

TOWN OF WILTON

22 TRAVER ROAD

WILTON, NEW YORK

PHONE: 518-587-1939

FAX: 518-587-2837

Susan Baldwin, Town Clerk

sbaldwin@townofwilton.com

PUBLIC HEARING-248 Ruggles Road Demolition

7:00 P.M.

Supervisor Lant opened the public hearing at 7:00 P.M. and asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none.

Deputy Supervisor McEachron made a motion to close the public hearing, Councilwoman Kolligian seconded the motion. The public hearing was closed at 7:01 p.m.

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING-September 4, 2025

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 except Councilman O'Connor who was excused. .

John Lant-Supervisor

John McEachron-Deputy Supervisor

Duane Bogardus-Councilman

Erinn Kolligian- Councilwoman

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

Public Comment Session

Jim Deloria of 15 Thunder Run said in full disclosure he is also a member of the Town of Wilton Planning Board and employed by Barton and Laguidice Engineering. He said he has been following the Smith Bridge Road widening process and falls in his wheelhouse as it is what he does for a living. He said he watched last month's town board meeting and saw the presentation by the consultant. He said for 2.5 million dollars, it is not much more than a repaving project with a little bit of widening of the road. The consultant said, "just to make it clear, our recommendation is not a five foot wide, ADA compliant, full sized sidewalk or in some cases, some municipalities are putting in multi-use trails." She also said, "there is a need to

address the issues on Smith Bridge Road from a lack a shoulders standpoint, it's not full pedestrian accommodations, it's not a sidewalk." Mr. Deloria said from a planning board perspective, there is an issue and had no contentions about that. Supervisor Lant said the board is not happy with the cost. Mr. Deloria said in the infrastructure line of work, there is federal money available to do these types of projects and in his opinion, to do it right. He said he feels like the process is getting rushed. We are going to get a widening of the road but people are still going to have to walk on the shoulder of the road. There are a lot of opportunities to get funding, both federal and state funding for multi-use paths. He said he did them all in Saratoga, Zim Smith Trail, it's all done with federal money. There is no grant money for the dam and doubted Saratoga Springs would open up their coffers to us. He asked if the board would consider slowing the process down, investigating what federal aid might be out there and making this into a multi-use path or something people could walk safely on. Everything that is approved in the town is required to include their part of a trail (system). Deputy Supervisor McEachron said in order to make it a pathway on both sides of the road would require taking people's land. Mr. Deloria said there are ways to make that happen without taking their land. Often times it's done with a permanent easement, which gives the town and its residents specific certain rights to be able to travel on someone's property but the landowner retains ownership of their property. You are not taking anything from them. This is usually done through negotiation where the landowner is compensated for it. Mr. Deloria said he has heard the discussions regarding accidents on Smith Bridge Road. He said he personally doesn't think the \$2.5 million project is going to reduce the number of accidents or the exposure of the people walking on Smith Bridge Road. Supervisor Lant asked Mr. Deloria if he would assist the town. Mr. Deloria said he would. Deputy Supervisor McEachron this didn't just happen over the last month, we've been discussing this since the Mill at Smith Bridge was built. Mr. Deloria said the consultant said there is plenty of right of way in the new developments, it's the old ownership of land where there is an issue. A lot of that can be accomplished through design. The road can be shifted. Deputy Supervisor McEachron asked the Highway Superintendent how much it would cost to pave a road. Mr. Monroe said it would require a prevailing wage contract with inclusion of some of our staff. We just paved a mile of road for \$400,000. Mr. Deloria said he would suggest moving forward with trying to secure federal and state money and not having the town pick up the whole check. There are other ways to do this.

Steve Bederian of Woodland Drive said he supports what was just said. He said he read the description of the engineering document online. We have a town, have proposed to approve an almost \$250,000 in engineering fees for what will be widening and straightening the road. The effect will not be to increase the safety of pedestrians and bicycles because that infrastructure is not mentioned in the planning document. By doing the widening, you may be able to get that extra foot, which we hear all of the time, when we pave we try to make it wider. It does make it safe for bicyclists and pedestrians that are not skilled. We are coming back to the same issue, are we going to address the infrastructure for bicyclists and pedestrians in the town? We have a single project underway, on Jones Road and Carr Road and said he is not aware of anything else in the hopper to provide that kind of infrastructure for the town. This is an opportunity to do that. If you only widen the road, it will make it less safe because traffic will go faster. If you want to make it wider and make it easier to cut across, now you have a connection between the Gavin Park and the pizza parlor, Stewarts, the places all of these young people go to as they are walking down that dangerous road. We haven't had a catastrophe there involving pedestrians but it is only a matter of time if you increase speed. Councilwoman Kolligian asked Mr. Bederian if he supports the widening of the road. Mr. Bederian said he is supporting the inclusion of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in the planning. There is nothing in there for \$2.5 million. He said he doesn't doubt the road needs to be repaired and that dam is probably one of them getting an F rating. Councilwoman Kolligian said that is what she thought he meant but then said by widening it, it would speed cars up and risk the lives of people who are walking and biking and they are the people we widened it for. Mr.

