TOWN OF NISKAYUNA

Tree Council Agenda March 9, 2023 6:00 PM In the Schaefer Room

Hybrid in-person & Google Meets Software

REGULAR AGENDA MEETING

| I. | CALL | TO | ORD | ER |
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- II. ROLL CALL
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - 1. February 9, 2023
- IV. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR
- V. NEW BUSINESS / ACTION
- VI. DISCUSSION ITEM
 - 1. Planning Board Referrals
 - A. 2635 Balltown Road Trinity Baptist Church
 - B. Rivers Ledge Senior Center Building
 - C. Mohawk Golf Club
 - D. 3900 State St
 - E. Polsinelli Subdivision
 - F. 1760 Union St.

VII. REPORTS

- 1. Public Outreach Subcommittee
 - A. Arbor Day April 29, 2023
- 2. Tree Inventory / Tree Master Plan Subcommittee
 - A. Updated Master Plan / meetings
- 3. Tree Planting Subcommittee
 - A. Climate Warriors meeting update

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING: April 20, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the Town Board Room To be held hybrid in-person & remote

TOWN OF NISKAYUNA Tree Council Minutes February 9, 2023

Members Present: Carol Carey

Amy Sarah LaMena Leo Fleishman Jeff Corbin Jonathan Marr

Laura Robertson, Town Planner

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Amanda Matuszyk was absent / excused

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The December minutes were presented with no comments being made on them. Ms. LaMena made a motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Mr. Marr. The minutes were voted on and approved unanimously.

IV. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. Dave Hitchcock spoke to discuss a club at Niskayuna High School called the Niskayuna Climate Warriors. A major goal of the Climate Warriors is to replace trees that will be taken down due to an expansion of Iroquois Middle School. Mr. Hitchcock said the group was interested in working with the Tree Council and is planning on using a variety of trees in their planting. The group plans on planting the trees in early spring. The group would like to plant as many trees as possible but is aiming for at least 5. Ms. Robertson said she is attending the next Climate Warriors meeting which is 2/17 to meet the group and talk about their ideas. Ms. Carey noted that Niskayuna's Arbor Day celebration is 4/29 and stated that the group could potentially get a booth for the event.

Talking about the current state of some of the trees, Ms. Carey noted it may be worthwhile to see if the Highway Department has the funds to hire an intern to help water trees during the dry summer months.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2022 List of Accomplishments

Ms. Carey read through the list of accomplishments and events that the Tree Council achieved throughout 2022.

Ms. Carey wanted to highlight the number of booths that were staffed at the 2022 Arbor Day celebration. Ms. Carey also noted that there would need to be a bit better organization of Arbor Day, as the Supervisor's planting of the trees occurred when many attendees were doing other activities and would not leave them for the Supervisor. Ms. Carey spoke about the source of the trees handed out that day being the Saratoga Soil and Water Conservation District, but that may switch to Schenectady in the future.

Motion to approve List of Accomplishments was brought forward by Ms. Carey and seconded by Ms. LaMena. The Accomplishments were unanimously voted on.

2. 2023 Goals

Ms. Robertson pulled up an online version of the 2023 Goals, which Ms. Carey read aloud.

Ms. Robertson noted that one of the items, "Blatnick Park Sign Rehabilitation and Landscaping" was not fully relevant anymore as the sign had already been put up. The item was switched to "Blatnick Park Sign Landscaping".

In regards to an earlier conversation, Ms. Robertson suggested adding a "Watering Solution" to the list of goals. This was met with approval from the Council.

Ms. Carey recommended the master plant list item be changed to "Review and Update Master Planting List," a s this gets completed it will make it easier for the Highway Department as well as developers to understand which trees are most needed in that area.

Ms. LaMena said that she would be willing to take over the Instagram page that was started previously in order to increase Tree Council's social media presence.

The Council decided that because "Tree of Significance" had been added to master plan, this could be removed from the goals.

