

1 PLANNING BOARD COUNTY OF ALBANY  
2 TOWN OF COLONIE

3 \*\*\*\*\*  
4 SIENA COLLEGE LOOP ROAD  
5 515 LOUDON ROAD  
6 APPLICATION FOR FINAL SITE PLAN APPROVAL  
7 \*\*\*\*\*

8 THE STENOGRAPHIC MINUTES of the above entitled  
9 public hearing BY NANCY STRANG-VANDEBOGART, a  
10 Shorthand Reporter, commencing on  
11 May 22, 2012 at 7:45 p.m. at the Public Operations  
12 Center 347 Old Niskayuna Road,  
13 Latham, New York 12110

14 BOARD MEMBERS:

- 15 PETER STUTO, CHAIRMAN
- 16 LOUIS MION
- 17 KATHLEEN DALTON
- 18 BRIAN AUSTIN
- 19 BRIAN HAAK
- 20 MICHAEL SULLIVAN
- 21 PAUL ROSANO
- 22 ELENA VAIDA, Esq., Attorney for the Planning Board

23 Also present:

- 24 Joseph LaCivita, Director, Planning and Economic  
25 Development
- 26 Ted Kolankowski, PE, Barton and Loguidice
- 27 Dan Farnan, PE, Foit Albert
- 28 Edward Travis, Assistant Director of Services,  
29 Siena College
- 30 Karen Parrotta, Greater Loudonville Association

1                   CHAIRMAN STUTO: Next we have Siena  
2 College Loop Road, 515 Loudon Road,  
3 application for final site plan approval.

4                   Is the address correct on that one?

5                   MR. LACIVITA: That should be 515, as  
6 well.

7                   CHAIRMAN STUTO: That's the greater  
8 address for the whole college?

9                   MR. LACIVITA: I believe that it is.

10                  CHAIRMAN STUTO: Do you want to give an  
11 introduction on this? I know that we've seen  
12 this project.

13                  MR. LACIVITA: We've seen this a number  
14 of times. It's an interior loop road, about  
15 21,000 linear feet of road that connects  
16 Turchi Road to Friar's Drive and it's here for  
17 final as well.

18                  CHAIRMAN STUTO: Okay, we're happy to  
19 hear from the applicant for this one, as well.

20                  MR. FARNAN: Thank you. Being last on the  
21 agenda, I will try my hardest to be brief.

22                  I do have a quick update on the  
23 stormwater management plan from Foit Albert  
24 and Associates.

25                  Basically we've finished the first phase

1 of the project which includes an updated  
2 survey of the structure and that includes 33  
3 Fiddler's Lane, and the former Troop G  
4 barracks. The wetland delineation of all the  
5 Siena property has been completed. The  
6 gathering of all available GIS data to create  
7 a DIS database or facilities management has  
8 been completed as well as all record research.  
9 We are in the second and third phases of our  
10 project and that will include all stormwater  
11 run off problems, stormwater quality modeling,  
12 the writing of the draft report and writing of  
13 a stormwater management planning guide which  
14 will help provide an operation maintenance  
15 manual essentially to facilities to take care  
16 of all their management practices currently  
17 onsite. The draft version of this document is  
18 due in June and Siena officials have stated  
19 that the draft version will be made available  
20 to the Town's Stormwater Department for their  
21 comment.

22 CHAIRMAN STUTO: you'll give Joe a copy,  
23 as well?

24 MR. FARNAN: Yes.

25 The final versions of the documents are

1 due in July and Foit Albert and Associates is  
2 under contract to present all of our findings  
3 of both Siena and to the Town of Colonie. That  
4 particular presentation has yet to be  
5 determined when the date will be. We are under  
6 contract to do that and we expect it to be  
7 late July.

8 CHAIRMAN STUTO: And you'll come back and  
9 make a presentation that night?

10 MR. FARNAN: That detail hasn't even  
11 ironed out as to where the presentation will  
12 be held. That's something that I'll have to  
13 iron out with Siena.

14 MR. LACIVITA: Typically, those  
15 stormwater documents are not adopted by us.  
16 It's done by stormwater. We'll figure out what  
17 applicable presentation to give.

