

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

MINUTES
May 6, 2022
8:30 am

Members Present:

- Jaime Puccioni, Supervisor
- John Della Ratta, Chairperson
- Laura Robertson, Town Planner
- Clark Henry, Assistant Planner
- Dart Strayer, Conservation Advisory Council Chairman
- Janet Wynne, Confidential Assistant to the Comptroller
- Kevin Walsh, Planning Board Chairman
- Denis Brennan, Town Historian
- Alaina Finan, Town Attorney

a. Public Concerns

There were no public concerns today.

b. Minutes

a. April 1, 2022

Mr. Strayer noted he was present at the last meeting and was marked absent. Mr. Walsh made a motion to accept the minutes with the attendance change. It was seconded by Chairman Della Ratta. The minutes were approved unanimously.

c. Resolutions / Finance Committee

- 1. A Resolution creating a Comprehensive Plan Committee for the 2023 Comprehensive Plan**
- 2. A Resolution creating a working group to investigate, review and potentially redesign the Town’s official logo.**

Ms. Robertson stated that both of the resolutions were held over from last month. She stated that the Comprehensive Plan Committee is still in the planning stage but she hopes to have it finalized for the next meeting. Mr. Brennan presented a tentative resolution to create a committee to explore changes to the Town’s official seal.

d. Discussions

a. EV Charging Station Updates

Ms. Robertson stated that all EV charging stations are in. She added that the last station at Lions Park has not been turned on yet but will be within the next 2 weeks.

e. Planning Board

46 Chairman Walsh updated the Committee on the resolutions that were recently passed including the
47 storage unit at Goodyear Tire on State Street. He reviewed other projects that are still in the application
48 stage.

49
50 **f. Zoning Board** – There are 4 cases for ZBA in May.

51
52 **g. Grants Update**

53 a. **Change Order to Weston & Sampson – critical bike and pedestrian crossing**

54 Ms. Robertson shared her screen to display the updates to the crosswalk. She displayed a plan that will
55 eliminate the small parking lot on River Road and make it only a crosswalk that will connect to the bike
56 path. This will ensure the safety of the pedestrians and bikers. Ms. Robertson stated that there will be
57 signage directing vehicles to use the parking lot on Zenner Road to park for the bike path. Ms.
58 Robertson stated this is the proposal she will be submitting to the County next week. Supervisor
59 Puccioni thanked Ms. Robertson for all her work on this project.

60
61 Ms. Wynn explained the change process for this change order to go through. She stated the budget
62 change will go from approximately \$4,000 to \$13,000. Her recommendation was to have the change
63 order voted on by the Town Board. Ms. Robertson agreed. She stated that she believes there is still
64 enough money in the grant the change order will not need alternative funding.

65
66 **h. Complete Streets**

67 Ms. Robertson stated the Committee is still working with Niskayuna School to hopefully add some of
68 the priorities highlighted by the CSC to their upcoming extensive capital project. Ms. Robertson stated
69 the Plum Street sidewalk is at the stage that they need to begin discussions with neighbors for an
70 easement that might be required. Ms. Wynn stated the bonded funds will need another 3-4 weeks before
71 money is available.

72
73 **i. Tree Council**

74 Ms. Robertson discussed the success of the Arbor Day tree giveaway event. She stated that it was nice
75 to see residents walking along and talking to vendors and other residents. Chairman Della Ratta
76 thanked Ms. Robertson for the work she put in to make this event so successful. All tree saplings were
77 given out that day.

78
79 Ms. Robertson discussed the upcoming Spring Blossom Photo contest. She explained that with the
80 success of the Fall Foliage photo contest, the Town and the Tree Council will be doing a Spring Photo
81 contest. Residents will have the opportunity to submit spring blossom photos to the Town website and
82 win prizes for best photos in age categories.

83
84 **j. Conservation Advisory Council**

85 Mr. Strayer updated the Committee on the Low Mow Initiative and the signs for Blatnick Park are in
86 and ready to be installed. The pesticide free outreach continues to be on going with some updates to
87 website. The NRI which is headed up by Mr. Ramasubramanian has scheduled a resource inventory
88 walk for May 14.

89
90 **k. Climate Smart Community Task Force**

91 Ms. Robertson stated that the Task Force received approval for the compost bins. She stated her hope is
92 to have them given out mid-summer for and train people how to use them.

93

94 Ms. Robertson discussed the solarize program that would give residents of the Town 5-10 % discount
95 on their energy bills and a signing bonus of a 200 dollar gift card to Amazon. The solarize program
96 allows residents to lease solar panels that are on a solar field. Ms. Robertson stated the next step is to
97 email residents the information. If there are 10 residents interested in signing up, the Town will receive
98 a grant from NYSERDA.

99

100 **l. Architectural Review Board**

101 Mr. Henry highlighted the projects that are being reviewed in May. He included 2 garage projects that
102 were recently approved by the ZBA and the Kelt's Farm Townhomes. Mr. Henry added his
103 appreciation to the ARB members who volunteer their architectural insight for free to the residents of
104 the Town.

105

106 **m. Building Department / Enforcement**

107 Ms. Robertson stated that the building department is continuing to pick up more spring application and
108 is very busy. Mr. Henry displayed a flow chart that represented the increase in permit and complaint
109 activity in the Building Department. He stated it is at a 7 year high.

110

n. Planning

111

a. Consaul Road Sidewalk

112 Ms. Robertson stated that there has been no movement regarding this sidewalk. Mr. Walsh asked if this
113 project could be something that could be handed off to a TDE to create a survey for this sidewalk. Ms.
114 Robertson stated yes. She stated the grant amount was small but it might help getting more movement
115 for this project.

116

117 Ms. Robertson mentioned that all Boards and Committees have vacancies. She added the CAC has 3
118 vacancies and will become the priority to fill.

119

120 **o. Legal**

121 There is nothing to report at this time.

122

123 **p. Historical**

124 Mr. Brennen stated the resolution for the new Town logo is ready for adoption and he hopes to have the
125 land acknowledgement ready by the end of this month.

126

127 **Adjournment**

128 Chairman Della Ratta made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Mr. Strayer. The
129 meeting was adjourned at 9:10am.