

TOWN OF WILTON

22 TRAVER ROAD

WILTON, NEW YORK

PHONE: 518-587-1939

FAX: 518-587-2837

Susan Baldwin, Town Clerk

PUBLIC HEARING- Proposed LL #2 of 2024 Removal of Unlawful Occupants 7:00 P.M.

Supervisor Lant opened the public hearing at 7:00 p.m. He asked if there were any questions or comments. There was none.

On a motion introduced by Deputy Supervisor McEachron and seconded by Councilman O’Conor with all board members in favor, the public hearing was closed at 7:01 p.m.

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING-July 2, 2024

Supervisor Lant called the Regular Town Board meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Lant led the board and the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call

Roll Call by the Town Clerk showed all board members present.

John Lant-Supervisor
John McEachron-Deputy Supervisor
Duane Bogardus-Councilman
Erinn Kolligian- Councilwoman
Ray O’Conor-Councilman

Also present was Director of Planning and Engineering, Ryan Riper, P. E. and Comptroller, Maria Moran, CPA.

FAST-NY GRANT

Gregory Connors, President and CEO of Saratoga Economic Development Corporation said SEDC is known for promoting and developing economic opportunity throughout Saratoga County. In addition to promoting capital investment as well as the creation and retention of permanent full time jobs, we are also tasked with improving the marketability of both vacant land sites and buildings and promoting development consistent with existing planning and zoning rules and regulations. He said he appreciates

the invitation and the opportunity to address the town board to speak about an economic development opportunity that may be available to the town. It will require both the town's support and the support of the Empire State Development Corporation. At the being in 2024. Supervisor Lant reached out for the purpose of discussing economic opportunity and encouraging new capital investment in the Town of Wilton and how SEDC might be able to support the initiative. We discussed the condition of Mt. McGregor Road and well as the Northway Exit 16 corridor. Mr. Connors said he engaged Empire State Development on both issues. As the board is aware, with the personal effort of Assemblywoman Woerner, funding in the state budget has been secured for the Town of Wilton to begin the roadway improvement process on Mt. McGregor Road. Certain portions of Ballard Road and the area of Northway Exit 16 are not improved by municipal infrastructure, specifically public water and sewer. A particular area of Ballard Road, east of Northway Exit 16 to Commerce Park Drive, past a number of large unimproved land parcels currently zoned commercial, C-3. The vacant land parcels have been marketed for sale in some form or fashion for some time. He said he has been reliably informed, several options to purchase all or a significant portion of these parcels currently exists with no recent forward motion to transfer title in part due to the lack of public water and sewer. Mr. Connors said his task is to improve the marketability of land parcels, both east of west of Exit 16 with the installation of public water and sewer, thereby creating new capital investment opportunity in an area already zoned for C-3 development. The project area begins at the Traver Road/Ballard Road intersection and moving east for approximately one mile to Commerce Park Drive. In support of our collaborative effort, Empire State Development has a FAST-NY Infrastructure Capital Grant Program. The program is designed to improve the shovel readiness of existing mature sites by funding infrastructure improvements such as water and sewer but also transportation, electricity, gas and other capital eligible site improvement costs. As a result of the investment of grant funds and cooperation with the local municipality. These infrastructure improvements are going to increase the land site's attractiveness to large employers, including high-tech manufacturing, interstate distribution and logistic businesses to name just a few. These are competitive grants and available to sites that have already met the requirements of FAST-NY Track C funding. Eligible applicants are limited to municipalities or municipally designated non-profit economic development organizations acting on behalf of the municipality, in which the sites are located. Like most government sponsored grants, this is a reimbursement program. Grant funds are reimbursed based on the submission of paid invoices. In addition to the infrastructure costs, grant reimbursement may also include engineering, legal and administrative fees that will be further defined in the grant disbursement agreement should we be awarded. Consulting with the Supervisor, the Director of Planning and Engineering as well as private property owners, the required intent to apply for grant funding has already been submitted to the Empire State Development describing the intent and the scope of the project and has been granted by Empire State Development, authorization, after review of the concept, authority to submit application for Track C grant funding as soon as possible, on behalf of the Town of Wilton. The State Department of Transportation is planning and has scheduled a complete rebuild of Exit 16 beginning in 2026 with an overall project cost estimate of up to \$25 million dollars. Mr. Connors said he personally thinks the Capital Transportation Project, together with the proposed infrastructure project will help our scoring when Empire State Development considers our filed application. In addition to Town Board support, one of the several requirements to the application is the submission of a map, plan and report for the project area