18 CHAIRMAN STUTO: I know that we don't  
19 have to vote on it. I didn't know if you're  
20 going to make a presentation.

21 MR. LACIVITA: We probably should just so  
22 that everybody hears it in case there is any  
23 future developments. It would be probably like  
24 an FYI type of presentation.

25 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Is Barton and Loguidice

1 involved with that at all?

2 MR. LACIVITA: They are doing a campus  
3 wide review. I know that they are involved  
4 with the review of the project.

5 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Thank you.

6 MR. FARNAN: Regarding the loop road, we  
7 have reviewed all the comments that we  
8 received recently from the TDE. We do not  
9 anticipate any issues from those comments.  
10 Most of the comments are regarding landscaping  
11 which we are currently working with Siena to  
12 figure the best way of incorporating those  
13 comments either through this design or other  
14 means.

15 We're here tonight to request three items  
16 from the Board. The first is a waiver to adopt  
17 the FHWA New York State DOT standards for our  
18 site plans.

19 The second would be to SEQRA.

20 I'm happy to answer any questions that  
21 the Board might have.

22 CHAIRMAN STUTO: I'm looking in the  
23 audience for the Greater Loudonville  
24 Association. Have you seen this yet or not?

25 MS. PARROTTA: No.

1                   CHAIRMAN STUTO: Can you briefly describe  
2 what's on here?

3                   MR. FARNAN: Sure.

4                   This is the overview of the actual  
5 campus. This is Loudon Road and this is Route  
6 9 and this is Spring Street Road here  
7 (Indicating). What we are proposing to do is  
8 an extension of Turchi Road which is a  
9 privately owned road on Siena's campus located  
10 right here. The road currently terminates in a  
11 parking lot along the athletic complex. We are  
12 proposing to extend that road around the back  
13 of the athletic complex around the back of the  
14 tennis courts and connect it to Friar's Drive  
15 right here to allow interconnectivity for all  
16 transport; both pedestrian and motorized  
17 vehicles.

18                   This is our concept of how that aligns  
19 with the road.

20                   Correct me if I'm wrong, but somebody on  
21 one side of the campus can get to the other  
22 side and they don't have to go out onto Route  
23 9 and Spring Street?

24                   MR. FARNAN: Correct.

25                   CHAIRMAN STUTO: So, it takes traffic off

1 the main road. You'll see students coming out  
2 and going to the other side. That should take  
3 a lot of that traffic away.

4 MR. FARNAN: Correct.

5 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Can you talk about the  
6 funding for a second?

7 MR. FARNAN: Yes, this is a federally  
8 funded project. It has a local share. The  
9 federal funds are 8 percent of the local  
10 share, and by Siena College is 20 percent.

11 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Ted, do you have  
12 comments?

13 MR. KOLANKOWSKI: Yes. Just first of all,  
14 in terms of what Dan was asking for - we  
15 reviewed the plans that were submitted. We're  
16 comfortable that the application and the  
17 standings represent the design that's  
18 feasible. We don't have a problem with that.

19 In terms of SEQRA, there were a couple of  
20 outstanding items that we need to address.  
21 SHPPO sent a letter stating that there were no  
22 historic properties affected. There was some  
23 question about a historical building nearby.  
24 So, it should close that door.

25 Also, the Army Corps - the last time that

1 Dan was here, they had done a field inspection  
2 of the wetland delineation. There are no  
3 issues in terms of SEQRA.

4 The stormwater pollution prevention  
5 plan - at this point they haven't really  
6 detailed out the proposals on -- Dan is doing  
7 both designs and the master plan and the  
8 coordination of those efforts. In the report  
9 they propose feasible alternatives for -- one  
10 of the problems that I have is it may not get  
11 approval of their pervious pavement. If that  
12 happens, they have stated that they have a  
13 feasible alternative if they have to use  
14 impervious asphalt for the road. They're using  
15 a lot of conservative assumptions. He was  
16 comfortable with what they proposing as their  
17 methodology.

