

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

3
4 **MINUTES**

5 January 7, 2022

6 **8:30 am**

7
8 **Members Present:**

9 Jaime Puccioni, Supervisor
10 John Della Ratta, Chairperson
11 Alania Finnan, Town Attorney
12 Laura Robertson, Town Planner
13 Janet Wynn, Confidential Assistant to Comptroller
14 Michelle Martinelli, Town Clerk
15 Matt Yetto, Superintendent of Water and Sewer
16 Clark Henry, Assistant Planner
17 Dart Strayer, CAC Chairman
18 Kevin Walsh, Planning Board Chairman
19 Seth Goldstein, IT Manager
20 Jean Foti, Account Clerk, Planning Department
21 Denis Brennan, Town Historian
22

23 **a. Public Concerns**

24
25 There were no public concerns today.
26

27 **b. Minutes**

28 a. **December 3, 2021**

29
30 Chairman Della Ratta made a motion to accept the minutes and it was seconded by Mr. Walsh.
31 The minutes were approved unanimously.
32

33 **c. COVID UPDATES** – Protocols are being maintained and will continue to stay hybrid for
34 meetings until further notice.
35

36 **d. Resolutions**

37 a. **Acceptance of Climate Smart Communities Grant - \$25,000 from DEC / \$25,000 match**
38 **from Town.**

39 Ms. Robertson stated that the grant has been gifted the Town. She stated there needs to be a resolution
40 accepting the grant. Ms. Wynn stated the Supervisor will need to authorize the Town to match the grant
41 money.
42

43 Ms. Robertson stated that the grant will cover a greenhouse gas inventory and the Government Climate
44 Action Plan.
45

46 b. **EV Charging Station Energy Budget Modification**
47

48 Ms. Robertson stated that the Town budgeted for the software but not for the energy costs. Ms. Wynn
49 asked Ms. Robertson to submit some figures for them and she would put a place holder in finance to
50 make a budget modification.

51
52 Chairman Della Ratta thanked Ms. Robertson and the Climate Smart Task Force for this work and asked
53 how much grant funding had been received through Climate Smart initiatives. Ms. Robertson stated that
54 the the Town has worked on more than \$150,000 in climate smart grant money so far.

55
56 **c. 1930 Hillside Ave Capital Kids Care – Public Hearing**

57 Ms. Robertson stated that the public hearing for this project will be on 1/24 at the Planning Board
58 meeting and recommend the Town Board call for theirs in February.

59
60 **d. Board Reappointments**

61 **i. 2022 Appointments**

62 **ii. PB Regular Member midterm**

63 Ms. Robertson discussed with the committee the appointments and renewal of appointments to the
64 Boards.

65
66 **e. Intern Reappointments – Zakkary Friedman and Shivani Singh**

67 Ms. Robertson stated the 2 interns will be on a resolution for the Town Board organizational meeting.

68
69 **f. A Resolution setting 2022 TDE rates**

70 Ms. Robertson stated she is still in the process of selecting the TDE's for 2022. She stated that her hope
71 is to give the Town Board a few names that she can rotate through.

72
73 **g. Adoption of 2022 Meeting dates (calendar attached)**

74 Ms. Robertson asked the Committee to okay on the meeting dates for the EDHPEC. The Committee
75 agreed to the calendar dates.

76
77 **h. Discussions**

78
79 Ms. Robertson briefly discussed the current Planning Board projects with the Committee. She stated the
80 land donation on 540 Gasner Ave was complete and she appreciated Mr. Briggs work on this project.
81 Ms. Robertson discussed the adoption of the NYS Stretch Code. She stated that NY passed the Stretch
82 Code and she will notify contractors and set a date to comply with the new codes. Ms. Robertson stated
83 she would like the Town to consider her staff's comments and continue to work on a Code of Conduct
84 and Building Safety protocol. Ms. Robertson stated the 2023 Comprehensive Plan should be started this
85 year. She emphasized the amount of work that this plan entails and that many of the volunteers that
86 assist in the development of this plan are already overloaded with their Boards and Committees it will be
87 a heavy lift to accomplish this task. Chairman Della Ratta asked Mr. Strayer and Ms. Robertson what
88 they believed this Comprehensive Plan will entail. Mr. Strayer stated that there will be a need to
89 assemble a Committee that should include other departments. Mr. Della Ratta asked if the 2023
90 Comprehensive Plan will need to start from the beginning or just be updated. Mr. Strayer stated that the
91 2013 Comprehensive Plan was completely redone in 2013 so an update including the NRI and other
92 updates, including the accomplishments from the previous Comprehensive Plan will be needed.

