

**TOWN OF DRYDEN  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
February 18, 2021  
Via Zoom**

Present: Supervisor Jason Leifer, Cl Daniel Lamb, Cl James Skaley,  
Cl Loren Sparling, Cl Leonardo Vargas-Mendez

Elected Officials: Bambi L. Avery, Town Clerk

Other Town Staff: Ray Burger, Planning Director  
Amanda Anderson, Bookkeeper  
Peter Walsh, Town Attorney

Supv Leifer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**RESOLUTION #52 (2021) – APPROVE MINUTES**

Supv Leifer offered the following resolution and asked for its adoption:

RESOLVED, that this Town Board hereby approves the meeting minutes of January 14 and January 21, 2021.

2<sup>nd</sup> Cl Skaley

Roll Call Vote	Cl Sparling	Yes
	Cl Skaley	Yes
	Cl Lamb	Yes
	Supv Leifer	Yes

**Announcements**

Supv Leifer reviewed the notes from today’s county meeting. They will be posted on the town’s website.

**Town Board Vacancy**

Cl Lamb introduced Leonardo Vargas-Mendez who has served as President of the Latino Civic Association and Executive Director of Cornell University Public Service Center. Cl Lamb said he is familiar with the community, is a connector and would make a great addition to the board with his administrative and public service experience.

Mr Mendez said he has resided in Tompkins County for 43 years and in the Town of Dryden for 10 years. He has served on boards of non-profit organizations and currently serves on the boards of directors of Alternatives Federal Credit Union and McGraw House. He has been involved in many different organizations and was a Senior Administrator at Cornell University for 30 years. He is honored to serve and will do his best to learn and be a partner.

**RESOLUTION #53 (2021) – APPOINT TOWN BOARD MEMBER**

Cl Lamb offered the following resolution and asked for its adoption:

RESOLVED, that this Town Board hereby appoints Leonardo Vargas-Mendez as a Dryden Town Councilperson to fill the seat vacated by Kathrin Servoss for a term expiring December 31, 2021.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Supv Leifer

Roll Call Vote	Cl Sparling	Yes
	Cl Skaley	Yes
	Cl Lamb	Yes
	Supv Leifer	Yes

**PRESENTATION**

**Joel Molina, Cornell University**

Joel Molina introduced several of his colleagues and they gave a presentation about how Cornell University has been handling the Covid pandemic. The positivity numbers past and present were reviewed. They are currently at .07%. In analyzing their processes, they made a few changes. There will be a faster turnaround on test results. Students will be tested on Friday, Saturday or Sunday. They continue to evaluate their approaches.

With respect to budget matters, they are hopeful that there will be significant money flowing before the end of the state fiscal year. That would reduce the cuts that will be experienced in the current year and next year. It seems that things are falling into place for approval of the American Rescue Plan and it is on target to be signed into law before the middle of March when the unemployment extended benefits expire.

Comments and questions for Cornell's town hall events can be sent to Gary Stewart at gary.stewart@cornell.edu.

There are about 500 more students on campus for the Spring semester than there were in the Fall. They are at about 80% occupancy on campus.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**1622 DRYDEN ROAD  
SPECIAL USE PERMIT**

Supv Leifer opened the public hearing at 6:35 p.m. R Burger introduced Marco Misakovic with NPT Wireless who is representing the team. This is for a utility shelter near Elemental Pet Vet on Route 13. It will be about a 50' square compound with two 10' by 20' equipment sheds. This is an allowed use by special use permit. It is a Type 2, so there is no need for SEQR. There are no recommendations from the county in their 239 review.

Marco Misakovic explained they are proposing a fiber shelter to provide greater fiber capacity to the area for internet communications. These 2 shelters will be unmanned and do not require onsite personnel. There will be a standby generator on the site. After feedback from the Planning Department they revised their plan to include shrubs up front and the generator for emergency use will be on the back side. They worked with the landowner and neighboring landowners on a joint driveway. They will use the existing drive until the joint drive is completed. There are pictures of other installations to get an idea of what it will look like.

