

1 PLANNING BOARD COUNTY OF ALBANY
2 TOWN OF COLONIE

3 *****
4 SIENA LOOP ROAD
5 515 LOUDON ROAD
6 SKETCH PLAN REVIEW
7 *****

8 THE STENOGRAPHIC MINUTES of the above entitled
9 proceeding BY NANCY STRANG-VANDEBOGART,
10 a Shorthand Reporter, commencing on
11 March 13, 2012 at 8:10 p.m. at the Public
12 Operations Center 347 Old Niskayuna Road,
13 Latham, New York 12110

14 BOARD MEMBERS:

- 15 PETER STUTO, CHAIRMAN
- 16 TIM LANE
- 17 MICHAEL SULLIVAN
- 18 KATHY DALTON
- 19 LOUIS MION
- 20 BRIAN AUSTIN
- 21 BRIAN HAAK
- 22 ELENA VAIDA, Esq., Counsel to the Planning Board

23 Also present:

- 24 Joseph LaCivita, Director, Planning and Economic
25 Development
- 26 Dan Farnan, PE, Foit Albert
- 27 Mark Frost, Director, Facilities Management, Siena
28 College
- 29 Ted Kolankowski, PE, Barton and Loguidice
- 30 Gary Johnston

1 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Okay, we're ready to
2 take up the next item that's on the agenda.
3 Siena Loop Road, 515 Loudon Road, sketch plan
4 review, discuss two alternate designs,
5 presented by Foit Albert and our Town
6 Designated Engineer is Barton and Loguidice.

7 I'm told by Joe LaCivita that we should
8 go straight to Siena and let them make their
9 presentation.

10 MR. FARNAN: My name is Dan Farnan and
11 I'm the project engineer with Foit Albert
12 Associates. Tonight I have with me our
13 Director of Engineering, Warren Shaw, also,
14 from our Albany Office.

15 At the request of the DCC meeting, we
16 were asked to address a plan into sketch plan
17 review for consideration of our two
18 alternatives for the Siena Loop Road
19 Improvement Project. There are a couple of key
20 items that I want to go over before -

21 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Before you start that,
22 are there neighbors here that are interested?

23 **(a neighbor raised their hand.)**

24 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Can I give you my plans
25 that I have just so that you can get a better

1 visual?

2 MR. FARNAN: This property is part of the
3 statewide transportation improvement program.
4 It's more commonly referred to as the SIT. It
5 is considered a federally aided, locally
6 administered project. Because of that, the
7 Town of Colonie is actually the sponsor for
8 the project and is administering the project.

9 We are subject to the review of New York
10 State DOT and Federal Highway Administration
11 and we have to meet all the standards of the
12 DOT's design standards and specifications with
13 this project.

14 The purpose of the project is to help
15 with interior traffic connections within the
16 Siena campus.

17 Currently, traffic that is located on the
18 north side of the campus, in order for it to
19 access this portion of the campus to the
20 south, has to exit the campus onto Route 9
21 headed south and then onto Spring Street and
22 then enter one of the roads off of Spring
23 Street into the campus. We are proposing to
24 extend one of those roads, Turchi Road,
25 through the campus, through a parking lot

1 named Parking Lot B, around the back of the
2 MAC building, around the tennis courts and
3 back toward Friar Drive to keep all the
4 traffic that is accessing this portion of the
5 campus within the campus to prevent them from
6 leaving. The other goal is to improve
7 pedestrian connections to and from the
8 athletic facilities and also access
9 pedestrians off of Spring Street into the
10 campus.

11 As part of the DOT review process, we are
12 required to consider three alternatives. The
13 first alternative is considered the no-build
14 alternative and is part of the DOT review
15 process.

16 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Can I just hold you up
17 for a second so that I can understand
18 conceptually? You're getting state and federal
19 money for this, correct?

20 MR. FARNAN: Only federal money.

21 CHAIRMAN STUTO: And the idea is that it
22 benefits the public roads by keeping traffic
23 off of it so that's the benefit to the general
24 public; is that one way of looking at it?

25 MR. FARNAN: Yes.

1 The two build alternatives are the two
2 that have been presented to you. Alternative
3 two and alternative three and the key
4 difference between those two alternatives is
5 in alternative two. The roadway alignment as
6 it goes around the back of the MAC building
7 will go to the back of the tennis courts and
8 make the connection into Friar Drive.

9 In alternative three, the alignment will
10 go through three of the tennis courts and then
11 make the connection to Friar's Drive.