As all members of the Tree Planting Subcommittee had left, Mr. Corbin volunteered to take that position up. Mr. Fleishman volunteered for the Tree Planting Subcommittee as well.

VI. DISCUSSION ITEM

- 1. Planning Board Referrals- New Projects
 - a. Mohawk Golf Club update/site visit

Ms. Robertson noted that as the project is still in early stages, exact limits of clearing are unknown. Ms. Robertson said that it may be beneficial for a site visit to take place early on however just to get a basic evaluation of the type of forest on the site. Ms. Robertson reiterated that there will be a time for a more thorough visit where flagging trees may take place, but for now that is not necessary.

b. 3900 State St. – recommendation

Ms. Robertson said this was just an initial introduction of the project tonight and no action needed to be taken, and she detailed the project for the Council. Ms. Robertson stated that there is a large Norway Spruce at the front of one of the lots in question, and there are other trees further back on the property.

Ms. Robertson recommended members of the Council take a look at the trees in question in person at some point. Mr. Marr stated that they should save all the trees near the Norway Spruce, because it would create a linear row between sections of the parking lot. The Council agreed to make an initial recommendation to the Planning Board to save the Norway spruce and try and save all the trees around the Norway Spruce for good screening and preservation of habitat.

c. Polsinelli Subdivision

Ms. Robertson briefly went over the Polsinelli project. Ms. Robertson detailed how the back ends of the property were deeded for no further subdivision, which does not inherently mean no clearing is allowed but as residential density cannot increase clearing is less likely to take place.

Ms. Robertson stated that this is the same sort of subdivision design as the Vincenzo subdivision, which the Tree Council weighed in on previously.

Ms. Robertson said at a later date a site visit will likely take place to examine the limits of clearing proposed.

d. 1760 Union St.

Ms. Robertson recommended that if members of the Council drive down Union St. they take a brief look at the state of the trees around this site. Ms. Robertson said each project that occurs on Union St. is asked to add trees if possible, and while that possibility for this project is not yet known it should be looked into.

Ms. Carey stressed the importance of cohesiveness in new tree planting, especially in main corridor areas such as Union St.

2. 2023 Calendar Update

Ms. Robertson detailed that the only change that has occurred since the calendar was adopted in January is that the April meeting will now occur in the Town Board room.

VII. REPORTS

1. Public Outreach

Arbor Day was discussed, and Ms. Carey stated that it will likely be a similar setup to last year's event. Ms. Robertson and Ms. Carey stated that Town Hall was a good site and the booths would continue this year.

Mr. Marr recommended there be a method set up for residents to display trees that they have received on past Arbor Days to see how they currently look.

Mr. Marr also recommended the proclamation said by the Town Supervisor be done a day ahead of time so that it will be in the newspapers on Arbor Day itself.

2. Tree Inventory/Tree Master Plan

No reports for this meeting.

