

1 **Economic Development, Historic Preservation**
2 **& Environmental Conservation Committee**

3
4 **MINUTES**

5 March 4, 2022

6 **8:30 am**

7
8 **Members Present:**

9 Jaime Puccioni, Supervisor
10 John Della Ratta, Chairperson
11 Jason Moskowitz, Chairperson
12 Alania Finnan, Town Attorney
13 Laura Robertson, Town Planner
14 Beth Greenwood, Comptroller
15 Matt Yetto, Superintendent of Water and Sewer
16 Clark Henry, Assistant Planner
17 Kevin Walsh, Planning Board Chairman
18 Seth Goldstein, IT Manager
19 Jean Foti, Account Clerk, Planning Department
20 Denis Brennan, Town Historian
21

22 **a. Public Concerns**

23
24 There were no public concerns today.
25

26 **b. Minutes**

27 **a. February 4, 2022**

28
29 Chairman Della Ratta made a motion to accept the minutes and it was seconded by Mr. Walsh.
30 The minutes were approved unanimously.
31

32 **c. Resolutions**

33 **a. Adoption of Hazard Mitigation Plan**

34 Ms. Robertson explained why the resolution was held over from last month. She stated that there was a
35 question if this plan was publicly noticed. She stated it was noticed by the Schenectady County website
36 and Niskayuna website. She asked Ms. Finan if this should be noted in the resolution. Ms. Finan stated
37 yes. She told Ms. Robertson she was having difficulty accessing the mitigation plan. Ms. Robertson
38 stated she was not sure if there was a paper copy but would contact the County and ask. Ms. Finan
39 suggested adding the website to the resolution. Ms. Robertson agreed.
40

41 **b. Hold Public Hearing on Historic Code**

42 Ms. Robertson stated there will a public hearing on the Historical Preservation Code for March 22 Town
43 Board meeting and have the resolution for the April meeting. This will give time for the CAC,
44 EDHPEC and Planning Board to review public comments and respond with any recommendations.
45
46

47 **d. Discussions**

48 a. **EV Charging Station Updates**

49 Ms. Robertson stated she is waiting on National Grid to okay the easements for River Road Park and
50 Lions Park.

51 b. **Adopting NYS Stretch Code –adoption March 1**

52 Ms. Robertson stated that all contractors and developers have been updated on the code by email and the
53 Town is 4 days in so far with no problems. She stated the Planning and Building Department will be
54 assisting the public with any questions regarding the new code.

55 c. **2023 Niskayuna Comprehensive Plan –**

56 Ms. Robertson stated they will have a meeting next week and hopefully have a list together for the Town
57 Board by April.

58 d. **Dumpster Enclosure codes and requirements**

59 Ms. Robertson stated that this is still a work in progress.
60

61 **e. Planning**

62 a. **3140 Troy Rd – Buildout of Existing medical office space (parking)**

63 Ms. Robertson discussed the waiver granted to the applicant for the parking with a condition to be re-
64 evaluated and changed in the future if needed by the Planning Board.
65

66 b. **1 Research Circle – GE Global Research new building and building demolition**

67 Ms. Robertson discussed the new project proposed for GE. She stated the project will need a height
68 variance and GE will be attending the ZBA in March.
69

70 **f. Zoning Board –** There are 5 cases for ZBA in March.
71

72 **g. Grants Update**

73 Ms. Greenwood discussed the last grants meeting. She stated that Ms. Lombardi will have her contract
74 extended through June. She discussed creating a spread sheet of what is now pending and then have
75 departments write down what possible plans are for the future so they can look at grants that might fit
76 those needs. This will make the turn-around time more efficient. Ms. Robertson commented on how that
77 would be very helpful for the grant process. She noted that this would be very beneficial for accessing a
78 grant for the Grange project. Ms. Greenwood stated she will begin to compile a list from each
79 department.
80

81 **h. Complete Streets**

82 Ms. Robertson stated the Complete Streets Committee has been working on their goals for 2022. She
83 said the Plum Street sidewalk is in bond and work hopefully be completed this year. Ms. Robertson
84 stated she met with the interim Superintendent of Niskayuna Schools and felt she had a good meeting.
85 The Superintendent stated she will connect Ms. Robertson with the incoming new Superintendent and
86 discuss Capitol Project traffic mitigation.
87

88 Mr. Walsh asked if there is any movement on the Consaul Road sidewalk. Ms. Robertson stated not at
89 this time but will continue to keep it on the agenda. She stated she would like to have a meeting with
90 Mr. Yetto and Ms. Greenwood to discuss escrow and possibly higher an engineer for the Consaul Road
91 sidewalk.
92

93 **i. Tree Council**

94 Tree Council continues to work with highway regarding spring tree plantings. The Committee
95 discussed the Arbor Day Proclamation. Ms. Robertson questioned if the proclamation would come after
96 the actual Arbor Day Celebration. It was determined to bring the resolution forward in April.
97

98 **j. Conservation Advisory Council**

99 Ms. Robertson stated the low mow initiative has been finalized and she will be working with Mr. Smith
100 from Highway to get it complete. She stated they have looked at Historic Preservation Code and the
101 demolition language. Ms. Robertson added that the CAC has been working very hard on the NRI with
102 Mr. Ramasubramanian as the lead.
103

104 Supervisor Puccioni stated that the Supervisor's Office will be putting out a newsletter and Ms.
105 Robertson's Committees would have a lot of newsworthy information for the publication. Ms.
106 Robertson agreed and stated she will work on this with Ms. Polsinelli.
107

108 **k. Climate Smart Community Task Force**

109 Ms. Robertson reported that the task force has created a survey to see the interest of residents buying
110 rain barrels and compost bins. She stated she will forward it to the Board for review. Ms. Robertson
111 added that she will be looking at solarize NY again to offer that to the residents. This would allow
112 residents that do not have access to solar to access solar farms instead.
113

114 **l. Architectural Review Board –**

115 Ms. Robertson and Mr. Henry discussed that there are 5 projects that are in front of the Architectural
116 Review Board at present time.
117

118 **m. Building Department / Enforcement –**

119 Ms. Robertson stated that the building department has continued to be extremely busy.
120

121 **n. Legal**

122 There is nothing to report at this time.

123 **o. Historical**

124 Mr. Brenan mentioned the new article he had written for the Daily Gazette regarding that the land that
125 is now Niskayuna was once the Mohawk Nation. He welcomed any feedback from the Board after it
126 has been read.
127

128 **Adjournment**

129 Chairman Della Ratta made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Mr. Walsh. The
130 meeting was adjourned at 9:05am.