES, LLC  
2307 BERKLEY AVE  
NISKAYUNA, NY 12039

**DESIGNER:**  
NICHOLAS COSTA, P.E.  
E-MAIL: NCOSTA@aesny.com  
PHONE: (518) 898-3772

**REVISIONS:**

|     |          |   |
|-----|----------|---|
| NO. | DATE     | REVISION  |
| 1   | 11/24/20 | PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING PLANS ISSUED FOR REVIEW |

**EXIST**  
2 OF 8 19186-SITE4





## Advance Engineering & Surveying, PLLC

Consulting in: Civil & Environmental Engineering • Land Surveying • Land Development  
11 Herbert Drive  
Latham, N.Y. 12110  
Phone: (518) 698-3772  
Email: ncostape@gmail.com

Nicholas Costa, PE  
Robert D. Davis, Jr., LS

### Legal Description Lands to be Dedicated to The Town of Niskayuna for Conservation Purposes ( portion of Kelt's Farm Subdivision )

All that piece or parcel of land situate, lying and being located on the westerly side of River Road, in the Town of Niskayuna, County of Schenectady, State of New York, being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a point in the westerly road boundary of River Road at its intersection with the division line between lands now or formerly of Bisailon Properties, LLC as described in Instrument No. R2012-740 on the north and lands to be dedicated to the Town of Niskayuna as open space (as shown on Rosendale Estates Section 12B subdivision plans); thence from said point of beginning along said division line and along the division line between lands of the aforementioned Bisailon Properties, LLC on the north and lot no.'s 9, 11, 13, 15 and 17 (all as shown on Rosendale Estates Section 12B subdivision plans) on the south North  $72^{\circ}40'50''$  West, 710.59 feet to a point in the division line between the aforementioned lands of Bisailon Properties, LLC on the east and lands known as Lot No. 5 (as shown on Rosendale Estates Section 14 subdivision plans) on the west; thence along said division line and along the division line between the aforementioned lands of Bisailon Properties, LLC on the east and lands known as lot no.'s 9, 13, 17, 21, 25, 4104 and 4109 (all as shown on Rosendale Estates Section 14 subdivision plans) on the west and lands now or formerly of Francis N. Lee as described in Instrument No. 201006174 on the west the following two (2) courses and distances:

- 1) North  $17^{\circ}13'20''$  East, 1,040.93 feet to a point; thence
- 2) North  $18^{\circ}04'15''$  East, 74.69 feet to a point therein; thence through the aforementioned lands of Bisailon Properties, LLC the following two (2) courses and distances:
  - 1) South  $71^{\circ}55'41''$  East, 149.88 feet to a point; thence
  - 2) North  $71^{\circ}34'48''$  East, 163.79 feet to a point in the aforementioned westerly road boundary of River Road; thence along said westerly road boundary of River Road the following six (6) courses and distances:
    - 1) South  $35^{\circ}32'25''$  East, 145.45 feet to a point; thence
    - 2) South  $09^{\circ}24'20''$  East, 142.57 feet to a point; thence
    - 3) South  $02^{\circ}34'00''$  East, 210.88 feet to a point; thence
    - 4) South  $03^{\circ}52'10''$  West, 133.00 feet to a point; thence
    - 5) South  $16^{\circ}02'20''$  West, 52.17 feet to a point; thence
    - 6) South  $01^{\circ}34'40''$  West, 73.58 feet to a point therein; thence through the aforementioned lands of Bisailon Properties, LLC the following twenty-three (23) courses and distances:
      - 1) South  $82^{\circ}43'12''$  West, 291.29 feet to a point of non-tangent curvature; thence
      - 2) Along an arc of a curve to the right having a radius of 220.00 feet, an arc length of 68.13 feet and an included angle of  $17^{\circ}44'35''$  to a point of tangency; thence
      - 3) North  $10^{\circ}27'47''$  East, 65.54 feet to a point; thence
      - 4) South  $79^{\circ}32'13''$  East, 91.75 feet to a point; thence
      - 5) South  $88^{\circ}25'17''$  East, 176.70 feet to a point; thence
      - 6) North  $16^{\circ}02'23''$  East, 53.69 feet to a point; thence
      - 7) North  $03^{\circ}52'06''$  East, 131.37 feet to a point; thence

- 8) North 02°34'04" West, 209.72 feet to a point; thence
- 9) North 09°24'20" West, 139.65 feet to a point; thence
- 10) North 69°26'56" West, 79.34 feet to a point; thence
- 11) North 87°15'11" West, 98.82 feet to a point; thence
- 12) South 62°48'16" West, 130.39 feet to a point; thence
- 13) South 17°13'20" West, 206.84 feet to a point; thence
- 14) South 34°03'13" West, 65.03 feet to a point; thence
- 15) South 57°36'15" East, 151.01 feet to a point; thence
- 16) South 32°23'45" West, 31.85 feet to a point of curvature; thence
- 17) Along an arc of a curve to the left having a radius of 280.00 feet, an arc length of 107.18 feet and an included angle of 21°55'58" to a point of tangency; thence
- 18) North 10°27'47" East, 77.86 feet to a point; thence
- 19) North 79°32'13" West, 175.58 feet to a point; thence
- 20) South 01°26'05" East, 189.55 feet to a point; thence
- 21) South 22°13'47" East, 192.58 feet to a point; thence
- 22) South 50°21'47" East, 192.68 feet to a point; thence
- 23) South 76°56'55" East, 259.73 feet to a point in the aforementioned westerly road boundary of River Road; thence along said westerly road boundary of River Road the following two (2) courses and distances:
  - 1) South 03°11'01" West, 49.26 feet to a point; thence
  - 2) South 00°35'50" West, 31.18 feet to the point and place of beginning and containing 6.31 acres of land more or less.

Reference is made to a plan titled "Survey of lands of Warren & Marie Kelts to be conveyed to Bisailon Properties, LLC, Town of Niskayuna, Schenectady County, New York", dated November 25, 2015, last revised May 16, 2019, as prepared by Gilbert VanGuilder Land Surveyor, PLLC

Subject to all rights, easements, covenants and restrictions of record.

Subject to any state of facts an up to date Abstract of Title of the subject premises would disclose.