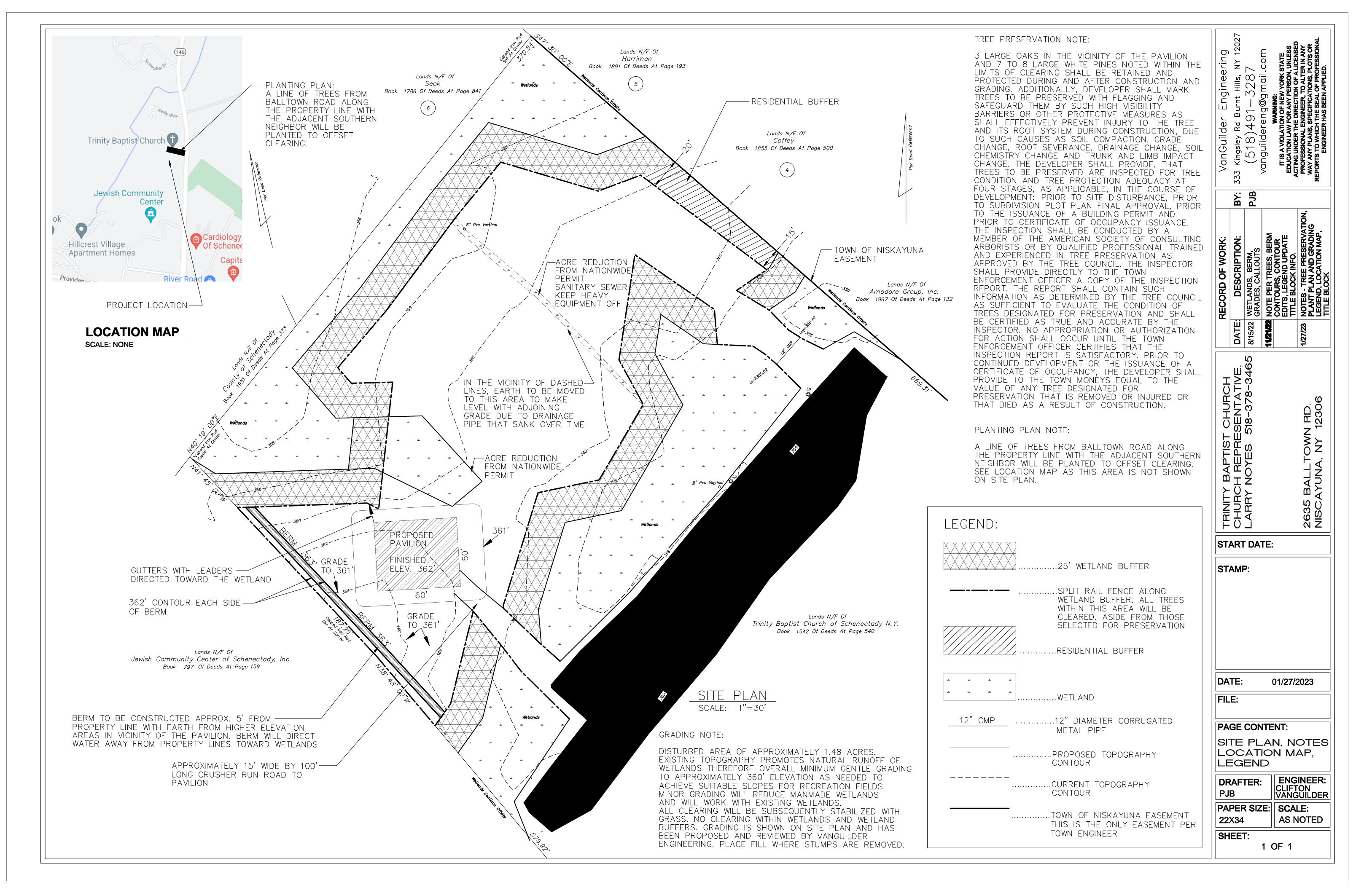
3. Tree Planting

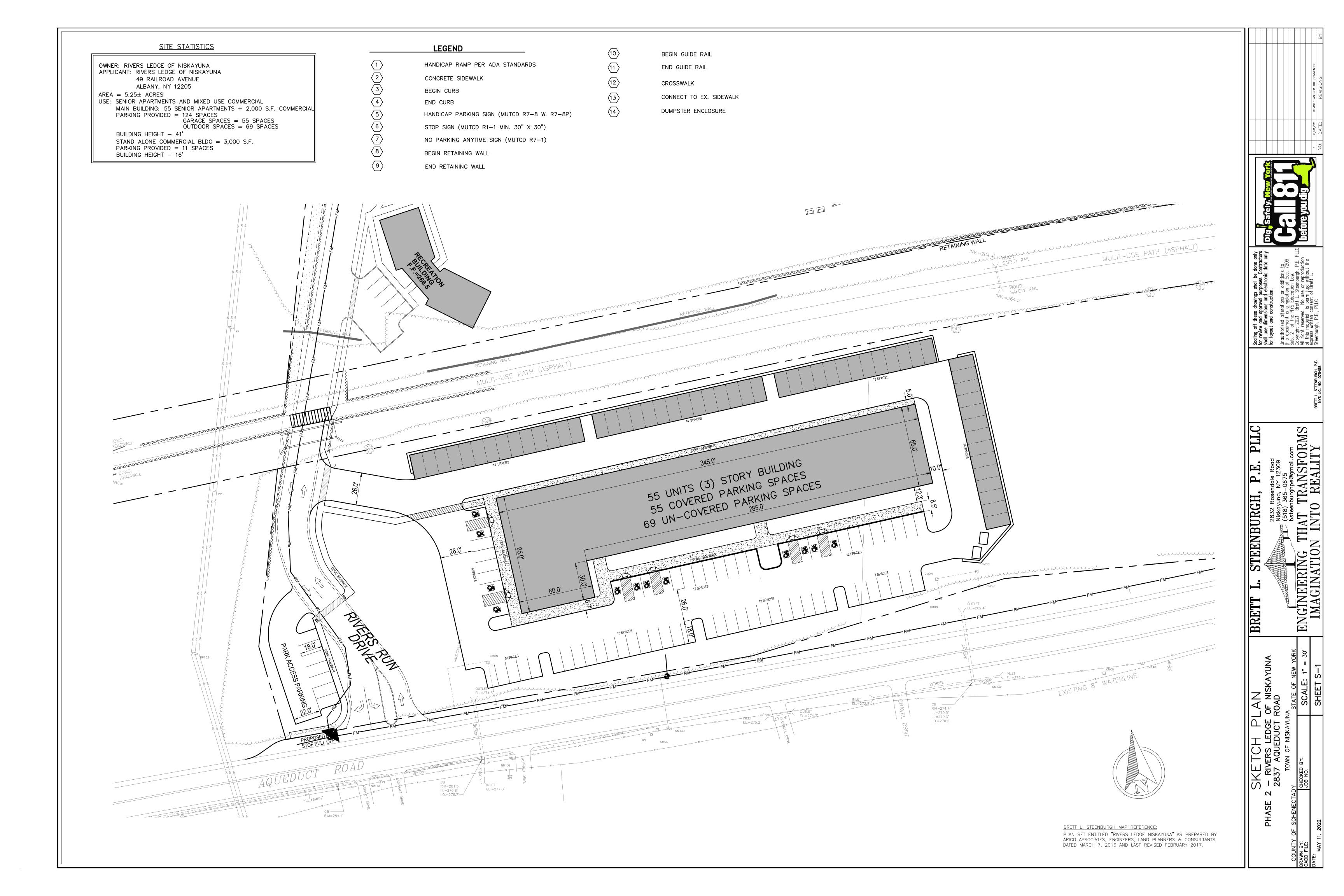