This fiber will serve residents in the area as well as local businesses and schools. The site was chosen because it is a remote area that works with the zoning code and this seemed to work best. It is in the rural residential zone, with Lowrey Construction to the northeast and Elemental Pet Vet and Second Home Dog Care to the west. All three businesses will use a

common driveway (Planning Board recommendations in July). The necessary easement agreement will be signed in the next few weeks. This will be a long-term facility.

The board reviewed the proposed resolution approving site plan and granting the special use permit and the conditions in that resolution. Cl Skaley said given the concentration of more commercially oriented properties, the area might be considered for rezoning. This is a Type 2 action so there is no SEQR review.

There were no further questions from the board or public and the public hearing was closed at 6:52 p.m.

**RESOLUTION #54 (2021) - Approving Site Plan and Granting Special Use Permit for a Public Utility Facility at 1622 Dryden Road, Tax Parcel 44.-1-13.416**

Cl Skaley offered the following resolution and asked for its adoption:

WHEREAS,

- A. NTP Wireless, on behalf of FirstLight Fiber, has applied for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to locate a public utility facility at 1622 Dryden Road, Tax Parcel 44.-1-13.416; and
- B. An application, SUP worksheet, equipment details and sketch plan have been submitted, and
- C. The Town Planning Department considers the application complete and in conformance with the requirements of Town Zoning Law §501, §600, §1103 and §1201, and
- D. A public hearing was held on February 18, 2021 with public comments registered in the meeting minutes and considered by this board, and
- E. The Tompkins County Planning Department has reviewed the application pursuant §239 -l, -m, and -n of the New York State General Municipal Law, and
- F. In a letter dated February 16, 2021, the Tompkins County Planning Department determined that they have no recommendations or comments on this proposal, and
- G. The Stormwater Management Officer reviewed the proposal and concluded that the site is already operating under a stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) filed with the NY Department of Environmental Conservation, and
- H. Pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”) and its implementing regulations at 6 NYCRR Part 617, the Town Board of the Town of Dryden has, on February 18, 2021, determined that this proposal is exempt from review since it is a Type II action under 6 CRR-NY 617.5 (c) (9), and
- I. The Town Board has reviewed this application relative to the considerations and standards found in Town Zoning Law §1104 for site plan review and §1202 for Special Use Permit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Town Board approves the sketch plan documents dated December 31, 2020 as site plan for 1622 Dryden Road, conditioned on the following prior to issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy:

- a. Any generator testing will take place between the weekday hours of 8-5.
- b. The buildings and fence fabric will be neutral colors.
- c. The proposed permanent access on the site plan will replace the temporary access within one year.

2. The Town Board hereby finds that the considerations for approval of the requested Special Use Permit listed in Section 1202 of the Town of Dryden Zoning Law have been met, specifically that:

- a. The proposed use is compatible with the other permitted uses in the Rural Residential district and compatible with the purpose of this district as public utility facilities are a permitted use in this zone and this parcel is located adjacent to the Route 13 right-of-way and other commercial businesses;
- b. The proposed use is compatible with adjoining properties and with the natural and manmade environment, as this proposal is for two 11 ft by 20 ft equipment shelters to be screened by fabric covered fencing and landscaping;
- c. Parking, vehicular circulation, and infrastructure for the proposed use is adequate. This facility will share a driveway with adjacent businesses;
- d. The overall impact on the site and its surroundings considering the environmental, social and economic impacts of traffic, noise, dust, odors, release of harmful substances, solid waste disposal, glare, or any other nuisances has been considered and found to be negligible, based on the low volume of traffic associated with this business and that generator noise will be mitigated;
- e. Restrictions and/or conditions on design of structures or operation of the use necessary to ensure compatibility with the surrounding uses or to protect the natural or scenic resources of the Town have been incorporated into the site plan;
- f. The project complies with the requirements for site plan review and conforms to the Town's Commercial Design Guidelines to the maximum extent practicable in that: the site is screened from residential uses by landscaping and the use of a neutral colored fabric to cover the fence.

3. The Town Board, finding that the applicant is in compliance with all other provisions of the Town Zoning Law and other applicable ordinances, approves a Special Use Permit for the public utility facility at 1622 Dryden Road with the Town of Dryden Standard Conditions of Approval as amended August 14, 2008.