12 We are going to be advancing through the
13 DOT process, alternative two, as the preferred
14 alternative. Again, our alignment will go to
15 the rear of the tennis courts and preserve all
16 six tennis courts.

17 Currently we have submitted the draft
18 design report to DOT for their consideration
19 and we will be seeking design approval through
20 DOT and the Federal Highway Administration. We
21 have begun all of our environmental and
22 historical processes required and we are about
23 to enter the advanced detail and plans process
24 of the DOT design process.

25 The only other things that I was going to

1 mention was some of the comments from our DCC
2 meeting.

3 We have incorporated pedestrian benches
4 along spots here where our sidewalks are
5 (Indicating). We will be testing more areas
6 along the roadway corridor where our
7 stormwater management is. We were interested
8 in the Board's comments and questions on both
9 of these alternatives tonight.

10 CHAIRMAN STUTO: We're going to hear from
11 the Town Designated Engineer. I got a couple
12 of calls about stormwater. Somebody had a
13 recollection and Joe might be able to help me
14 with this. There had been something of a
15 promise or a statement that Siena was going to
16 do a stormwater study when they did their next
17 project. Is that where we are now?

18 MR. FROST: Mr. Chairman, I'm Mark Frost,
19 Director of Facilities Management, Siena
20 College. We have undertaken - we have been out
21 on the street with an RFP to solicit proposals
22 for a comprehensive stormwater plan for the
23 entire campus including what we refer to as
24 Siena West, also known as the Police Barracks.
25 In the process, we had proposals in hand and

1 we've just done our interviews. We'll be
2 notifying the contract consultant to pick up
3 the project within the next week or so. We
4 plan to start immediately and then work on
5 through the summertime and to have the plan
6 done before the fall.

7 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Is that part of this
8 project, or is that independent of this
9 project?

10 MR. FROST: It's independent of this
11 project. The consultant that's selected will
12 be aware of what is in this project.

13 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Which is going to be
14 first? Which is going to be completed first?

15 MR. FROST: The stormwater plan will be
16 completed before this project starts
17 construction.

18 CHAIRMAN STUTO: How about approval wise?
19 Will we see the stormwater plan before we're
20 asked to approve this?

21 MR. LACIVITA: They'll be working with
22 the Town Department on that too, Peter. We'll
23 be working in collaboration.

24 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Thank you.

25 Town Designated Engineer - Ted, do you

1 have any comments so far?

2 MR. KOLANSKOWSKI: Tom Johnson and I went
3 out to the site to take a look at it. We had
4 some concerns about sight distance on Spring
5 Street, realizing that it's a public right of
6 way to the entrance. It also appears that
7 there is going to be some modifications needed
8 to that entrance. It appears that there is a
9 very narrow radius on the curves of the
10 existing entrance.

11 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Can you be more
12 specific? You're talking about the Spring
13 Street entrance?

14 MR. KOLANKOWSKI: Yes.

15 CHAIRMAN STUTO: When you talk about
16 sight lines, that already exists, right?

17 MR. KOLANKOWSKI: Yes.

18 CHAIRMAN STUTO: What sight lines are you
19 talking about?

20 MR. KOLANKOWSKI: At the entrance to the
21 new road, going back west - there is a low
22 curve in the road.

23 This entrance road on Spring Street when
24 you move in this direction (Indicating), there
25 is a little bit of a curvature in the road.

1 So, there is a little bit of vegetation here
2 that seems to be obstructing the view.

3 CHAIRMAN STUTO: So, if you're coming out
4 into traffic and taking a left, somebody can
5 come around the curve and not have adequate
6 sight?

7 MR. KOLANKOWSKI: Right.

8 We're wondering about the grading of the
9 entrance road. The existing road, as it passes
10 by that existing parking lot there is up in
11 elevation and the grade breaks off on both
12 sides of it toward the parking, and toward the
13 other part of the campus. That would be
14 something to keep an eye on.

15 We looked at the wetland areas behind the
16 MAC. Obviously as part of the stormwater
17 management plan, hopefully the roof drains
18 will be eliminated that go into the wetlands
19 right now. There seems to be some material
20 from the roofing facility going in there.

21 I also have some concerns about the
22 road - the proximity to the tennis court
23 fencing, limiting the site distance. There is
24 a couple sort of curvatures to the road there,
25 looking down the fence line. There really

1 isn't a lot of visibility there.

2 There are a bunch of trails in there. I'm
3 not sure if all of the uses are going to be
4 maintained along there. The retaining wall, as
5 you get towards Friar's Drive, the retaining
6 is kind of going to cut off one of those
7 trails that exist there.