No reports for this meeting

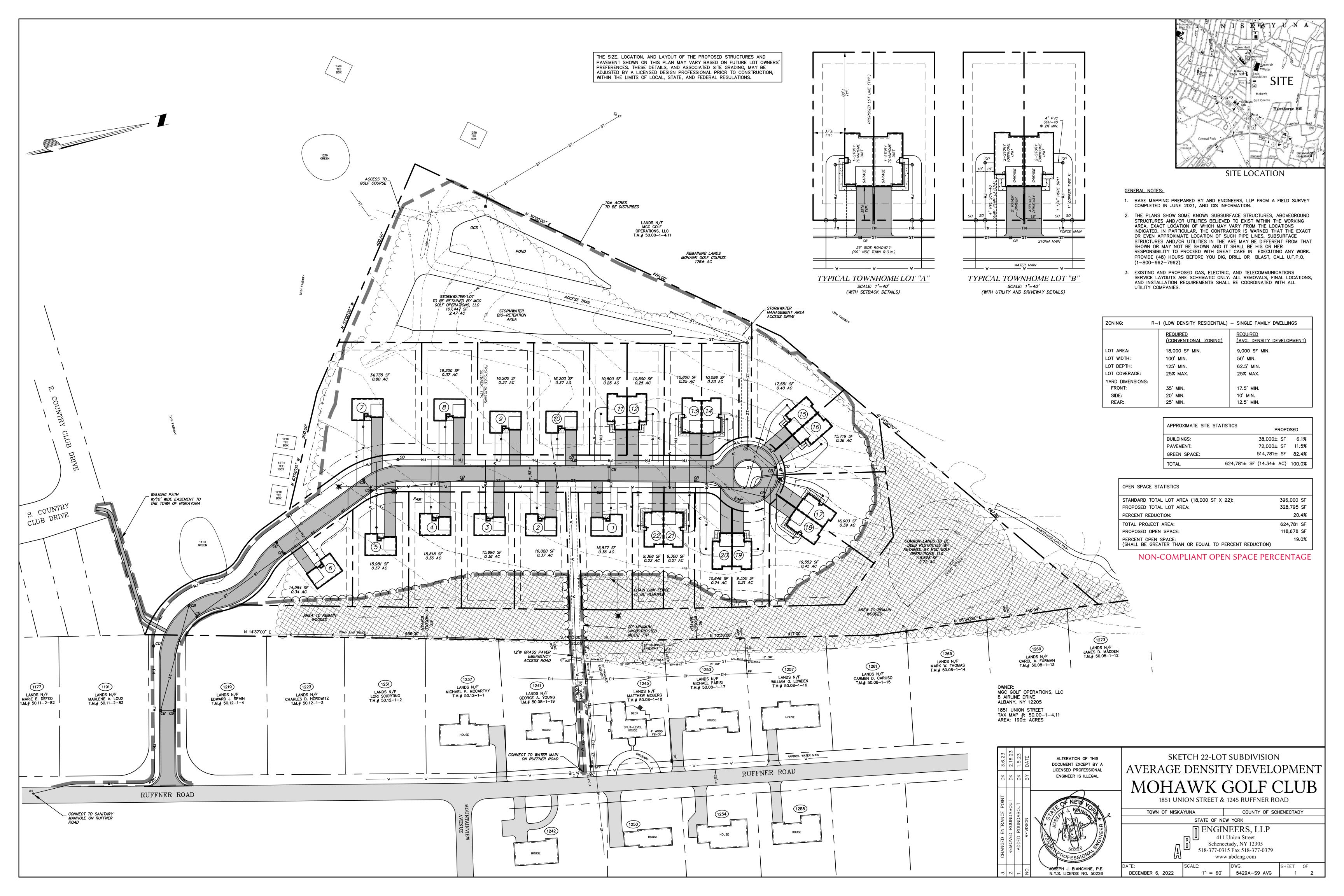
Ms. Carey and Mr. Marr came to an agreement that Ms. Carey would be Chair of the Committee until July and at that point Mr. Marr would take over.