2<sup>nd</sup> Cl Sparling

Roll Call Vote	Cl Sparling	Yes
	Cl Vargas-Mendez	Abstain
	Cl Skaley	Yes
	Cl Lamb	Yes
	Supv Leifer	Yes

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PUBLIC HEARING**

Supv Leifer opened the public hearing at 6:50 p.m. Cl Skaley said this public hearing is required in order for the Town to apply for CDBG funding to be used to help fund the sewer

replacement in the hamlet of Varna. The purpose of this hearing is to gather comment on the project and that goes into the application to the Office of Community Renewal which administers the funds. The town’s consultant, G & G Consulting, is preparing the application which must be completed and submitted prior to March 5, 2021. It is a tight schedule and following this hearing the board will consider a resolution to apply for the grant. The board passed other related resolutions in January.

There was a meeting today with Environmental Facilities Corporation and someone from the Department of Health on the water side of the project. The water application is being reviewed by the Department of Health. The sewer project was the bulk of the meeting this morning to discuss financing options and address some technical questions. Most issues were addressed. We will need to file our various agreements with the professionals with the application. The board will discuss the Minority Business officer later tonight. The financial consultant recommends going for a short-term loan from EFC with a near zero interest rate. We have submitted a new packet of information to EFC to review for scoring the project and are hopeful for some additional ranking that would put us up into a better position for longer term financing and the possibility of a hardship grant. The income survey conducted shows that we are at about 64% of the adjusted mean income. There will be more discussions with our consultants going forward with this.

Comments/questions:

Can work start by late summer/early fall? The board has approved TG Miller to move forward with surveys and engineering approaches needed to prepare a bid package. No RFPs will be issued until we have approval for financing from the Office of Community Renewal. No work can be commenced until approval of funding. There will be additional permits required from the Department of Health and NYS DOT.

There were no further comments or questions and the hearing was closed at 7:00 p.m.

**RESOLUTION #55 (2021) – APPLY FOR CDBG GRANT TO HELP FUND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE HAMLET OF VARNA**

Cl Skaley offered the following resolution and asked for its adoption:

Whereas, the Town of Dryden is proposing to replace aging sewer mains in the Consolidated Sewer District, and

Whereas, the Town has applied for funding at the Environmental Facilities Corporation and the NYS Department of Health, and

Whereas, the Town has held a public hearing for a CDBG grant as part of applying for additional support through the NYS Office of Community Renewal for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), be it therefore

Resolved that the Town of Dryden formally is submitting an application and seeking funding our Sewer infrastructure project through the Community Development Block Grant funds.

2<sup>nd</sup> Cl Sparling

Roll Call Vote	Cl Sparling	Yes
	Cl Vargas-Mendez	Yes
	Cl Skaley	Yes
	Cl Lamb	Yes

Supv Leifer                      Yes

## **COUNTY BRIEFING**

Martha Robertson reported that 211 can provide people trying to get a Covid vaccine with information, but cannot actually set up an appointment for them. There has been a pop-up site scheduled at GIAC for that community.

The Reimagining Public Safety report will be out on Monday and the public hearing will be held Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. The goal is to pass it by April 1, 2021.

The Urgent Care Clinic on Arrowood Drive has closed due to a staffing shortage. CMA representatives are sending people to the emergency department on the other side of lake. They can't reopen right now, but hope to reopen in Spring. Their nurses are being recruited by other states and by the state system to do vaccinations at state sites. Nurses are getting offers of \$10,000 a week to go to California or Florida. Because of that they are down about 15 nurses in the emergency department and ICU. They are rethinking the best way to provide this service in the future to the east side of the county.

M Robertson said she is chairing the Housing and Economic Development Committee as well as the Tompkins Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

## **PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

Board members have the monthly update and it is on the website. R Burger said TC3 is reinvigorating their effort to find some kind of a trail to connect the campus to the Village that does not encourage the use of Lee Road.

Borger Station has given notice that they intend to proceed with the 2.65 million dollar project to replace two compressors with an anticipated start date of April 1. The building permit application is expected soon.