8 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Am I correct in assuming
9 that you haven't talked yet?

10 MR. KOLANKOWSKI: Right. We just went out
11 and took a look at these options.

12 The other thing is that Friar's Drive has
13 that wide kind of multiuse path on it next to
14 the road which worked very well. It doesn't
15 seem very appropriate to kind of tie in a
16 five-foot sidewalk there. It also kind of
17 feeds from a lot of the student housing. It
18 seems like five-foot sidewalks are really not
19 going to be enough to really create an
20 enhanced pedestrian experience. It seems like
21 there would be a lot of traffic from the
22 students from the housing to the athletic
23 facilities through there.

24 We're wondering also about the use of
25 having the tennis courts directly next to the

1 road. That's going to be kind of odd. We
2 walked along there and there were 100 tennis
3 balls in the woods there. Not that a tennis
4 ball is going to damage a car.

5 The stormwater management for the
6 campus - we're wondering if there are
7 opportunities to coordinate the measures that
8 you're going to need with what the campus is
9 going to use so that we don't have two
10 different sets of measures and some
11 consistency and what happens down the road.
12 That's about it.

13 CHAIRMAN STUTO: And you're going to be
14 more intimately communicating with the
15 applicant on all of these issues, right?

16 Do you have any opinion on one
17 alternative versus the other?

18 MR. KOLANKOWSKI: Not really. When we
19 looked at the courts - the condition of the
20 courts are really not that great. I don't know
21 if there value in retaining them there. That's
22 from the perspective of reduced environmental
23 impacts of taking away some of the court
24 space. There is probably less deflection in
25 the alignment of the road with option three

1 versus number two. Visibility is going to be
2 better.

3 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Are you looking to
4 rehabilitate those courts? Do you agree that
5 they could use a little help?

6 MR. FROST: The courts are in poor
7 condition and right now we don't have any
8 specific plans. Really, this about the only
9 location on the campus that we have for tennis
10 courts. If we go to rebuild them, we really
11 need to have that same space there. The
12 program would like to have more courts than
13 they currently have there.

14 CHAIRMAN STUTO: You have a going tennis
15 team?

16 MR. FROST: Yes, we do.

17 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Thank you.

18 On sketch plan we normally don't hear
19 from the public. By a show of hands, can we
20 see who is here for this project?

21 ***(An audience member raised their hand.)***

22 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Do you want to make a
23 comment? This will be coming back for concept
24 review. This is just the first look/see. It
25 appears to be taking traffic off of the public

1 roads. If you can be brief, we'll let you
2 speak.

3 MR. JOHNSTON: I'm Gary Johnston and I
4 live on Eberle Road. I have a suggestion for
5 you. Why not straighten the road out and move
6 the tennis courts over where the road is? Just
7 straighten out the road out and separate the
8 tennis courts and the basketball court.

9 CHAIRMAN STUTO: It's something to think
10 about. It may be an expense issue. I don't
11 think that we'll have a response to that right
12 now.

13 MR. FARNAN: As far as the reason for the
14 curvature, again, we're concerned with
15 pedestrians crossing a few areas. We're trying
16 to limit speeding through the campus and we
17 believe that by having the curves where they
18 are is going to help mitigate any speeding
19 problems that we would have on campus.

20 CHAIRMAN STUTO: And people wouldn't have
21 to cross the road to get to the tennis courts.

22 MR. KOLANKOWSKI: One other point to make
23 is this area here directly behind the MAC - we
24 would like to be able to leave available for
25 possible future expansion.

1 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Thank you.

2 Any Board Members like to speak on this?

3 ***(There was no response.)***

4 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Thank you for coming
5 here for sketch plan. We appreciate that. It's
6 always good for us to see a little bit of it
7 so when we see it the next time, it has a bit
8 more meaning.

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14 ***(Whereas the proceeding concerning the above***

15 ***entitled matter was concluded at***

16 ***8:25 p.m.)***

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CERTIFICATION

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4 *I, NANCY STRANG-VANDEBOGART, Shorthand*
5 *Reporter, and Notary Public in and for the*
6 *State of New York, hereby CERTIFY that the*
7 *record taken by me at the time and place*
8 *noted in the heading hereof is a true and*
9 *accurate transcript of same, to the best of*
10 *my ability and belief.*

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12
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14 -----
15 **NANCY STRANG-VANDEBOGART**

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17
18 **Dated April 5, 2012**

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