18 There were some questions last time about  
19 using some sort of guide rail along the  
20 retaining wall. They have indicated that  
21 they're going to use six or eight feet -

22 MR. FARNAN: Six to eight feet would be  
23 the highest it would be.

24 MR. KOLANKOWSKI: In terms of the trees,  
25 I suggested in our letter that the college



1 consider moving some of the trees. They're  
2 doing a lot of disturbance close to the trees  
3 and it would be good to try to save them. I'm  
4 a little bit concerned about getting  
5 disturbance of a trip line. As carefully as  
6 you want to be with what you put on your plans  
7 about hand excavating the spruce and carefully  
8 pruning them, it doesn't always happen that  
9 way. It's something to consider.

10 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Can you show us where  
11 those trees are?

12 MR. FARNAN: There are a few larger trees  
13 right in this location. Right now we're  
14 attempting to keep our development away from  
15 them so that they can be preserved in the  
16 current location which I believe is the wishes  
17 of Siena's Facilities management. That's the  
18 current plan right now.

19 MR. TRAVIS: The larger scale trees do  
20 not appear to have an effective root structure  
21 or a root structure development at this time.  
22 We are incorporating the more deciduous and  
23 evergreen trees along that area.

24 MR. KOLANKOWSKI: Also, I know that there  
25 wasn't a planting plan involved for the

1 project. When there is one, we'd like to  
2 review it.

3 CHAIRMAN STUTO: I know that we're moving  
4 fast on this, but I think that we can make  
5 that condition that the Town Designated  
6 Engineer can sign off on the planting plan.

7 MR. FARNAN: Moving the trees is not  
8 critical.

9 Is there any question about treatment of  
10 the steeper slopes? I know that we haven't  
11 detailed out yet, but they are two on one  
12 slopes.

13 MR. TRAVIS: We can discuss some of the  
14 options that we can use in that area with some  
15 of the plantings being a part of the layout.

16 MR. KOLANKOWSKI: Beside the landscaped  
17 plans and those details, there will be a final  
18 SWPPP that we would like to review.

19 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Anybody from the public  
20 want to be heard on this?

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

22 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Any Planning Board  
23 Members?

24 MS. DALTON: My son used to play  
25 basketball there all the time. I think that

1 it's a great idea.

2 CHAIRMAN STUTO: It's a great project.

3 Do you want to walk us through the SEQRA?

4 MR. KOLANKOWSKI: Sure.

5 This is a notice of determination.

6 Everyone should have it.

7 We've determined that it's 515.

8 Notice of determination of no significant  
9 effect on the environment. A negative  
10 declaration.

11 To all interested agencies, groups and  
12 persons, in accordance with Article 8 of the  
13 Environmental Conservation Law and the state  
14 wide regulations under the Act, lead agency  
15 has received an environmental assessment form  
16 in connection with the proposed action  
17 described below. Lead agency has determined  
18 that the proposed action will result in no  
19 major impacts and therefore will not have a  
20 significant impact on the environment and  
21 therefore an environmental impact statement is  
22 not required to be prepared with respect to  
23 said action.

24 This notice is a negative declaration for  
25 the purposes of the act. Lead agency is the

1 Town of Colonie Planning Board. The person to  
2 contact for further information is Rebekah  
3 Nellis Kennedy, Attorney, Town of Colonie Town  
4 Attorney's office, 534 Loudon Road,  
5 Newtonville.

6 The project is the Siena Loop Road at 515  
7 Loudon Road. That action is construction of a  
8 two lane road connecting Friar's Drive and  
9 Spring Street Road, resuming the sidewalks,  
10 curbing, curb meeting for a portion of the  
11 alignment, lighting and new conduits for  
12 electrical and telecommunication  
13 infrastructure.

14 The action is located at 515 Loudon Road,  
15 Town of Colonie, in the County of Albany.

16 Reasons for determination of  
17 non-significance: The lead agency has reviewed  
18 the application, site plan, project  
19 description, and all supporting documentation,  
20 and conducted such further investigation of  
21 the project and its environmental effects as  
22 the lead agency has deemed appropriate. Based  
23 on this review, the lead agency has determined  
24 that the action will have no significant  
25 effects on the environment.

