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PLANNING BOARD COUNTY OF ALBANY
TOWN OF COLONIE

SIENA LOOP ROAD
515 LOUDON ROAD
APPLICATION FOR CONCEPT ACCEPTANCE

THE STENOGRAPHIC MINUTES of the above entitled
proceeding BY NANCY STRANG-VANDEBOGART,
a Shorthand Reporter, commencing on
April 17, 2012 at 7:24 p.m. at the Public
Operations Center 347 Old Niskayuna Road,
Latham, New York 12110

BOARD MEMBERS:

PETER STUTO, CHAIRMAN
MICHAEL SULLIVAN
KATHY DALTON
LOUIS MION
BRIAN AUSTIN
ELENA VAIDA, Esq., Counsel to the Planning Board

Also present:

Joseph LaCivita, Director, Planning and Economic
Development

Dan Farnan, PE, Foit Albert

Mark Frost, Director, Facilities Management, Siena
College

Ted Kolankowski, PE, Barton and Loguidice

1 CHAIRMAN STUTO: We'll call up the Siena
2 College Loop Road, 515 Loudon Road. This is an
3 application for concept acceptance.

4 We'll wait until the applicant gets set
5 up.

6 We'll take an introduction from Joe
7 LaCivita.

8 MR. LACIVITA: This, we heard was before
9 us for sketch plan. This is a DOT project that
10 is coordinating through the town of Colonie
11 for review. It's here tonight for concept
12 acceptance. It's been reviewed by the various
13 departments and the TDE along with Foit
14 Albert, their design engineer. They came up
15 with a couple of design options based on the
16 DOT regulations; one being the no build
17 scenario and then they had the two preferred
18 options. Option two was preferred which is
19 what you see before us. You've already
20 commented on it. Tonight there here to get
21 concept acceptance and I'll turn it over to
22 Dan.

23 MR. FARNAN: Good evening. My name is Dan
24 Farnan and I'm with Foit Albert Associates.
25 I'm a project engineer there.

1 Tonight I have with me our director of
2 engineering Mark Frost and some of the members
3 of the facilities management at Siena College.

4 To start I wanted to give Mark Frost, the
5 Director of Facilities Management at Siena
6 College a chance to explain one of the other
7 projects that's going on for Siena right now
8 which came up -- the stormwater management
9 plan from our last meeting at Siena.

10 MR. FROST: Good evening. My name is Mark
11 Frost. I'm the Director of Facilities at Siena
12 College.

13 The comprehensive stormwater plan has
14 kicked off and we actually had a kick off
15 meeting a couple of weeks ago. We had a
16 representative from the Town there for our
17 meeting. It went very well. We have a contract
18 that's in the process of being signed with
19 Foit Albert to do the stormwater plan. We have
20 everything very aggressively scheduled. We
21 plan on having a draft plan put together by
22 the end of May or early June and looking to
23 have the final plan in place by the month of
24 July.

25 Foit Albert has already started doing the

1 site survey work. They're doing soils
2 investigations and looking at our
3 infrastructure on the campus and putting that
4 together and we'll be starting the hydrologic
5 modeling within just a couple weeks time
6 period. That's where we're at.

7 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Thank you, very much.
8 We're very interested in that, and I think the
9 community around the college is interested as
10 well. We appreciate that.

11 Will that be done at the time of final?

12 MR. FROST: The stormwater plan is to be
13 done by the end of July and I believe that's
14 going to be before -

15 MR. FARNAN: We're going to be going
16 through the process and once our advanced plan
17 is done, we'll do submitting for the next
18 Planning Board meeting. I believe that's
19 final. A draft should be done at the end of
20 May and I believe that we would be on track to
21 be in front of the Planning Board again in
22 June. A draft version would be done and
23 available at that time.

24 CHAIRMAN STUTO: I appreciate that. And
25 is our TDE looking at that on our behalf?

1 MR. FARNAN: Yes.

2 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Thank you.

3 MR. LACIVITA: As part of the five-year
4 plan. Mark, am I correct - you guys are
5 looking at your overall master plan coinciding
6 with the stormwater project?

