

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

## **AGENDA**

February 3, 2023

**8:30 am**

**Town Schaefer Room**

**a. PUBLIC CONCERNS**

**b. MINUTES**

- a. January 6, 2023

**c. Resolutions / Finance Committee**

- a. A Resolution Appointing an Account Clerk to the Planning Department
- b. A Resolution permanently appointing an Assistant Planner
- c. A Resolution setting 2023 TDE rates
- d. Introduction of a Local Law concerning 19 NYCRR Part 1203 Uniform Code and the Energy Code: Minimum Standards for Administration and Enforcement
- e. A Resolution calling for a public hearing on the Local Law

**d. Discussions**

**e. Planning Board (Kevin Walsh)**

- a. 1851 Union St (Mohawk Golf Club) – short presentation (Clark), 3900 State St, Rivers Ledge, 1760 Union St, 31 East St, Polsinelli Subdivision

**f. Zoning Board – 2 cases for February, 1 residential area variance – 1 use variance**

**g. Grants Update**

- a. Finalized Climate Smart Community Grant Contract

**h. Complete Streets**

- a. Working on cost estimates for priority projects
- b. Working on 2023 goals
- c. Working on 2023 priority letters

**i. Tree Council**

- a. Street Tree Master Plan
- b. Arbor Day – April 22

**j. Conservation Advisory Council (Dart Strayer)**

- a. Locking in Composting Day program – May
- b. Exploring conservation programs to propose to Town Board
- c. Maintaining low mow initiatives at Blatnick Park
- d. NRI – Trail ideas for Aqueduct Community Center

**k. Climate Smart Communities Task Force**

- a. Climate Smart Grant
- b. Clean Energy Communities

**l. Architectural Review Board**

- a. Finalized Eastern Parkway mixed use building review ("Before" & "After" Slides)
- m. Comprehensive Plan Committee**
  - a. Working on survey and presentation to Town Board
- n. Building Department / Enforcement**
  - a. Vacant/Zombie Property MOU and implementation
- o. Planning Department**
  - a. Training Updates (Clark)
  - b. Consaul Road Sidewalk – quote received
- p. Metroplex (Dr. Horton)**
- q. Legal (Alaina Finan)**
- r. Historical (Denis Brennan)**

***Board Vacancy List***

*Zoning Board (1 vacancies – alternate)*

*CAC: (1 Vacancy)*

*Tree Council (2 vacancies)*

*Complete Streets Committee: (2 vacancies)*

*Climate Smart Community Task Force: (2 vacancies)*

*Architectural Review Board: (2 vacancies)*

**NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: March 3, 2023  
at 8:30 am, Via Hybrid In-Person & Remote Meeting Software**

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

3  
4 **MINUTES**  
5 January 6, 2023  
6 **8:30 am**  
7

8 **Members Present:**

9 Jaime Puccioni, Supervisor  
10 John Della Ratta, Chairman  
11 Laura Robertson, Town Planner  
12 Alaina Finan, Town Attorney  
13 Beth Greenwood, Comptroller  
14 Matthew Yetto, Superintendent, Water, Sewer & Engineering  
15 Seth Goldstein, Systems Administrator  
16 Dart Strayer, Chairman of the Conservation Advisory Council  
17 Kevin Walsh, Chairman of Planning Board  
18 Denis Brennan, Town Historian  
19 Hayward Horton, Metroplex  
20 Jean Foti, Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor  
21 Jack Connolly, Planning Intern  
22  
23

24 **Public Concerns**

25  
26 There were no public concerns today. Dr. Horton representing Metroplex was present virtually for the  
27 meeting.  
28

29 **Minutes**

- 30 • **December 2, 2022**  
31

32 Mr. Walsh made a motion to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Mr. Strayer. The minutes were  
33 approved unanimously.  
34

35 **Resolutions / Finance Committee**

36 Ms. Robertson discussed the resolutions that will be discussed at the Town Board Organizational  
37 meeting and the regular Town Board meeting. The Committee discussed the possible upcoming  
38 appointments to Boards and Committees. Ms. Robertson discussed the upcoming change to the 19  
39 NYCRR Part 1203 Uniform Code and the Energy Code: Minimum Standards for Administration and  
40 Enforcement. She noted that she will meet with Ms. Finan to discuss the next steps.  
41

42 **Planning Board**

43  
44 Mr. Walsh discussed the present and upcoming projects that are being reviewed the Planning Board. He  
45 noted that the Board has some projects finishing up like the 1515 Hillside signage change and new  
46 projects like 1851 Union Street that are continuing through the planning process. He noted that there  
47 will need to be a public hearing for this project at the Planning Board level and Town Board level before