that provides proposed design and reliable cost estimates. Mr. Connors asked the Town Board to respectfully ask the Town Engineer or his designee to prepare the required map, plan and report as soon as practicable as well as authorizing the Town Supervisor to designate SEDC as the authorized municipally designated economic development organization to prepare and submit the grant application. He said his hopes that with the prompt submission of the completed Track C application and review by ESD's strategic development personnel, we would receive a decision on the award later this year. Mr. Connors thanked the board for their attention, patience and anticipated cooperation. Mr. Connors said we are in a great place now to get the infrastructure project at Exit 16 that will improve economic investment opportunities for Wilton and get the exit redeveloped. Councilman Bogardus said in order to complete the project we will need to cross the Northway. If we moved our timetable up, could we try to get the state to move along with us. Mr. Connors said that may be a challenge but the fact we have a qualified grant application that is going to improve the opportunity for capital investment in the town and the intended uses permitted by C-3 is exactly what this grant program is designed to support. Councilman O'Connor asked Mr. Connors if he believed the water and sewer and the Exit 16 project would be done concurrently. Mr. Connors said it would make sense because you don't want to dig up the roads twice. He said he suspects it would be approved with the DOT project. Mr. Riper said the bridge project is still a way out. Getting the water and sewer across will be helpful but the likelihood of using the bridge area to cross the widest area may not be feasible. They will cross just south of the bridge and ramps. Mr. Riper noted this bridge replacement is a difficult one. Discussion was held regarding pedestrian and bicycle traffic and it being a requirement. Mr. Connors said he hoped to get an answer on the award by the end of the year. He thanked the Town Clerk, the Comptroller and the Town Engineer in terms of helping the process along. He said he is available for any questions. Councilman O'Connor thanked Mr. Connors for the work SEDC does. Saratoga County has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the state and the lowest taxes in the state.

On a motion introduced by Councilman O'Connor, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #179

WHEREAS: The New York State Economic Development Corporation provides grant funding to qualified municipalities under the FAST-NY Improvement Grant Program. AND

WHEREAS: The Town of Wilton is a qualified Municipality located in Saratoga County, New York. AND

WHEREAS: The Saratoga County Economic Development Corporation is a Municipally Designated Non-Profit Economic Development Organization operating and

responsible for Economic Development in Saratoga County. AND

WHEREAS: The Town of Wilton is requesting FAST-NY Improvement Grant Funding to provide economic funding and resources to construct and install public water, public sewer and storm water management infrastructure along Ballard Road in the Town of Wilton for approximately one (1) mile beginning at the intersection of Traver Road and Ballard Road running East to the intersection of Commerce Park Drive and Ballard Road.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED: The Town of Wilton authorizes the Saratoga Economic Development Corporation to prepare and submit an application on behalf of the Town of Wilton, in the appropriate form with required attachments requesting FAST-NY Improvement Grant Funding for the Ballard Road Infrastructure Project and submit the completed application to the Strategic Business Development Department for the New York State Economic Development Corporation for funding consideration in fiscal year 2024.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilwoman Kolligian, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

On a motion introduced by Councilwoman Kolligian, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #180

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the hiring of Environmental Design Partnership to prepare the map, plan and report of the water and sewer extension on

Ballard Road from Traver Road to Commerce Park Drive for the FAST-NY Track C Grant Application.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Bogardus, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

Public Comment Session

There was none.

Approve Pending Minutes

On a motion introduced by Councilman O’Conor, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #181

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the minutes from the June 6, 2024, as written.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Bogardus, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

WWPP

Margo Olson, Director of Wilton Wildlife Preserve and Park presented a report for the second quarter. WWPP focuses on environmental education, outdoor recreation and supporting conservation efforts of the landowners. During this quarter, we worked directly with about five thousand people. That was up about 25% over the same period last year. We feel good about the work that we’re doing over there with environmental education and public programming.

We received a grant from the New York State ZBGA, a program that helps with general operating support, along with the operating grant from the town of Wilton. These are instrumental to our programs and allow us to be able to board the staff that runs these programs. We are very appreciative to both the Town and the State for this funding. We just found out through the grant program in New York State that we have an opportunity to apply for another capital grant. Currently we have the \$188,000 grant we got through the Parks program for the CFA last year but we’re also going to be applying by the end of August

for another capital program grant that's available to us as one of the grantees of that project. I've already met with Ray O'Connor to discuss this. We will be putting in for some capital expenses for the Larry Gordon Outdoor Education Center Project as well as some new ideas and projects that the committee has come up with. Hopefully, be able to bring in some funds with that. In addition to the Larry Gordon Outdoor Education Center, which is a capital project, we still have our operating costs. We must do our own fundraising to cover all the other costs to run our organization.