7 MR. FROST: Yes, part of the stormwater
8 plan will be looking at the campus vision and
9 what we plan on doing over the next five years
10 and incorporating and looking at how that
11 would change our stormwater plan.

12 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Thank you.

13 MR. FARNAN: I just want to emphasize
14 that these projects are two separate projects
15 that are running parallel. They're going to be
16 happening at the same time but this loop road
17 project, being a DOT project, has a different
18 track to follow.

19 CHAIRMAN STUTO: We appreciate that, but
20 we appreciate getting information from the
21 draft before final.

22 MR. FARNAN: As Joe had mentioned, at the
23 sketch meeting we had two alternatives. Of the
24 two alternatives - the main difference between
25 them was one of the alternatives preserves the

1 tennis courts. The other alternative is going
2 through the tennis courts requiring their
3 demolition.

4 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Can you go to a more
5 elemental level? I know that some of us have
6 seen the plans, but there may be members of
7 the public that haven't. Can you orient
8 everybody on what you're proposing to do here?

9 MR. FARNAN: Sure. This is Loudon Road,
10 Route 9. This is Spring Street (Indicating).
11 We are proposing to extend Turchi Drive on the
12 campus through its current alignment through a
13 parking lot, which is on the side around the
14 back of the MAC building and then around the
15 tennis courts and connects into another
16 existing campus road called Friar's Drive.

17 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Can you just say
18 generally what the impact on Spring Street and
19 Route 9 is going to be? What is the intension?

20 MR. FARNAN: The intention for this
21 project is to keep all the campus generated
22 traffic from students and faculty within the
23 campus and prevent what happens now in order
24 for faculty and staff and facilities
25 management to access this portion of the

1 campus. Vehicles have to either go around onto
2 Route 9 and onto Spring Street, or out here
3 and down Spring Street and over to the MAC
4 building (Indicating). The purpose of this
5 project is to keep all of that traffic within
6 the Siena property during the hours of
7 operation.

8 CHAIRMAN STUTO: So, it will lighten up
9 the traffic impact on the neighborhood.

10 MR. FARNAN: Yes.

11 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Thank you.

12 MR. FARNAN: Again, this alternative was
13 chosen and one of the reasons being to
14 preserve the tennis courts. Another reason
15 that this alternative stays within the funding
16 budget without having to replace tennis courts
17 and demolish them.

18 The wetland impact that occurs here is
19 under one-tenth of an acre. The Army Corps was
20 out to the site last week. We walked
21 everything with them and they agreed with the
22 wetlands flagged and they were on board with
23 this current alignment, and we have begun the
24 jurisdictional determination process with
25 them.

1 Those are the three main reasons for
2 choosing this alternative and not submitting
3 further submissions to the Town and further
4 submissions to DOT.

5 CHAIRMAN STUTO: You also pointed out
6 that the curve will slow traffic down as
7 opposed to having a straight shot - the curve
8 around the tennis courts.

9 MR. FARNAN: Yes. One of the reasons for
10 coming around the tennis courts and using the
11 curvature that we have here is to slow down
12 the traffic that would be using this
13 particular road. Another traffic calming
14 measure that we're looking at is using raised
15 cross walks or speed tables located here and
16 located here as an effort to keep the traffic
17 slow through that corridor. I believe that was
18 one of the TDE comments. Today we spoke with
19 the TDE, Barton and Loguidice, and we
20 addressed all their comments so far and the
21 traffic calming measures and a few of the
22 other ones that were brought up.

23 One of their comments that was brought up
24 last meeting regarding the site distance on
25 Spring Street - the Town Highway Department

1 has agreed to address the issues that are on
2 Spring Street within the right of way. I
3 believe that there were some limbs or tress
4 that needed to be trimmed, so the Town Highway
5 Department has agreed to take care of that.

6 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Are you going to talk
7 more in detail about that? I'm sure that the
8 neighbors would be interested in the sight
9 line.

10 MR. FARNAN: I'm not exactly sure which
11 portion or which side of the road that you
12 were looking at.

13 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Whatever you think is
14 most efficient. I'm sure though that the
15 neighbors would be interested.

