



# TOWN OF COLONIE

347 OLD NISKAYUNA ROAD

LATHAM, N.Y. 12110



## **Town of Colonie Conservation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes April 5, 2012**

**Present at the meeting:** Chair Diane Davies, Ellen Rosano, Paul Rosano, Robert Ulrich, Sudhir Kulkarni, and Laura Weed. Mr. Harry Kornblau attended as a visitor to comment on the Siena College project.

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm. Ellen Rosano moved to open the meeting, Bob Ulrich seconded.

According to the New York State Conservation Commission, Advisory councils from around the state should be submitting periodic reports. We have not done this within the memory of anyone on the Council (20 yrs or so).

Bob did the bulletin boards for April on Lyme Disease and the role of the Conservation Council.

**March Planning Board Meetings:** reported by Ellen Rosano

**Planning Board:** March 13, 2012

**Boght Road-Columbia Street GEIS Route 9 Transportation Update.** See Attached

**25 Newton Street Building Demolition:** Hearing pursuant to Town Code Section 62-31

The building has collapsed and is a safety concern and the cost to the town to demolish it is \$21,000. Clear title of the property cannot be produced. The heirs of one deceased owner are interested in selling the property. The other owner is unable to be located. However some type of agreement may be able to be reached and a prospective buyer would be willing to bear the cost of the demolition and hauling away of the debris. The town contends that this has been an on going problem for years and felt something needs to be done since the property is an immediate danger to the community. A vote was taken to give the parties involved 30 days to finalize a plan or the town will take action.

Neighbors were present with pictures that illustrated how badly the property has degenerated

**Lia Retail 860 Loudon Road**

**Sketch plan review**

Proposed building- 9000 square feet occupied by possibility three tenants. The developer will use porous pavement if appropriate, and will use Red Robin's roadways for cross connectivity. There will be an increase in green space according to current plans. The developer requests a waiver to have parking in the front of the building. The board consented to proceed to sketch.

**Siena Loop Road 515 Loudon Road**

**Sketch Plan Review**

Currently students have to exit the campus and reenter on Spring St. to get from one side of the campus to the other. The plan is to create a road to allow students to move about the campus without having to actually leave the campus. Pedestrian traffic will also improve as well as neighbor relations with the general public.

Difficulties

TDE voiced several concerns: A curve in the road would prevent drivers from seeing what is coming their way, there were concerns about the grading of the road, nearby wet land

preservation, storm water management and the proximity of the road to the fence near the tennis courts. There were also concerns about the maintenance of walking trails and the narrowness of a proposed 5 ft. side walk. The speed limit on the loop road is to be 15 mph. The sketch plan was approved for concept.

### **Siena College Center for Education & Social Science 515 Loudon Road**

#### **Application for Concept Acceptance**

Neighbors and Planning Board members' comments:

The construction area is to be fenced in and workers are to park in Siena's parking lot, not on the street. Although some planting will be removed on the hill and storm water drainage issues were raised, the concerned parties worked out a plan to handle the water involving using sand and stone leading up to the pipe. Benches, Bike racks and trash cans are to be provided and landscape is to be kept short for safety concerns.

The Concept was approved

### **Planning Board Meeting March 27, 2012**

#### **Stewart's Shop 1218 Troy Schenectady Road**

##### **Application for Final Site Approval**

The developers for this project responded to the recommendations from the board by making the following changes:

Increased the interior landscaping

Added a Porch to the Schenectady Road side of the building

Added picnic tables and additional picnic tables

Fencing to hide the delivery area

Increase the curb cut to 35 feet

Trucks to enter from Vly Road only

Sanitary sewer cleanouts provided

Concrete patio underneath awning

Elevation changed to partially hide back of building, a catch basin added

Adding 5 trees throughout the project

Additional man hole added

100 square feet added to project

Cupola will be added to roof

Stewart's has agreed to put up a fence to shield their parking lot from the adjacent neighbor.

The type of lights will also be considered when Stewarts finalizes the project so as not to cause additional distraction to the neighbor.

The Project was given final approval.

#### **Ventura Subdivision 560 Boght Road**

##### **Site plan Update.**

The road has been shortened by 380 ft. The road has been moved 50 ft. away from the property line of existing neighbors. Arrangement of the lots has been changed so there will not be any backyards adjacent to front yards. The plan will comply with the current conservation overlay. One lot has been eliminated from the previous plan. The Planning Board recommended that sprinkler systems be placed in all the homes and used as a selling point. The Site plan was approved.

### **Site Reviews:**

- ✱ **Siena College Loop Rd:** The proposed Loop Rd. at Siena will run behind the athletic center and tennis courts, to improve traffic flow through the back portion of the campus. On the map, it appears that there are wetlands crossed by the road. The committee expressed concern about what classification of wetlands these might be, and about how they would be protected. If they cannot be protected, the committee suggests an alternate route for the new road, on the west side of the building. Bridging the wetlands might provide another alternative.

Mr. Kornblau attended the meeting to comment on traffic entrances to and exits from Siena on Rt. 9. He lives on Campus View Drive, and reports that both Campus View Residents going north by turning left on Rt. 9 and Siena Students going into Siena from the southbound lane of Rt. 9, by turning left, are using the same center 'suicide lane' on Rt. 9, and are in serious danger of a head-on crash with one another. Mr. Kornblau suggested to the committee that Siena might improve this roadway situation in the front of their campus while they are working on the loop road in the rear of the campus. Chair Davies gave Mr. Kornblau instructions and contact info for attending the Planning Board Meeting. Bob Ulrich gave Mr. Kornblau contact information for Siena College.

- ✿ **KJ Electric, 146 Railroad Ave.:** This was a concept submission for a 13,920 sq.ft. building to be built behind Lowe's, to provide electrical equipment sales and service. The site is currently abandoned industrial space. The development plan includes 57% greenspace, stormwater management areas and considerable plantings. Diane will check the plantings for native or non-native species. Other than that, the committee considered the project a big improvement in the area.

**Finalized plans for Conservation Day:**

Bill Neeley and Michelle will assist us with tree pick up and delivery. George

Palmer will ride along with Bill or Michelle in the truck.

Diane Contacted the Nature Conservancy

The Pine Bush will send a Representative

Ellen will make poster boards with information on the trees for the site.

Cornell Cooperative Extension will send a master gardener, possibly Sue Pazzola

Don will do a 'composting for vegetable gardens' exhibition

Sudhir will produce and post about 30 fliers

**For the Friday Night packing job:**

Key Clubs from Shaker High and Colonie Central are sending students to help

Bob will get boxes for the trees

Laura will get certificates to give the Key Club members.

Motion to adjourn: Bob Ulrich, seconded by Sudhir kukarni

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Weed