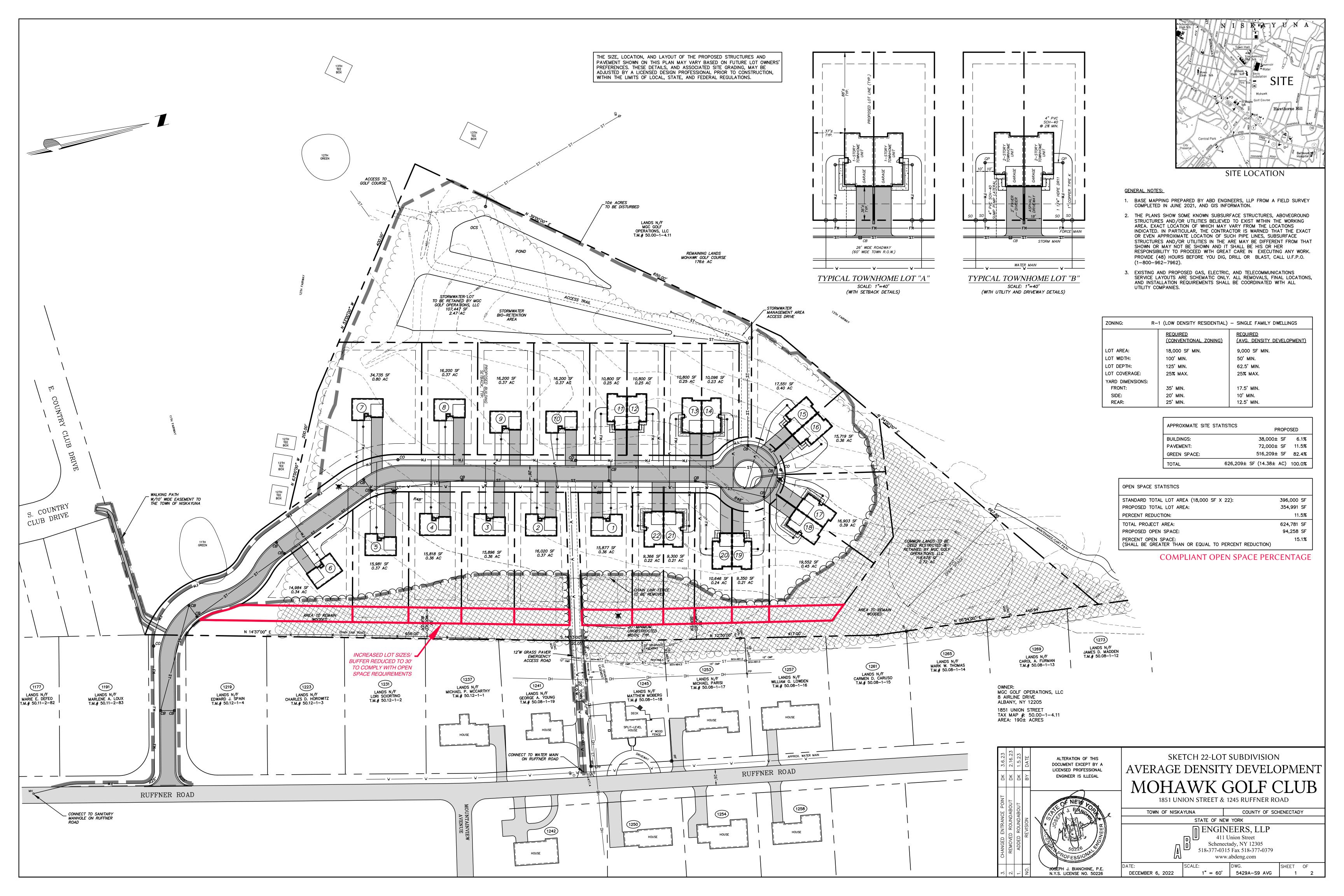
III. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Carey asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. LaMena placed a motion to adjourn. Mr. Fleishman seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.