93
94 Ms. Robertson stated she is still working on the dumpster enclose codes and requirements.

95
96 **i. Members to Advisory Boards Vacancies**

- 97 a. CAC: (3 Vacancies)
- 98 b. Climate Smart Community Task Force: (2 vacancies)
- 99 c. Complete Streets Committee: (1 vacancy)
- 100 d. Architectural Review Board: (2 vacancies)
- 101 e. Tree Council (1 vacancy)

102
103 Ms. Robertson announced the current openings on each Advisory Board.

104
105 **j. Zoning Board** – Ms. Robertson stated the ZBA has 3 cases this month. This includes the
106 possible townhomes proposed on Balltown Road.

107
108 **k. Grants Update**

- 109 a. Union St Crosswalk
- 110 b. Critical Pedestrian Grants
- 111 c. Reimbursement Status

112
113 Ms. Robertson stated that the Union St Crosswalk and the Critical Pedestrian Grants are ready to go out
114 to bid and she would like direction on how to proceed. She stated knows that reimbursement has been
115 trickling in for many of the grants over the last month or so.

116
117 **l. Complete Streets**

118 **Plum Street Sidewalk** – Ms. Robertson asked if the Town Board has put it in their budget to be
119 done in 2022

120
121 **m. Tree Council**

- 122 a. Thank you to Highway for the 2021 Tree Order
- 123 b. Submitted Tree City Certification for 2021
- 124 c. Girl Scout Tree Promise Grant

125
126 Ms. Robertson thanked Mr. Smith and the Highway Department for the tree order completed in 2021.
127 She explained the Girl Scout Tree Grant that will be presented to the Town Board for consideration.

128
129 **n. Conservation Advisory Council**

- 130 a. Discussion with Roy Thornton on Low Mow Initiatives at Blatnick Park
- 131 b. Proceeding with NRI

132
133 Ms. Robertson explained that Mr. Roy Thornton attended the CAC meeting to thank the Highway
134 Department and CAC for the low mow initiative at Blatnick Park. She stated the NRI headed by Mr.
135 Ramasubramanian is proceeding well.

136
137 **o. Climate Smart Communities Task Force**

- 138 a. Climate Smart Grants
- 139 b. Solarize Albany Campaign

140
141 The Task Force is continuing to proceed with their grant work for the Town.

142
143 **p. Architectural Review Board**

- 144 a. Reviewing Shannon Boulevard Homes
- 145 b. Finalizing 2147 Eastern Parkway Mixed Use Building

146 c. 2538 River Road “Kelt’s Farm”

147

148 Ms. Robertson stated the Board continues to review projects and has done remarkable work with
149 architectural recommendations on these buildings.

150

151 **q. Building Department / Enforcement**

152 a. Nott’s Landing West Temporary Certificate of Occupancy (CO)

153 b. Rivers Ledge Temporary CO

154 c. Working on Zombie Home Registration

155

156 Ms. Robertson stated the Building Department continues to be very busy with permits and projects that
157 are coming up for Temporary and Final CO’s.

158

159 **r. Planning Department**

160 a. Consaul Road Sidewalk

161 b. Van Antwerp / Hilltop waterline / final subdivision approval

162 c. Mohawk Golf Club Preconstruction Meeting

163 d. Eastern Parkway Engineering Review

164

165 Ms. Robertson gave a brief description of where the current projects are in their development.

166

167 **s. Legal**

168 a. Harmon Grove Subdivision Docs –

169 b. Pending Building Department Court Cases

170 Ms. Robertson stated she will be going over with the Harmon Grove lawyer what final documents are
171 needed to close the Harmon Grove development. She stated the Building Department has a few cases
172 that were in notice and order and are now heading to court due to non-compliance.

173

174 **t. Historical**

175 a. Historical Code Updates

176 b. Historic Grange Rosendale Road

177

178 Ms. Robertson stated the need to elevate the adoption of the Historical Code due to the possible
179 demolition on 2 historical homes in Niskayuna.

180

181 Mr. Brennan stated that the Historic Grange project has been put on hold and will need a new project
182 lead. Mr. Brennan added that a grant has been awarded for a plaque for a home on Winne Drive.

183

184 **u. Adjournment**

185 Before adjournment, Ms. Wynn announced that the Town was the recipient of a DASNY grant for
186 250,000 dollars. Hearing no other comments, Chairman Della Ratta made a motion to adjourn the
187 meeting and it was seconded by Mr. Walsh. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 am.

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189

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**NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:
February 4, 2022 at 8:30 am,
Via Hybrid In-Person & Remote Meeting Software**