



# **NISKAYUNA TOWN MEETING**

## **COMMUNITY PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

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### **AGENDA FOR COMMUNITY PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, January 6, 2022 at 3:00PM**

Approval of Minutes – December 1 Meeting (prepared by Julie Lohre)

Public Comment

Items brought from the Highway Committee (Councilman Moskowitz)

#### **Community Programs Items (Lori Peretti)**

1. January/February Events
2. Facility Use Manual update
3. Summer Planning update
4. Resolution items

#### **Senior Programs Items (Linda O'Brien)**

5. Senior Program update
6. Nisky@Home

Schedule February meeting– February 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 3:00pm

MOTION TO ADJOURN

*Happy New Year!!*



## Town of Niskayuna

December 1, 2021

### HIGHWAY, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

**Present:** Y. Syed, R. Smith, S. Fiminski, P. Rakvica, B. Backus, A. Finan, M. Yetto, J. Moskowitz, P. Briggs, I. Alam, L. Robertson, M. Martinelli, S. Goldstein, L. Peretti, L. O'Brien

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Approval of Minutes – November 3, 2021 Meeting (prepared by Julie Lohre). Motion to approve made by Supervisor Syed, and seconded by Michele Martinelli. The minutes were approved as presented.

#### Highway & Parks Items –

**Highway Crews** – Crews continue working on trees, and patching of roads. The hot box is still operational for fixing potholes, etc. The majority of the crews are working on leaf pick-up at this time.

**Personnel** – Both the Highway and the Parks Departments are fully staffed at this time. There is one Highway Crew Leader out at this time, due to an accident. Ray informed the committee that the Department is thinking of this employee and his family, speaking with him quite often, and wishing him a speedy return.

**Yard Waste** - The Fall Loose Leaf Flyer has been updated on the town website to indicate what zones still remain to be picked up. Crews are finishing up zones 2 and 3 at this time, and will be moving on to zone 4 next week. This will be the end of the loose leaf pick-up, due to the weather. Since there has already been snow, trucks have been out sanding. The random pick-up of cans and bags would normally end on December 1<sup>st</sup>, but the crews will make one final sweep of the neighborhoods. At that point, the trucks and equipment will be cleaned, serviced, and put away for the season, so that the crews can switch over to winter operations.

**2022 Bid Extensions** - Ray Smith explained some of the changes that will appear on several of the bid extensions due to increases in supply costs. There are also several contracts that may not be able to be extended for this reason. He assured the group that there were still ways to obtain the necessary supply of sand and gravel for winter use in both the Highway Department and the Water and Sewer Department. These bid extensions also include the yard waste grinding that is done by SM Gallivan. Ray expressed his appreciation that they have kept their prices the same in spite of widespread cost increases.

**Tree Council and Complete Streets** – Laura Robertson reported that the Tree Council has been working with Ray Smith and the Highway Department to see if there is any money to order trees.

There are trees that are hard to get in the spring, so they are hoping to order some trees for the spring of 2022 at this time. The Tree Council also had a very successful photo contest. The Complete Streets are also hard at work trying to get some pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure installed in the town whenever they can.

**Conservation Advisory Council- Update** – The CAC has continued to work on the signs for the “Low Mow Initiative”. Laura will send Ray the paperwork so they can work together, possibly using one of his sign contacts.

**River’s Ledge Parkland-Parkland Fund** – Laura updated the committee on the progress at Aqueduct Park- adjacent to the River’s Ledge project. While she was hoping for more work to be completed before winter, the weather has gotten too cold for many more projects. She estimates that the park is about 75% completed.

### **Community Programs Update – Lori Peretti-**

**December Events -** The Toys for Tots collection will end on Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Three boxes have been filled to date, and we are hoping to reach our goal of six. (Last year 5 and ½ boxes were filled.) A drive-up collection event will be held on Sunday, 12/5 from 9:00 am – noon at the Town Hall. We are also collecting at Sunday night’s tree lighting, as well as during all business hours at the Town Hall.

There has been an over-whelming response to the Things of My Very Own Holiday Wish Tag Event. The town has been given 228 tags, and there are only a handful remaining. These “Wish Tags” indicate items that are wanted and/or needed by children and families in the Foster Care system in the Capital District. Thank you to all who participated!!

Parent’s Night Out will be held on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 9:00 pm. Registration has ended, and was limited, due to COVID protocol. The fee for this event is one new, unwrapped toy for the Toys for Tots bin per child. The movie this year will be Boss Baby 2. Children ages 4-10 will have fun with crafts and activities, followed by the movie. Girl Scout volunteers will help with the supervision.

The annual Town Hall tree lighting will be held on Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30 – 6:30 pm. Choral students from Niskayuna High School will be entertaining the crowd with holiday songs, and hot chocolate and candy canes will be served. This outdoor event is sponsored by the Niskayuna Community Foundation. Lori gave a special thank you to Ray Smith and the Highway Department for always providing the biggest and most beautiful tree possible for this wonderful event.

**Eagle Scout Project** – Lori Peretti reported that Luke Vandenburg’s Eagle Scout Project has been completed. The new volleyball court is a great addition to Avon Crest Park. A special thank you to Luke and his family for initiating this project and to the Highway Department for helping him complete it.

**Girl Scout Silver Award Project** – Abigail Helmecke, an 8<sup>th</sup> grade Girl Scout at VA, is working to earn her Silver Award. Her project is to provide information about the ecosystem in the pond at Blatnick

Park. She would like to create and post an educational sign near the pond. Ray Smith is on board with her plan, and she will work with Lori Peretti to move forward with this project.

**Senior Program Updates** - Linda O'Brien reported that the outside of the Community Center is cleaned up for winter and they will be finishing up some outdoor decorating later in the week. The inside is decorated for winter with lots of holidays represented. The Senior Center staff has a variety of activities planned throughout the month. Residents are excited, and happy to come in to the center for activities as well as the socialization. The holiday meal will be a little quieter than in the past, and will work around the regularly scheduled meal with the addition of some appetizers and a dessert. This year's holiday lunch will be served on Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Plans are now being made for two weekly Water Aerobics next summer. They have contracted with one of their exercise instructors who taught this summer's program – which was very well received. Next summer's program will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 – 12:15. These classes will run June through August, and will need to be scheduled at the Town Pool. Linda will work with Lori on this in the spring.

Linda informed the committee about a program that is being developed to connect seniors with volunteers to help them with projects. In the past few years, the Senior Program has received a lot of phone calls from seniors looking for various types of assistance, and sadly, there are not enough resources available to always meet these needs. This new program is called Nisky at Home, and while it is not up and running yet, they hope it will be in the next few months. The goal is to create a platform that will connect High School students, adult volunteers, and retirees with seniors who might need help with small tasks, and would also benefit from the social interaction. While thinking about the number of calls that they have received, and seeing the success that the Nisky Attic has had in matching up no longer used items with kids/families that need them, the Senior Center staff have been hard at work to create a similar platform.

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 5th, 2022 at 8:15 am**

**Minutes prepared by Julie Lohre**