Bederian said because you increase the travel speed on the road when you straighten the curve and make it wider. Cars are going to drive faster. He said he is not arguing against widening the road, he said he is arguing against not including bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. Gavin Park is at one end and the convenience stores, pizza parlor and liquor stores at the other end. Davidson Drive is a quiet road and the board is proposing to make Smith Bridge Road a connector to Jones Road and Route 9 which will make it a very fast connection. We have a lot of residents who live in the new developments. We also have a ton of people going down Loughberry Lake Road which has zero pedestrian infrastructure. It is used as a cut through. Smith Bridge Road is being proposed at \$250,000. We should at least look at spending our money wisely. Deputy Supervisor McEachron said most of the money is being spent on the dam. If we proposed widening only at the dam, we will be at \$2,000,000 without doing the rest of Smith Bridge Road. We have already cut the cost by not increasing the elevation of the road at the dam. We were told there was no money for the dam work, if there is, we are going to look into it. Mr. Bederian said he was not aware of any pedestrian and bicycle pathways in the hopper other than Carr Road. Deputy Supervisor McEachron said a committee was formed for that. Supervisor Lant said the committee never came back to the board and Mr. Bederian is the chairman. Mr. Bederian said he is the chairman of an ad hoc committee with no power. Deputy Supervisor McEachron asked if anyone has received a report from the committee. Councilman Bogardus asked when the committee last met. Supervisor Lant said a Councilperson was designated as your liaison. Mr. Bederian thanked the board for their time.

Steve Wilcox and Larry Dana appeared before the board representing Wilton Wildlife Preserve and Park and stated the Larry Gordon Outdoor Educational Center Welcome Cabin has been completed. They thanked the board and said they are extremely grateful. There will be a ribbon cutting on September 19, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. There will be an Open House on Saturday September 20, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Approve Pending Minutes

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

RESOLUTION #185

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the minutes from August 7, 2025 as presented.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Bogardus, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 4-0.

Smith Bridge Road Design Proposal

Supervisor Lant said the cost of Smith Bridge Road is a lot of money. He would like to wait and get additional information on available grant monies. He said the City of Saratoga Springs has offered to apply for a joint grant.

No action was taken.

248 Ruggles Road Demolition

Mark Mykins, Senior Building Inspector said there was no new information.

No action was taken.

153 Louden Road Demolition

Mr. Mykins said he had to obtain a warrant from the court to be able to enter the property. It had a six foot tarped fence in front of it and you could see behind it. Code Enforcement Officers took pictures of the property by standing in a truck. There was an affidavit from National Grid. They had an issue with power and they couldn't get into the home due to debris and filth. There are rats on the property and in the house. Thirty seven animals were removed from the property and there appears to be more there. Piles of garbage, two to four feet high, are throughout the property with narrow trails. It is household garbage not just washers and dryers. The board has been given additional picture. Councilman Bogardus said the Saratoga County HAZMAT team responded to this site. Mr. Mykins said this is correct and in order for the team to go in with respirators, they had to break windows to get the ammonia concentration down from eighty-one parts per million to thirty parts per million. Mr. Mykins said fifteen parts per million is an acceptable level for an eight hour period according to OSHA. Mr. Mykins is requesting the board set a public hearing. Councilman Bogardus asked about 7 Sarro Lane. Mr. Mykins said the property did not sell. The driveway was cleaned up but it remains in the same condition as last fall. Councilman Bogardus said it was supposed to have been sold so we put it on hold in order to give the new owners time to mitigate.

RESOLUTION #

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to set a public hearing on October 2, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. for the demolition of 153 Louden Road, Tax Map No. 155.-1-4.121.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Bogardus, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 4-0.

RESOLUTION #

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to set a public hearing on October 2, 2025 at 7:01 p.m. for the demolition of 7 Sarro Lane, Tax Map No. 153.9-1-11.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilwoman Kolligian, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 4-0.

Hamlet Zone Amendment

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

RESOLUTION #

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to set a public hearing on October 2, 2025 at 7:02 p.m. for an amendment to the H-1 zone.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Bogardus, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 4-0.

Request to Bid-Pickleball Courts

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

RESOLUTION #

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to ratify the request to go out to bid for a Pickleball Court at Gavin Park.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilwoman Kolligian, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 4-0.

Tax Cap Override for WEMS/Wilton Ambulance District

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

RESOLUTION #

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to set a public hearing on October 2, 2025 at 7:03 p.m. for the 2026 Tax Cap Override for WEMS/Wilton Ambulance District.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Bogardus, duly put

to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 4-0.