16 MR. FROST: We're referring to this
17 curvature on Spring Street traveling eastbound
18 toward the new entrance and there is some low
19 brush that will be cleared out by the Highway
20 Department.

21 CHAIRMAN STUTO: There was no other sight
22 line issues there?

23 MR. FROST: No.

24 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Is the alignment
25 changing of the entrance, or no?

1 MR. FARNAN: The existing one is staying.
2 We're here basically to request the conceptual
3 approval and also to request that the Board
4 consider beginning the SEQRA process with
5 declaring lead agency.

6 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Okay, and we'll talk
7 about SEQRA.

8 Okay, we'll take comments from the Town
9 Designated Engineer.

10 MR. KOLANKOWSKI: Okay, as Dan said,
11 we've had a couple of meetings since the last
12 presentation of the Planning Board. We also
13 met most recently regarding the stormwater and
14 we're glad to hear that Foit Albert is also
15 going to be doing the stormwater master plan.
16 One of our comments was coordinating the
17 efforts of the loop road with that master
18 plan, so obviously that's going to happen.

19 Most of the questions raised during
20 sketch plan review, as Dan mentioned, were
21 addressed simply stating the use of some
22 traffic calming measures on the loop road. Dan
23 pretty well outlined those.

24 The proposed alignment is really going to
25 minimize the impact on the natural environment

1 and also - because it's actually a Town
2 project, it will be cost effective.

3 There were a couple of things that I
4 think will help the Planning Board in their
5 decision later on. The project narrative may
6 expand on that a little bit to include some of
7 the benefits of the project and positive
8 impacts that it will have.

9 We also received a full environmental
10 assessment form Part I from the applicant,
11 which was complete. There were just a couple
12 little technical things that were needed; a
13 narrative for the project and there were a
14 couple of other questions that need to be
15 answered. There was nothing major there.

16 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Is that in our package?

17 MR. KOLANKOWSKI: Yes.

18 That was just about it.

19 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Can anyone show by a
20 raise of hands who might want to comment on
21 this?

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

23 CHAIRMAN STUTO: okay, members of the
24 Board?

25 MR. SULLIVAN: Can you discuss the

1 change? You previously had a parking lot that
2 people would have to cross the access road to
3 get to the front of the building. Now the road
4 bisects the parking. Can you discuss that?

5 MR. FARNAN: You're referring to this
6 parking lot here (Indicating)?

7 MR. SULLIVAN: Yes.

8 MR. FARNAN: Currently, this traffic
9 pattern does exist. There is parking on both
10 sides. This is called Parking Lot B
11 (Indicating). There is parking on both sides
12 of Parking Lot B. Traffic that comes around
13 and uses a small existing access road to get
14 to the back of the MAC building already
15 traverses through here. So, essentially, we're
16 not changing that motion of traffic.

17 MR. SULLIVAN: And you'll have a traffic
18 calming device - I'm concerned about cars
19 coming around the corner without adequate
20 sight to see someone crossing the road.

21 MR. FARNAN: We haven't looked at
22 anything here. The only traffic calming
23 measure that we have is the speed table here
24 as they come around currently.

25 MR. SULLIVAN: That's all I had. Thank

1 you.

2 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Anybody else?

3 MR. MION: Do you not feel a need to look
4 at that?

5 MR. FARNAN: With the posted speed limit
6 on campus and using the curvature, right
7 now -- I've driven this before. You can't
8 approach that going very fast. You have to
9 slow down because it's almost essentially a 90
10 degree turn. We have not viewed it that we
11 need to have anything further than that
12 curvature to slow down traffic at this point.

13 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Joe, this is more
14 curiosity -- on the funding of this. Is there
15 a special type of funding on this?

16 MR. LACIVITA: This actually got funding
17 through -- it's actually federally funded for
18 this. The funding now resides in the
19 Department of Transportation, I believe, and
20 their funding stream. It's going through all
21 invoicing and all development and engineering
22 is being reviewed by the State of New York. We
23 are the sponsor of the project. We're working
24 with Siena College and we're working through
25 the contract process, and we are going to be

1 the lead on all of that. We're coordinating
2 with Siena, but the partnership in support of
3 the project to be built.

4 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Is there a Town share on
5 this?