Wild About Blue is our big fundraiser. Hopefully, many of you received your first call for being a donor. Many of you are wonderful supporters, and we appreciate your support. Again, that event will be at the Wishing Well Restaurant. The fundraising from this event is extremely important for our general operating. We also submitted a proposal to the Price Chopper Golub Foundation for the Larry Gordon Outdoor Education Center. We just heard this afternoon that they are going to give us \$25,000 over four years to support it. We are very excited about that. In terms of that fiscal responsibility, we're working very diligently to try to keep all that moving ahead.

Regarding the Larry Gordon Outdoor Education Center, the town is graciously contributing and the town workers like Scott and Roy are working on the building and doing that work pro bono.

We have the LA group contributing their services. DA Collins has also agreed to provide materials for the project including the stone dust for the path and some Paving Materials for the accessible parking lots. We're really grateful not only for the money donations, but the hands-on work and kindness, as well.

We have lots of things scheduled for the summer. I'll send you the report so you can see all the exciting groups and events that will be coming as well as all the cute pictures of kids and families and people enjoying that facility and the wonderful facility at Camp Saratoga. Thank you.

Proposed Local Law #2 of 2024

Supervisor Lant said we have to protect our residents. This is a start. If we have to amend it later, we can. It's happened in Saratoga and it's happening everywhere. It cost a person in California \$400,000 to evict unlawful people from a dwelling, only to find a mess when they were finally removed. Councilman Bogardus said he knows of a situation in an apartment where the lessee left and other people moved in. The management of the apartment complex was unable to evict them.

On a motion introduced by Deputy Supervisor McEachron, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #182

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve Local Law #2 of 2024, Removal of Unlawful Occupants.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Bogardus, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

7 Sarro Lane

Deputy Supervisor McEachron said he has visited the site at least six times over the past month and the vehicle has not been removed. He stated there is nowhere to put the dump trailer because the vehicle is in the way because it will stick out in the roadway. We still have 30 more days. Councilwoman Kolligian asked if anything else has been taken care of. Deputy Supervisor McEachron said nothing has been done. Mrs. Germond said a lot has been done. A gentleman came in and removed a huge pile of stuff and she said she has been working on getting the stuff out of the van. Deputy Supervisor McEachron said he would give Mrs. Germond his phone number so when the van is out of the way, he will bring in the dump trailer. Someone will take the van. Mrs. Germond said they won't take it unless the stuff is out of it. Councilwoman Kolligian asked, with all due respect, how does it take thirty days to empty the contents of the vehicle. Mrs. Germond said she has been doing other stuff. Councilwoman Kolligian said vehicle cleanout should be a priority. Deputy Supervisor McEachron said he was going to order a dumpster but it was \$900 for the first five days and an additional fee per day afterwards. Instead, he said he purchased a dump trailer for the job. The vehicle needs to be removed. Councilman Bogardus said this has been ongoing for over ten years. This is not a thirty day thing. The wheels are still moving forward and we will go out to bid in order to get someone to clean up the property. We have been asking you to clean up the property for ten years. Mrs. Germond said she is working on it. Supervisor Lant said the deadline is coming. Deputy Supervisor McEachron said the dump trailer is free of charge. He said he could load the trailer himself but the vehicle has to be moved. He said he was at the site yesterday and it looked identical to the way it looked a month ago. Councilman Bogardus said he stopped and looked. Items were moved from the right side of the property to the left side. Nothing is leaving the property. Councilwoman Kolligian asked Mrs. Germond if she had receipts from the dump this time. Mrs. Germond said she did not. Councilwoman Kolligian said it would help to get a receipt every time items are taken to the dump. It will show how many trips you've made and the weight of the debris. Councilman Bogardus said this will help show progress. The board is not trying to be mean but we have to look out for the neighbors and the community. Mrs. Germond said she's tired of the neighbors stalking her and telling her he is going to turn her in for putting garbage on other people's property. Councilman Bogardus said to tell the neighbor to go ahead as the town is already dealing with it. Councilwoman Kolligian said to tell the neighbor you are looking for an addition set of hands. The police can also be called.