Annual Civil Rights Certification of PHA

Maria Moran, Comptroller, said the town has a Public Housing Administrator which is JEM, Inc. Because this is a HUD activity, we have to certify we are complying with civil rights such as violence against women, ADA and so forth. This is a document set up by HUD. We submit the document yearly to our housing administrator and JEM, Inc. will submit it to HUD.

RESOLUTION #

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, approve the Annual Civil Rights Certification for the Public Housing Authority.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Deputy Supervisor McEachron, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 4-0.

Installation of Street Lights

Supervisor Lant said his request for streetlights is due to accidents. There are a lot of dark areas at intersections on Northern Pines Road and elsewhere in the town. He said he spoke to a representative at National Grid and we need to submit a resolution for the work. If there is a pole at the intersection, there is no cost to install the lights.

RESOLUTION #

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the request to National Grid for the installation of streetlights for the following intersections:

- Lonesome Pine Rd. and Northern Pines Rd.
- Hearthstone Dr. and Northern Pines Rd.
- Gailor Rd. and Northern Pines Rd.
- Preston Ct. and Northern Pines Rd.
- Craw Ln. and Traver Rd.
- Conklin Ct. and Traver Rd.
- Northwoods Rd. and Northern Pines Rd.
- Apple Tree Ln. and Northern Pines Rd.
- Buchanan Dr. and Northern Pines Rd.

Burnham Rd. and Northern Pines Rd.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Deputy Supervisor McEachron, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 4-0.

Supervisor Lant said another site issue is the power pole at the intersection of Carefree Drive and Northern Pines Road.

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

RESOLUTION #

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the request to National Grid to move a power pole at the intersection of Carefree Drive and Northern Pines Road due to site distance issues.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Deputy Supervisor McEachron, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 4-0.

Speed Limit Reduction Request

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

RESOLUTION #

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the request to Saratoga County Department of Public Works for a speed limit reduction to 30 mph on Northern Pines Road from Route 9 to Ballard Road.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilwoman Kolligian, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 4-0.

Committee Reports

Deputy Supervisor McEachron said there is a 5K run at Gavin Park in October.

Supervisor Lant said the Town of Wilton will hold a Senior Health Fair on September 29, 2025 at Gavin Park from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Fair will help seniors with their health, welfare and safety. There

will be speakers from Saratoga County, police departments and fire departments all highlighting the programs and services they offer. Please share the information with your neighbors.

Supervisor Lant said the Town of Wilton will offer a Bulk Waste Day on October 4, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Gavin Park, 10 Lewis Drive or the Town Hall Highway Department, 22 Traver Road. Vehicles will be unloaded and there is more information on the website.

Supervisor Lant said the Larry Gordon Outdoor Educational Center Welcome Cabin has been completed and will have a ribbon cutting on Friday, September 19, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at 80 Scout Road. This was Larry's dream for many years. There will be an Open House on Saturday, September 20, 2025 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Comptroller's Report

1.) 2025 Budget Transfers

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

RESOLUTION #

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the 2025 budget transfers requested for and listed in the Comptroller's 9/4/2025 Report to the Town Board.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilwoman Kolligian, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 4-0.

2.) 2025 Budget Amendments

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

RESOLUTION #

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the 2025 budget amendments requested for and listed in the Comptroller's 9/4/2025 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 4-0.

3.) Sales Tax-Informational

Maria Moran, Comptrollers noted the Town is no longer required to apply to the County to request sales tax receipts as cash. The Town will receive the sales tax in cash.

4.) Asset Disposal

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

RESOLUTION #

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the request from the Facilities Maintenance Supervisor to sell the 2015 Cam dump trailer on Auctions International.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilman Bogardus, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 4-0.

5.) Personnel

a.

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

RESOLUTION #

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to ratify the hiring of Justine Oliveto, Part-Time Senior Clerk for the Highway Department effective August 26, 2025, with no benefits at a rate of \$24.00 per hour.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Deputy Supervisor McEachron, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 4-0.

b.

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

RESOLUTION #

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve the request from Katie Coons, Town Historian for overnight travel to attend the Association of Public Historians of NYS annual conference held October 6-8, 2025 in Cazenovia, NY.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilwoman Kolligian, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 4-0.

6.) Fee Refund

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

RESOLUTION #174

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, to approve a refund of \$50 paid by a resident for a permit which cannot be completed due to not conforming with HOA regulations.

The adoption of the resolution was seconded by Councilwoman Kolligian, duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 4-0.

duly put to a vote, all in favor. The motion passed 5-0.

On a motion introduced by Councilwoman Kolligian and seconded by Councilman Bogardus, with all board members in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Baldwin, Town Clerk

_____ Supervisor, John J. Lant

_____ Councilman, Raymond O’Conor

_____ Deputy Supervisor, John McEachron

_____ Councilwoman Erinn Kolligian