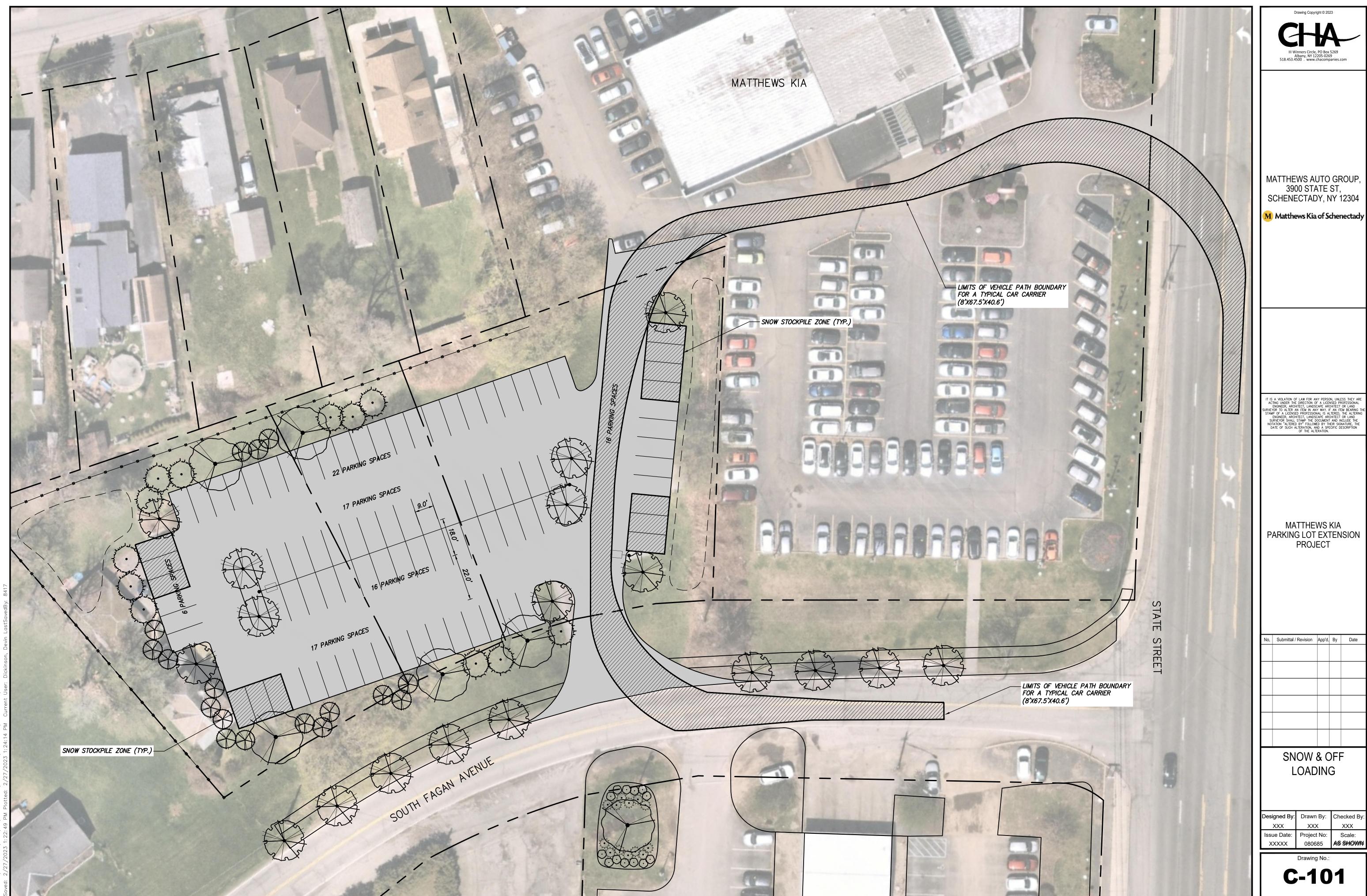






AS SHOWN





Drawn By: Checked By AS SHOWN





MATTHEWS AUTO GROUP, 3900 STATE ST, SCHENECTADY, NY 12304

M Matthews Kia of Schenectady

IT IS A WOLATION OF LAW FOR ANY PERSON, UNLESS THEY ARE ACTING UNDER THE DIRECTION OF A LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER, ARCHITECT, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT OR LAND SURVEYOR TO ALTER AN ITEM IN ANY WAY. IF AN ITEM BEARING THE STAMP OF A LICENSED PROFESSIONAL IS ALTERED, THE ALTERING ENGINEER, ARCHITECT, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT OR LAND SURVEYOR SHALL STAMP THE DOCUMENT AND INCLUDE THE NOTATION "ALTERED BY" FOLLOWED BY THEIR SIGNATURE, THE DATE OF SUCH ALTERATION, AND A SPECIFIC DESCRIPTION OF THE ALTERATION.

MATTHEWS KIA PARKING LOT EXTENSION PROJECT

No. Submittal / Revision App'd. By Date

CONCEPT SITE PLAN

Designed By: Drawn By: Checked By:

ECH ECH DD

Issue Date: Project No: Scale:

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Drawing No.:
C-100