The Dryden 2045 website was discussed. The recording labelled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> workshop (that was zoom bombed) is actually the recording for the 4<sup>th</sup> workshop. Supv Leifer would like the recording from the 3<sup>rd</sup> workshop to be edited to remove the hate speech comments. He noted the chat for workshop 2 is not available. R Burger said the chat file was lost due to a Zoom glitch. One of the EDR consultants noted the comments for Jane Rice who discussed the comment and it may have been put up on a sticky note. We do not have an exact transcript of the chat, but most were addressed in the video and audio. The consultants also took notes and the input was captured.

Supv Leifer would like the time to comment extended until March 3, 2021. R Burger will contact John Kiefer and the EDR consultants and let them know.

No date has been discussed for completion of a draft of the Comprehensive Plan. The contract goes through June and may have to be extended.

Cl Lamb commented that the last workshop went really well and it was a useful and productive meeting. He is amazed at the number of community members that believe the town is coming for their gas and woodstoves. The town has never been for that, it is not a goal, and is not making people switch their energy source.

## **HIGHWAY/DPW DEPARTMENT**

No report.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

**Dog Control Officer Appointment** – An offer letter of employment was sent to Jason Leonard. He will be paid through payroll and will track his time to gather information for next year’s budget. There may be a different plan for 2022 and the town will issue an RFP in the fall of 2021. J Leonard spoke with the board about the work to be done and tracking the data. It was noted this results an increase of about \$15,000 over the adopted budget.

**RESOLUTION #56 (2021) – APPOINT DOG CONTROL OFFICER**

Supv Leifer offered the following resolution and asked for its adoption:

RESOLVED, that this Town Board hereby appoints Jason Leonard as Dog Control Officer through December 31, 2021.

2<sup>nd</sup> Cl Lamb

Roll Call Vote	Cl Sparling	Yes
	Cl Vargas-Mendez	Yes
	Cl Skaley	Yes
	Cl Lamb	Yes
	Supv Leifer	Yes

**SJC/(IAWWTP) - City Harbor Guthrie Agreements** – This matter involves an easement for an underground sewer pipe that needs to be moved for the City Harbor project. The municipal owners of the Ithaca Area Wastewater Treatment Plant are surrendering the existing easement and it is being replaced directly by one on their property that will have the same function. A resolution has been received and reviewed by the board. Each municipality must approve it by a majority vote. Surrendering of the easement is a conveyance of real estate that requires the resolution be adopted subject to permissive referendum.

**RESOLUTION #57 (2021) - APPROVE THE FOLLOWING AGREEMENTS: (A) AMENDMENT TO EASEMENT FOR OUTFALL PIPE FACILITIES, (B) AGREEMENT FOR ACCESS TO AND USE OF EFFLUENT AND ACCESS AGREEMENT, (C) EASEMENT TERMINATION AND RELOCATION AGREEMENT, AND (D) PROXIMITY DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT**

Supv Leifer offered the following resolution and asked for its adoption:

WHEREAS, City Harbor, LLC, a New York limited liability company (“City Harbor”) is the owner of certain real property located at 101 Pier Road in the City of Ithaca, County of Tompkins, State of New York, designated as Tax Map Parcel Number 17.-1-1.3 (the “City Harbor Property”); and

WHEREAS, The Guthrie Clinic, a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation (“Guthrie” and, together with City Harbor, “Developers”), is the owner of certain real property located at 101 Pier Road in the City of Ithaca, County of Tompkins, State of New York, designated as Tax Map Parcel Number 17.-1-1.2 (the “Guthrie Property”); and

WHEREAS, the City of Ithaca, Town of Ithaca, and Town of Dryden (the “Municipalities”) collectively own and operate the Ithaca Area Wastewater Treatment Facility located at 525 Third Street in the City of Ithaca, County of Tompkins, State of New York (the “Facility”); and

WHEREAS, the Developers have met multiple times with the Special Joint Committee (the “SJC”) of the Facility and its designated representatives to discuss plans for development of the City Harbor Property and the Guthrie Property which involve multiple agreements with the Municipalities, and

WHEREAS, on August 21, 2019, the SJC adopted a resolution recommending the Municipalities enter into an agreement with City Harbor allowing its use of Facility effluent to heat and cool a development on City Harbor Property, pursuant to specified terms and conditions, and such effluent is also proposed to be used to heat and cool a development on Guthrie Property; and