Zipline at Gavin Park

Chris Iwinski, President of Friends of Wilton Recreation appeared before the board. He said going through COVID was tough to do fundraising and things were certainly a little bit on cruise control. The group has gotten back together in a very strong fashion over the past year and a half or so. New leadership involves

Joe Bartow is still playing the puppeteer. We've been putting our minds together the past eight or twelve months about a big new project to do, with our main focus always being Gavin Park. A lot of us got together and a zip line came up. Zip lines are becoming very popular that many mobile playgrounds not only you know in Saratoga, but also school playgrounds down in Charleton Heights in the Burnt Hills School District. Over on the west side of Saratoga, they've got a beautiful zipline. He said he's like to preface that a zipline isn't from a tree down over to another tree. We're talking a very child friendly. What we're looking at is about a thirty-four foot zip line, that's the most common zip line. You can go longer; you can go shorter. In talking with landscape structures this is usually the one that's a slam dunk through municipalities for insurance purposes. The plan the town has the informal plan, informal request for a blessing on this, is a single zipline. This is a zipline that would allow the children to go both ways on it. With Gavin and all of the adaptive features that we have over there the adaptive walkways, we would love to have a second zipline, or at least position ourselves to get a second adaptive zipline to help fall in place with everything over at Gavin Park. We are certainly open to different locations at the park. The two locations that came up in our group are behind the swing sets, between the swing set and the back fence, the ping pong table or between the Pavilion and the butterfly station with all the sound effects and things like that. We're certainly open to feedback from the board. As far as fundraising goes, we've been able to do a lot of great fundraising with last year's 5K. On Community Day we were able to raise some nice funds from that. There are a couple of grants that we have in place right now. If the town knows if there are any grants or if there are any funds in next year's budget because it certainly would be a 2025 project, we're all ears on that too. We are happy to have any conversations with the board. He said that is why we wanted to get here and make it something official. We can go out and say here's the actual project and a picture of what we want to do. He said we can get private as well as corporate sponsors. It can also be marketed on Facebook as this is what we are going to do and here is the timeline. Supervisor Lant said the town board wants to keep the park moving forward. Councilwoman Kolligian said the adaptive portion is a great idea. Mr. Iwinski said ideally, in the six to eight months, we can ideally kill two birds with one stone. Councilman Bogardus said the initial location will be with the anticipation of the second line coming in, side by side. Councilman O'Connor said the area behind the swing sets is large enough for both. Mr. Iwinski said he will measure the area; it may be a little tight. He said he would love to see them parallel to each other. The space between the gazebo and the pavilion has plenty of room. It would be great if we could do them both there is a 20% savings on the second zipline.

On a motion introduced by Deputy Supervisor McEachron, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #183

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the request from the Friends of Wilton Recreation to purchase and install a zipline at Gavin Park.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman O'Connor, duly put to a vote, all in favor except Councilman Bogardus who recused himself. The motion passed 4-0.

Appointment to Historic Preservation Board

On a motion introduced by Councilman O'Connor, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #184

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the appointment of Christopher Ferriss to the Historic Preservation Board for a term of 7/2/2024-12/31/2026.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Deputy Supervisor McEachron, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

Highway Truck Purchase

Discussion was held on the new laws regarding the sale of diesel trucks and electric trucks. Highway Superintendent Mike Monroe stated a dealership has to sell one electric truck in order to get credits to sell diesel trucks beginning in January of 2025. The approved truck from 2022 for \$309,662 has not yet been built and will not be available in 2024. There is a turnkey truck available in Canada but the cost is higher at \$334,205. It will be available in February of 2025. Councilwoman Kolligian noted there is no infrastructure to charge the electric trucks on the thruway. The batteries needed to power everything on the truck weigh 5,000 pounds each and make the vehicles extremely heavy. Councilman Bogardus said he watched footage of an electric truck that was involved in an accident and the weight made it difficult to stop.

On a motion introduced by Councilman Bogardus, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #185

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the request from the Highway

Superintendent to purchase a turnkey truck from Tenco for \$334,205.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman O'Connor, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

On a motion introduced by Councilman Bogardus, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #186

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the request from the Highway Superintendent to temporarily pause the truck replacement program.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman O'Connor, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

Fee Reduction for Roof Resurfacing

Discussion was held regarding a fee reduction for the contractor resurfacing the roof at the Wilton Walmart. No action was taken.