1           The impact on land: The project will  
2 result in some physical change to the side  
3 including the addition of a roadway, sidewalks  
4 and lighting. There are no protected waters in  
5 the project area. The proposed project is  
6 located near areas of freshwater wetlands  
7 located on the site. The project is designed  
8 to mitigate impacts caused in such areas by no  
9 disturbance of the wetlands.

10           Based on the above, it appears that the  
11 project will not have a significant impact on  
12 the environment related to land resources.

13           Impact on water: Since more than one acre  
14 will be disturbed, the stormwater pollution  
15 prevention plan will be prepared and  
16 implemented and comprised of Phase II  
17 regulations. The project will utilize green  
18 infrastructure stormwater runoff treatment  
19 methods, including porous pavement.

20           The proposed project site with pavement  
21 and sidewalks will result in an increase in  
22 stormwater runoff, the project will include  
23 measures to reduce the potential for soil  
24 erosion and the project therefore should not  
25 result in significant adverse impacts on

1 drainage.

2 Based on the above, it appears that the  
3 project will not have a significant impact on  
4 environmental related water resources.

5 Impacts on Transportation: The proposed  
6 project is for the construction of a private  
7 road intended to be used by those within the  
8 college campus who would otherwise need to use  
9 Route 9 and Spring Street Road to reach  
10 locations on that side of the campus. The  
11 proposed road does not run from Fiddler's Lane  
12 to Spring Street Road, rather from Friar's  
13 Road, so for a use as a bypass for Route  
14 9/Spring Street Road intersection by people  
15 interconnected to Siena is unlikely. The use  
16 of the existing Spring Street Road/Turchi Road  
17 intersection is beginning from the proposed  
18 roadway, which minimizes impacts to existing  
19 traffic.

20 Based on the above it appears that the  
21 project will not have a significant impact on  
22 the environment relating to transportation.

23 Conclusion: The Town of Colonie has  
24 completed a careful review of the reasonably  
25 anticipated areas of environmental concern

1 raised by the project. Based upon that review,  
2 the criteria for determining significance  
3 contained in the SEQRA regulations, and the  
4 rule of reasonableness, the Planning Board  
5 issues this negative declaration, concluding  
6 that the facts and circumstance of this  
7 project will not result in a significant  
8 adverse environmental impact. An environmental  
9 impact statement, therefore, will not be  
10 required.

11 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Do we have a motion on  
12 that negative declaration?

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

14 MR. AUSTIN: I'll second.

15 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Any discussion?

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

17 CHAIRMAN STUTO: All those in favor?

18 ***(Ayes were recited.)***

19 CHAIRMAN STUTO: All those opposed?

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

21 CHAIRMAN STUTO: The ayes have it.

22 On the main question before the Board,  
23 which is the site plan approval for the Siena  
24 Loop Road application, contingent upon working  
25 with the Town Designated Engineer on all of

1 the open issues, including final plantings,  
2 SWPPP, saving the trees and all of those other  
3 things stated on the record tonight and also  
4 the Town Department comments; do we have a  
5 motion?

6 MR. AUSTIN: I'll make a motion.

7 MR. HAAK: I'll second.

8 CHAIRMAN STUTO: Any comments or  
9 questions?

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

11 CHAIRMAN STUTO: All those in favor?

12 ***(Ayes were recited.)***

13 CHAIRMAN STUTO: All those opposed?

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

15 CHAIRMAN STUTO: The ayes have it.

16

17

18 ***(Whereas the proceeding concerning the above***

19 ***entitled matter was concluded at***

20 ***8:05 p.m.)***

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**CERTIFICATION**

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3  
4            ***I, NANCY STRANG-VANDEBOGART, Shorthand***  
5            ***Reporter, New York State Approved Transcriber***  
6            ***and Notary Public in and for the State of New***  
7            ***York, hereby CERTIFY that the record taken by***  
8            ***me at the time and place noted in the heading***  
9            ***hereof is a true and accurate transcript of***  
10           ***same, to the best of my ability and belief.***  
11  
12  
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14            -----  
15            ***NANCY STRANG-VANDEBOGART***  
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18            ***Dated June 25, 2012***  
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