WHEREAS, in relation with the developments on the City Harbor Property and Guthrie Property, on June 17, 2020, the SJC adopted a resolution recommending the Municipalities release a sewer easement, abandon in place an unused 30” outfall, and enter into a replacement easement with Developers; and

WHEREAS, representatives of the SJC and staff have negotiated the following four agreements with Developers: (A) Amendment to Easement for Outfall Pipe Facilities, (B) Agreement for Access To and Use of Effluent and Access Agreement, (C) Easement Termination and Relocation Agreement, and (D) Proximity Disclosure Agreement; and

WHEREAS, on May 26, 2020, the City Planning and Development Board, acting as Lead Agency in a coordinated environmental review of the Type I City Harbor and Guthrie developments, determined that the proposed City Harbor and Guthrie developments, and related actions encompassing the four agreements, will result in no significant adverse impacts on the environment, and the City Planning and Development Board issued a negative declaration of environmental significance for purposes of Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law and 6 NYCRR Part 617 New York State Environmental Quality Review; and

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2020, the SJC approved a resolution recommending approval of the four agreements, contingent on all Municipalities approving each agreement and on all such approvals becoming effective, and the SJC further recommended that the effective date of all four agreements occur simultaneously; and

(A) AMENDMENT TO EASEMENT FOR OUTFALL PIPE FACILITIES

WHEREAS, the Facility discharges treated sewage effluent (the “Effluent”) into Cayuga Lake by way of an outfall pipe owned by Municipalities (the “Discharge Pipe”) that runs through the City Harbor Property pursuant to an easement granted to the City of Ithaca (as Agent-Municipality, acting on behalf of itself, the Town of Ithaca, and the Town of Dryden, as tenants in common); and

WHEREAS, the Developers and Municipalities wish to amend this easement to establish and confirm the rights of City Harbor to construct and maintain within the easement parcel certain facilities and improvements necessary for the development and use of the City Harbor Property and the Guthrie Property (the “Amendment to Easement for Outfall Pipe Facilities”); and

(B) AGREEMENT FOR ACCESS TO AND USE OF EFFLUENT AND ACCESS AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, Developers intend to access and utilize the Effluent flowing through the Discharge Pipe in order to provide for the heating and cooling of improvements to be constructed upon the City Harbor Property and Guthrie Property, pursuant to a certain Agreement for Access To and Use of Effluent and Access Agreement by and among City Harbor, Guthrie, and Municipalities (the “Effluent Use Agreement”); and



(C) EASEMENT TERMINATION AND RELOCATION AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, as authorized in the Municipalities' 1984 Joint Sewer Agreement, the City holds for the benefit of the three municipal owners of the Facility rights to (1) a 10-foot wide sewer easement, and (2) a 30" outfall pipe (30" Outfall) located therein that served the old City wastewater treatment plant and has not been used since the Facility began operations, ("Sewer Easement"); and

WHEREAS, City Harbor and Guthrie, property owners of the respective tax map parcels 17.-1-1.3 and 17-1-1.2 on which the Sewer Easement is located, have requested that the Municipalities release rights to the Sewer Easement and 30" Outfall; and

WHEREAS, City Harbor has offered to convey to the Municipalities a 20-foot wide replacement easement to run between Cascadilla Creek and the City property line along Pier Road (the "Replacement Easement"); and

WHEREAS, City of Ithaca and Town of Ithaca staff recognize the release of rights to the Sewer Easement and 30" Outfall and acceptance of the Replacement Easement offered by the Property Owners would not be detrimental to the Municipalities; and

WHEREAS, in consideration for, and to cover the expenses of, the release of its rights to the Sewer Easement and 30" Outfall, the Developers have agreed to pay the City of Ithaca \$2,500, and

WHEREAS, the Municipalities must undertake individual processes to authorize divestment of real property, which are subject to permissive referendum; and

