



TOWN OF COLONIE

347 OLD NISKAYUNA ROAD

LATHAM, N.Y. 12110



Town of Colonie Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes – November 5, 2015

Attendees: Bob Ulrich, Chairman and members Don Allard, Ellen Rosano, Laura Weed, Linda Whelton, Mike Brennan and Sudhir Kulkarni.

Town Residents: Susan Weber and Caroline Martel

Minutes of CAC meeting of Oct. 15, 2015 were approved by Laura and Seconded by Ellen.

There will be an Albany- Schenectady County Conservation Advisory Council Roundtable on Nov. 10, 2015. Bob, Paula, Mike & Sudhir indicated they plan to attend and Don said he will try to.

Report on Planning Board Meeting of Oct. 20, 2015, Reported by Don: Please see the attached.

Site Reviews:

A) 100 Fuller Road, corner of Fuller Rd. & Railroad Ave - housing for Senior Students of SUNY: Green Space 36 %. No Conservation issues.

B) Parking Expansion for 150 Wade Road: Green Space 45 %. CAC comments - keep some trees in back and reduce a few Parking Spaces.

There was a meeting on Nov. 1, 2015 with Town Supervisor- Paula Mahan, Joe LaCivita, Cathy Love, Lisa Barron, Patrick Quinn, Bob Ulrich and Mike Brennan. This was requested by a letter from Chairman Bob as well as from resident Susan to Paula Mahan regarding cutting of trees. As per Bob the meeting went well. It was decided that:

1) Town will try to change Law. Town Attorney-Mike Magguilli will review the existing Law and try to put some teeth into Law. 2) Need to strengthen CAC with the Town Conservation issues.

Member Mike suggested that prepping of private property needs to be clarified. It was agreed that we need tree inventory for the town.

We discussed various suggestions, about cutting trees, to be sent to Mike Magguilli.

It has been mentioned by Paul Rosano that practice of property owners, prior to selling to developers with the removal of significant trees and natural areas before getting into the concept stage with the Planning Department.

It was mentioned by member Ellen that we should take a look at the Dollar allocation for next spring Conservation Day. We didn't use all of our budgeted funds. Bob said he will review in our next meeting.

Member Ellen mentioned that City of Albany is going to treat & remove 2200 Ash Trees due to Emerald Ash Borers. Further, she stated that there are many Ash Trees in the Town of Colonie.

Adjournment of meeting was moved by Don and seconded by Laura.

Reported by Sudhir Kulkarni

Planning Board Tuesday October 20, 2015

- 1) Midway Fire District 1956 Central Avenue; Application for Final Approval –Raze existing firehouse and construct a new 1.5- story 13,617 sq ft firehouse – Storm water drainage was the major issue for this project. There are both DOT drainage requirements (NY Rt 5) and site drainage requirements; Shrubs and landscaping will be added to ameliorate the poor drainage on that site; A roof parapet will be built to hide the mechanical equipment on the roof; SEQR review yielded a negative declaration. Application was approved.
- 2) Life Covenant Church 685 Watervliet Shaker Road; Application for Final Approval & amended SEQR – One story 36,601 sq ft place of worship -Site now had access through Moffet Lane; a pedestrian path to be built from church parking lot to Watervliet Shaker Road; Change from disturbing more than 1 acre of wetland to new plan which will disturb < 1/10 acre; There will be screening on the Northway edge of the site including berm with deciduous trees and coniferous trees.; Developer spoke of this screen raising to a height of 30' but pointed out by Chairman Stuto that it will take a number of years for that to happen so initially screened to 6' to 10' at time of planting; they will be clearing 10 acres of wooded land for footprint of building and parking lot. 77% green space will remain; that is 18.9 out of 24 acres; Community spoke regarding concern for the elimination of trees and introduction of invasives. Developer, Mr Sipperly assured community member that no invasive trees will be planted.....that they will use native tree species. Bio retention or underground storm water containers may be required; Application was approved.
- 3) Aesthetic Science Institute 922 Troy Schenectady Road – Application for Final Review & SEQR Determination – Raze existing building and construct a new 10,150 sq ft two-story school w/ground floor level – this site is adjacent a stream corridor; 49 parking spaces; protection to stream is a swail built for runoff and a 2 ft wide strip of sand; there will be additional plantings; Application was approved.
- 4) Crisafulli Medical Building 767 Troy Schenectady Road – Sketch Plan Review – Three-story 34,146 medical office – 36% green space; drainagesits on higher land; reduced parking from 193 to 172 spaces (including banked spaces) Comment from builder....that the code requirement from the town for parking spaces is “sort of high”. Porous pavement was suggested for this site. There will be screening using conifers.

Request from Planning Board and Town Board liaison....that CAC comment on EVERY project whether or not we receive plans for them.