6 MR. LACIVITA: No, there is not a Town
7 share on this.

8 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Elena, is there
9 something on SEQRA that you think that we
10 should discuss now at the concept stage?

11 MR. VAIDA: I think that we should
12 preliminarily classify it as unlisted. What
13 the forms would indicate and I believe it's
14 also the recommendation of the Town Attorney's
15 office -- we looked into -- I think that they
16 did a memo as to whether or not there were
17 some issues whether it was contiguous to a
18 historical site, and it was determined that it
19 doesn't fit that definition. So, it would be
20 unlisted. As we usually do at concept, we
21 usually start looking to see if there are any
22 potential environmental impacts so that if we
23 need more information, we have the applicant
24 start gathering that information.

25 CHAIRMAN STUTO: So, you're saying that

1 we should preliminarily categorize that as
2 unlisted?

3 MS. VAIDA: Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN STUTO: And that will or will
5 not require a coordinated review?

6 MS. VAIDA: It's optional. I don't see
7 any reason to do it, if it's not required
8 under SEQRA.

9 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Do you have an opinion
10 on that?

11 MR. KOLANKOWSKI: That's correct. One of
12 the things that has to be done for the project
13 - because it's federally highway funded - is
14 that the engineer has to prepare a design
15 report and a requirement of that design report
16 is to analyze all of the potential
17 environmental impacts; not just for SEQRA, but
18 it's federally funded so they also need to do
19 a NEPA review for the project.

20 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Okay, do we need to get
21 involved with the NEPA?

22 MR. KOLANKOWSKI: No.

23 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Do we want to have a
24 motion on preliminarily concept, as unlisted.

25 MR. MION: I'll make the motion.

1 MR. AUSTIN: I'll second it.

2 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Any discussion?

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

4 CHAIRMAN STUTO: All those in favor?

5 ***(Ayes were recited.)***

6 CHAIRMAN STUTO: All those opposed?

7 ***(None were opposed.)***

8 CHAIRMAN STUTO: The ayes have it.

9 Now to the main action which is approving
10 concept acceptance.

11 I'll give the members of the public one
12 more chance for comment.

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

14 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Does the Board have any
15 discussion on that?

16 FROM THE FLOOR: Was there some
17 consideration of the fact that it's adjacent
18 to a historical site?

19 MS. VAIDA: No, it's not adjacent to one.

20 FROM THE FLOOR: Where is the closest
21 historical site?

22 MS. VAIDA: The President's house at 33
23 Fiddler's Lane. There are several roads, two
24 sets of town house developments, a large
25 residential hall, a plan operations building,

1 a private residence in between, which sort of
2 takes it out of the definition of contiguous
3 to a historical site.

4 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Does that satisfactorily
5 answer your question?

6 FROM THE FLOOR: Yes, it does.

7 CHAIRMAN STUTO: The main question before
8 the Board is on concept acceptance for this
9 project, contingent upon compliance with the
10 comments of the Town departments and the Town
11 Designated Engineer. Do we have a motion on
12 that?

13 MR. MION: I'll make the motion.

14 MR. AUSTIN: I'll second.

15 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Any discussion?

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

17 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Before we vote, Mike
18 suggested that we give elocution on what
19 concept acceptance means.

20 Elena?

21 MS. VAIDA: Concept acceptance is not an
22 approval of the project. It's an approval of
23 the concept. So, it's subject to change. It
24 doesn't entitle the applicant to move forward
25 with the project. It's just an approval of the

1 concept.

2 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Does the applicant
3 understand that?

4 MR. FARNAN: Yes.

5 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Any more comments or
6 discussion by the Board?

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

8 CHAIRMAN STUTO: All those in favor?

9 ***(Ayes were recited.)***

10 CHAIRMAN STUTO: All those opposed?

11 ***(None were opposed.)***

12 CHAIRMAN STUTO: The ayes have it.

13 Thank you. We look forward to seeing the
14 final application.

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17 ***(Whereas the proceeding concerning the above***
18 ***entitled matter was concluded at***

19 ***7:45 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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15 ***NANCY STRANG-VANDEBOGART***
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18 ***Dated May 9, 2012***
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