(D) PROXIMITY DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, in connection with and as consideration for the execution of the Effluent Use Agreement and Easement Termination and Relocation Agreement among Developers and Municipalities that will allow improvements to be built on Developers' properties, Municipalities have requested from Developers, and Developers have agreed to provide to Municipalities, a commitment to disclose their respective Property's proximity to the Facility to each purchaser of or tenant leasing space within, upon, or for maritime docking adjacent to their Property;

now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that subject to the approval of the Attorney for the Town, and subject to a permissive referendum as permitted by law for the approval of the Easement Termination and Relocation Agreement, that the Town Board of the Town of Dryden approves the following agreements and authorizes their execution by the Town Supervisor: (A) Amendment to Easement for Outfall Pipe Facilities, (B) Agreement for Access To and Use of Effluent and Access Agreement, (C) Easement Termination and Relocation Agreement, and (D) Proximity Disclosure Agreement, contingent on all Municipalities approving each agreement and on all such approvals becoming effective; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the four agreements shall be finalized so that the effective date of the: (A) Amendment to Easement for Outfall Pipe Facilities, (B) Agreement for Access To and Use of Effluent and Access Agreement, (C) Easement Termination and Relocation Agreement, and (D) Proximity Disclosure Agreement occur simultaneously; and be it further

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Town Law section 64(6) the Supervisor is authorized and requested to sign and deliver this resolution as the act of the Town of Dryden.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Cl Vargas-Mendez

Roll Call Vote	Cl Sparling	Yes
	Cl Vargas-Mendez	Yes
	Cl Skaley	Yes
	Cl Lamb	Yes
	Supv Leifer	Yes

**Correct 2015 Payment Fund -**

**Resolution #58 - (2021) Correcting 2015 Payment from TA Fund to A Fund**

Supv Leifer offered the following resolution and asked for its adoption:

Whereas, in 2015 the Town of Dryden paid \$1,000 to the Intergeneration Band incorrectly from the TA 29 account line.

Whereas, funds were received in 2015 from the Tompkins County Community Funds for the Intergenerational Band and deposited in the A Fund.

Whereas, due to the incorrect reporting of the expenditure, it has made the TA 29 account line carry a negative balance.

Whereas, due to new reporting on the 2020 New York State AUD, the Bookkeeper is trying to ensure the TA fund account is correct and the reporting will be simplified.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Board approves the transfer of funds from TA 29 Misc. of \$1,000.00 to A 7989.407 Recreation – Misc. Grant effective February 22, 2021.

2<sup>nd</sup> Cl Sparling

Roll Call Vote	Cl Sparling	Yes
	Cl Vargas-Mendez	Yes
	Cl Skaley	Yes
	Cl Lamb	Yes
	Supv Leifer	Yes

**Budget Modification** – A budget modification is necessary in the Yellow Barn Water account from fund balance to cover personnel services.

**RESOLUTION #59 (2021) – APPROVE BUDGET MODIFICATION**

Supv Leifer offered the following resolution and asked for its adoption:

RESOLVED, that this Town Board hereby approves the following budget modification:

	From			To	
(1,745.41)	SW7 599	Fund Balance	1,745.41	SW7 8340.1	Personnel Serv

2<sup>nd</sup> Cl Skaley

Roll Call Vote	Cl Sparling	Yes
	Cl Vargas-Mendez	Yes
	Cl Skaley	Yes
	Cl Lamb	Yes

Supv Leifer

Yes

**Virtual Meeting Protocol** – Cl Lamb presented a document (attached) to be sent to board and commission chairs with recommendations for increasing security in virtual meetings to help prevent zoom bombings and hacks. After discussion, there will be a recommendation about the chat settings added and it will be distributed.

#### **ADVISORY BOARD UPDATES**

**Planning Board** – Cl Lamb reported a portion of the meeting was devoted to debriefing on the comp plan meeting the night before and resolving how to move forward. The Planning Board approved the site plan for Incodema at 1920 Slaterville Road. Incodema will be moving their operation from the City of Ithaca to Dryden.

**Freese Road Bridge** – Cl Lamb said he had received favorable feedback on the possibility of moving the bridge to Groton. This will result in changing the plan and having to go through the findings document again. Knowing what the preference is, we should be able to accomplish that fairly quickly. This week the Village and/or Town of Groton will send a letter of interest to acquire the Freese Road and Red Mill Road bridges to him. He will forward that to DOT, Federal Highway and SHPO. The intent is to put the bridges on display in Groton.

