

TOWN OF NISKAYUNA

Tree Council

Agenda

May 9, 2024

5:30 PM

Hybrid In-Person (Town Hall / Schaefer Room) & Remote (Google Meet)

REGULAR AGENDA MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. March 6, 2024

IV. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

V. NEW BUSINESS / ACTION

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Coordination of Planting with Highway Department
2. Arbor Day Follow-up
3. Trainings

VII. REPORTS

1. Planning Open Items
 - A. Market 32 / Shoprite Plaza – update
 - B. Papa Johns – Mohawk Commons
2. Public Outreach Subcommittee
3. Tree Inventory / Tree Master Plan Subcommittee
4. Tree Planting Subcommittee
 - A. Tree Plantings at Co-Op Plaza

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING: June 13, 2024
at 5:30 pm in the Schaefer Room
To be held hybrid in-person & remote

TOWN OF NISKAYUNA
Tree Council
Minutes
April 11, 2024

Members Present: Jonathan Marr, Chairperson
Carol Carey
Amy Sarah LaMena
Jeff Corbin
Laura Robertson, Town Planner
Linda Sciocchetti, Administrative Assistant

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting came to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Amanda Matuszyk and Leo Fleishman were absent / excused.

Chet Lasell and James Chapman, residents, were also present.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Marr asked if everyone read the March minutes and had any comments. Ms. Carey noted some changes. Chairperson Marr noted additional changes. Ms. LaMena placed a motion to approve the amended minutes as discussed. Mr. Corbin seconded the motion and all the members approved the March amended minutes.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

James Chapman, 2228 Stone Ridge Rd, noted his home was built in 1953 in an old apple orchard. He noted the trees are at the end of their lifespan and many are starting to fall. He stated he created an organization called NiskaUnicorn which initially helped NiskyNOW (Nutrition on Weekends). He noted with the trees falling, the wildlife is losing their habitat. He noted he would like to help residents remove dead trees on their land and get new ones planted. Ms. Carey noted that Mr. Chapman should listen to what the Council does and what they can do with the Highway Department. Ms. Robertson noted it wounds like Mr. Chapman and the Council have similar goals. Mr. Chapman may be a good partner. While the Town works to get public trees planted, Mr. Chapman can work on private planting projects.

Mr. Lasell didn't wish to speak and Ms. Robertson did not receive any phone calls or emails.

V. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

VI. DISCUSSION ITEM

1. Coordination of Planting with Highway Department

Ms. Robertson summarized the information that Mr. Smith provided. The Council discussed what the information means and how they should interpret it. The Council discussed how to pick a street/area to work on. Mr. Corbin offered to walk down Regent Street and knock-on doors to see who is interested in getting a new tree. Ms. Robertson stated she could modify the letter they used on Dean Street and modify

39 it for this purpose. She noted she would like to go door-to-door with him. She noted she would also generate
40 a list of trees available to be planted. The Council discussed the process of getting owner permission and a
41 list of trees and addresses to plant them.

42 Ms. Robertson asked Mr. Corbin for a photo of himself for a Tree Council Town badge. Other members
43 noted they did not have one either. Ms. Robertson offered to them badges also, she just needs a photo from
44 members.

45 2. Arbor Day

46 Ms. LaMena stated that she is posting information about the trees available for Arbor Day. She noted the
47 images need to reference the owner of the image and she is using mostly Arbor Day Society images. She
48 noted the tree descriptions need to be reworded.

49 The Council noted concerns about Town emails not being received. They discussed ways to get the message
50 out about the event. Ms. Robertson reported that she contacted the Gazette but she doesn't know when he
51 will publish something. Ms. LaMena will also work with Ms. Cassidy-Dorion in the Supervisor's office to
52 get the event on Facebook. Ms. Robertson will get the W&S sign showing the event.

53 Ms. Robertson will pick up the trees on Friday. The members who are available will meet on Friday at 1
54 p.m. to prep the trees. The Council will meet at 10 a.m. on Saturday to set up. The event runs from 11 a.m.
55 to 1 p.m. and the cleanup should be quick afterward.

56 Ms. Carey was concerned about parking. Ms. Robertson noted she will contact the Library and the High
57 School for extra parking. Ms. Carey asked if the Drug Take Back Day can be directed to the back entrance
58 of the building. Ms. Robertson stated the Highway Department will be helping the Council that day and
59 they can be used to help direct traffic.

60 Ms. Carey asked for printouts of the trees being distributed and Ms. Robertson noted Ms. Bergami could
61 handle that. Ms. Carey noted that Arbor Day has a lot of booths this year, several more than last year. She
62 will contact them again to confirm their attendance. Ms. Sciocchetti noted that she would confirm the Girl
63 Scout troop and craft project. Ms. Robertson will order some give-away bookmarks. Ms. LaMena asked for
64 information on the vendors so she could also post their information. Ms. Carey stated she would send Ms.
65 LaMena their contact information.

66 Ms. Robertson stated the Arbor Day tree will be planted before Saturday and the proclamation read.
67 Hopefully this will generate news in the paper.

68 3. Trainings

69 No update.

70 VII. REPORTS

71 1. Planning Open Items

72 a. Market32

73 Mr. Fleishman, Ms. Matuszyk and Ms. Robertson walked around the Market32 property and had a good
74 discussion. Market32 will draw up a plan and present it to the Tree Council for approval.

75 b. Papa Johns

76 Ms. Robertson noted that they are a new tenant in Mohawk Commons near Panera. She asked members to
77 pass by the site and see if any trees need to be updated.

78 2. Public Outreach Subcommittee

79 No discussion needed.

80 3. Tree Inventory / Tree Master Plan Subcommittee

81 No report.

82 4. Tree Planting Subcommittee

83 Ms. Robertson reported that the lots were cleared at 2890 River Road. Her department is keeping a watch
84 on the site and will monitor that the new plantings go in.

85 Ms. Robertson noted that 2388 River Road was also cleared. The owner did more clearing than the original
86 permit proposed and has been working with the Building Department to address code issues. She noted this
87 site is not within the Tree Council's scope because it was neither a site plan nor subdivision – just an existing
88 single family home proposed to be a single family home.

89 Chairperson Marr noted he visited real estate agents to drop off a pamphlet that the Tree Council had
90 developed. He noted the agents now work out of their home and they no longer have offices with
91 information pamphlets sitting in the lobby for people to browse through, but he was able to drop off some.
92 He stressed the importance of online information.

93 **III. ADJOURNMENT**

94 Chairperson Marr noted there was no other business to discuss. Ms. Carey placed a motion to adjourn. Ms.
95 LaMena seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.