48 it is approved. Ms. Finan discussed the possible need for 2 Town Board members to recuse themselves  
49 due to their relationship with the Mohawk Country Club. Ms. Robertson noted that the vote from the  
50 other 3 Board members will need to be unanimous for the special use permit to be approved. Mr. Walsh  
51 informed the committee that the project at 2721 Balltown Road for an additional apartment building was  
52 denied a use variance from the ZBA and has not returned to the Planning Board.  
53

#### 54 **Zoning Board**

55 Ms. Robertson stated that there were 2 cases for January.  
56

#### 57 **Grants Update**

58 Ms. Robertson noted that she is working on quotes for the Lions Park Train Station. The Committee  
59 discussed the project and the improvements being made to the area.  
60

#### 61 **Complete Streets**

62  
63 Ms. Robertson stated that the committee continues to advise projects that are being reviewed by the  
64 Planning Board and are working on the Plum Street sidewalk project that will have funding to be  
65 completed in 2023.  
66

#### 67 **Tree Council**

68  
69 Ms. Robertson stated that the Tree Council continues to work hard on the tree master plan.  
70

#### 71 **Conservation Advisory Council**

72  
73 Mr. Strayer discussed the continuation of the “low mow” initiative at Blatnick Park and the wildflower  
74 seeds that were planted this week. He noted that the Council has reached out to GE and Momentive to  
75 possible adopt the initiative for areas of their property.  
76

#### 77 **Climate Smart Committee Task Force**

78  
79 Ms. Robertson discussed the collaboration of the CAC and Climate Smart Committee to plan the  
80 “Compost Bin Day” which will happen this spring.  
81

#### 82 **Architectural Review Board**

83  
84 Ms. Robertson stated that the Board continues to review plans for the Planning Board and Building  
85 Department.  
86

#### 87 **Comprehensive Plan Committee**

88  
89 Mr. Strayer stated that the Comprehensive Plan Committee has been working on a public survey that  
90 will be released to the Town residents soon. The committee discussed the best survey method to use.  
91

#### 92 **Building Department**

93

94 Ms. Robertson stated the department continues to work with the Land Bank on the vacant homes MOU  
95 and the local law was finally adopted. She noted that there are 7 homes that have been identified as the  
96 highest priorities of vacancy with the Land Bank.

97

98 **Planning Department**

99 Ms. Robertson stated she received a quote for the Consaul Road sidewalk. She noted that it was  
100 incredibly high with the engineering quote at \$29,500.

101

102 **Legal**

103

104 Ms. Finan did not have an update today.

105

106 **Historical**

107 Mr. Brennan discussed the recent article regarding in the Gazette regarding the history of the roads in  
108 Niskayuna.

109

110 **Adjournment**

111 Chairman Della Ratta made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Mr. Walsh. The  
112 meeting was adjourned at 9:20 am.

DRAFT

## EDHPEC Committee: PB Updates

2/3/23

- Recent PB Actions/Resolutions (since last EDHPEC Meeting)
  - 2475 Brookshire Dr. - Tall Oaks Apts. - new and replacement signage - approved
  - Volcano Korean BBQ - ShopRite Plaza - new signage - approved
  - 1758 Union St. - tenant change - remodeling of existing medical office space to general office space - approved
  
- Active
  - 1851 Union St. / 1245 Ruffner Rd. - Mohawk Golf Club - residential ADD subdivision, 10 single family and 12 townhomes, sketch plan review and future TB action
  - Trinity Baptist Church - recreation area, close to approval
  - 3900 State St. - Kia car dealership - propose purchasing three neighboring lots and adding vehicle parking/stowage - SUP required, PB and TB action
  - Parcel ID 40.-1-54.11 - 2 lot minor sub. and lot line adjustment at Antonia Park
  - Rivers Ledge 66-unit senior apartments and commercial space, applicant proposing building design
  - 31 East St. - NE Underpayments - tenant and use changes, interior storage and general office - use variance required (ZBA)
  - 1760 Union St. - tenant change to dental office - area variance (ZBA) required for lack of parking
  
- New Projects
  - None
  
- Waiting on Applicant
  - 1748 Union St. - single family home, possible conversion to mixed use
  - 2538 River Rd. - Kelts Farm - signage review, PB and TB action required

Next PB meeting 2/13/2023