Bid Acceptance

On a motion introduced by Councilman O'Connor, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #187

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to accept the sole bid from Cyncon of \$34,526.60 for a brining system.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Duane Bogardus, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

Speed Limit Reduction Request

RESOLUTION #188

On a motion introduced by Councilwoman Kolligian, the board adopted the following resolution:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve a speed limit reduction request to Saratoga County Public Works for West Lane.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Bogardus, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

Committee Reports

Susan Baldwin, Town Clerk said the Town received a thank you card from the Wilton Food Pantry thanking the Town for support in 2023. 1,247 individuals from 490 families were assisted.

Councilman O’Conor said he is a supporter and fan of the Open Space Institute and last week got their annual report and the Open Space Institute's been around for 50 years. They do conservation and recreation projects in several states and many of them in New York. And in the first couple of pages of their annual report. They made note of the Graphite Range Community Forest, Saratoga County’s first community forest.

Councilman Bogardus said he had a committee report. A couple of months ago he said he spoke about forming an emergency services review. We had an unofficial meeting, just to decide if we have a direction, if we want to form an official committee or not. We had representatives from the Town of Greenfield, which represents half of the Town of Wilton for fire protection. Representatives from Wilton Emergency Services, and the Wilton Fire Department, which those are the all the emergency services are covered as well. There were some administrative personnel, retired from career agencies on the committee, we are going to be forming a formal committee and we will be meeting the last Monday of every month to discuss the future of emergency services in a town, what services we’re providing and what we may need to provide in the future. The town is growing. The three projects that are proposed now will bring approximately an additional 2500 residents to our town. The emergency services are starting to become taxed with their abilities to have volunteers . We're looking at goals and solutions for what we're doing now and for the future. We will be meeting the first last Monday of every month and report back for the Town Board meeting. Secondly, he said he would like to propose that we close Wilton Town Hall on Friday,

July 5. It's a very slow day at Town Hall. He said he would like to dedicate the time as a family day. Deputy Supervisor McEachron said this has been discussed before. If the holiday falls on a Tuesday, staff can take Monday off. If the holiday falls on a Thursday, the staff can take Friday off.

Maria Moran, Comptroller said the park employees cannot take advantage of this because of summer camp training. Deputy Supervisor McEachron said we can give them a day off at some other time like a floating holiday but it will expire on December 31, 2024.

On a motion introduced by Councilman Bogardus, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #189

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the closing of Town Hall on July 5, 2024.

BE IT RESOLVED, all employees, full and part time shall be paid their normal hours.

FURTHER, IT BE RESOLVED, to approve a floating holiday for employees who are required to work on July 5, 2024, expiring on December 31, 2024.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Deputy Supervisor McEachron, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

Councilman O'Connor said a field walk was done last week on the Northern Pines Road property where we are going to designate a trail and a fishing station. Mark Dailey was there along with Scott Harrington. We have a proposed trail that will go through the property just south of the Veterans housing. The designated spot for the fishing station has been prepared and he and Mr. Riper have reviewed it. We're anticipating the start of it next spring.

Deputy Supervisor McEachron said Community Day took place last Saturday and it rained but the place filled up. We sold out of the Brooks Barbeque. The fire departments were there, the band was awesome and Nancy Riely went above and beyond. She did a great job.

The Town of Wilton's 2024 music in the park concert series starts tomorrow evening, July 3, 2024 at Gavin Park from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. under the large pavilion. For the July 3 program, we have Skippy in the Pistons performing with a fireworks display at 9 p.m. There will be a food truck with plenty of food choices, Sweet

Treats by Jennifer and the concession stand near the splash park will be open until 8:00 p.m. with ice cream and snacks. The Wednesday night performance schedule for July and August is on the table in the back of the room and on the front page of the town's website. Bring a lawn chair and a blanket if you'd like.

Comptroller's Report

1.) 2024 Budget Amendments

On a motion introduced by Deputy Supervisor McEachron, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #190

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the 2024 budget amendments requested for and listed in the Comptroller's 7/2/2024 Report to the Town Board.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Bogardus, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

2.) Permit Fee Refund

On a motion introduced by Deputy Supervisor McEachron, the board adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #191

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the request from Mark Mykins, to refund a fence permit fee due to the resident not pursuing the project.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman O'Connor, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

Adjournment

On a motion introduced by Councilman O’Conor and seconded by Councilwoman Kolligian, with all board members in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Baldwin, Town Clerk

_____ Supervisor, John J. Lant

_____ Councilman, Raymond O’Conor

_____ Deputy Supervisor, John McEachron

_____ Councilwoman Erinn Kolligian

_____ Councilman Duane Bogardus