He said the town will not put a concrete bridge on Freese Road like the one on Red Mill Road. We have the option of a steel truss-style bridge with a historical look that will stick with the parameters previously discussed (single lane with traffic signaling, pedestrian walkway and lookout nook). The project may come in under budget since we don't have the expense of tearing apart the old bridge and using portions on the new bridge. The new structure will be less expensive to maintain going forward and should not be more than the funding we were granted.

**Planning Board Vacancy** – Cl Lamb reported that Linda Wagenet is interested in the position and is qualified. He noted the position had been held open while the board searched for some gender diversity.

Cl Sparling said he recalled the request for diversity but not necessarily gender diversity. He thinks we need to have a clearer timeline when appointing people to committees and boards. He understands delaying the decision in January to allow for more applications, but we haven't received more since early January. He doesn't think it is right to have applicants waiting on the board's decision for two going on three months. He knows the Planning Board can continue to function in its current configuration, but doesn't think it is right to hold open a seat for two to three months while we have qualified candidates. We owe it to people who have applied to give them a "no" in a timely fashion if they are not in contention for the vacancy. Personally, he believes that Steve Foote is a qualified candidate. He has served on the Ag Committee for six years and now wants to take on a new challenge. He also has the full support of the Ag Committee as set forth in their resolution. Having a farmer on the Planning Board would be a good idea because she or he would be able to provide a unique perspective on the town's plans for development. He supports Steve Foote for this vacancy.

Cl Lamb believes there may have been some disconnect; he thought it was clear that the town wanted a female for the position. Cl Skaley said he has tried unsuccessfully to find a female candidate. Supv Leifer is in favor of appointing a female to the Planning Board, but would not be opposed to appointing Steve Foote when another vacancy occurs. He added that we also need some age diversity.

Craig Schutt said he has known Linda Wagenet for years. She is a great person and he enjoyed working with her, but she has never put in an application for anything in the town.

Steve Foote brings diversity because of his ag background. Municipal law mentions that town boards should appoint someone from agriculture if they are available. There are people who have been willing to serve. It isn't easy to find someone from agriculture to apply.

Cl Sparling suggested the board work on a policy and make it clear what we are looking for. Candidates should be promptly notified if they are not what the board is currently looking for.

Supv Leifer said we need to do a better job of recruiting and creating diversity on all of our boards and committees. The board will wait on receiving the application from L Wagenet before making the appointment.

**Conservation Board** – Peter Davies has stepped down and the Chair recommends that Andrew Miller be moved from alternate to member.

**RESOLUTION #60 (2021) – APPOINT CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER – MILLER**

Cl Sparling offered the following resolution and asked for its adoption:

RESOLVED, that this Town Board hereby appoints Andrew Miller to the Conservation Board to fill the seat vacated by Peter Davies with a term expiring December 31, 2021.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Supv Leifer

Roll Call Vote	Cl Sparling	Yes
	Cl Vargas-Mendez	Yes
	Cl Skaley	Yes
	Cl Lamb	Yes
	Supv Leifer	Yes

**Recreation & Youth Commission** – Cl Sparling reported that Willow Running was happy with their event here and there may be 5K on Dairy Day. There was discussion about the recreation field. There was a question put out about how seniors can become a more vital part of our community.

**Ag Advisory Committee** – Cl Sparling reported the committee met twice and passed the attached resolution on February 17 which has been presented to Town Board members. They also discussed stretch energy code and will do more research on that. The resolution addresses the Comprehensive Plan and what is important to the Ag Committee in that plan. The board discussed the resolution. Supv Leifer suggested that the Board of Realtors would be a good place to start education and they could be provided with materials to pass on. Information could also be put on the town website.

**Rail Trail Task Force** – Cl Lamb said the MOU for the rail trail through the Game Farm was signed and sent to Albany. The town will need to get engineered, stamped plans for the surface improvements (2" of stone dust) to the trail through the Game Farm. B Beck said he has talked to TG Miller about preparing a stamped plan. We will also need approval for the renovation of the trestles.

**Safety & Preparedness Committee** – New members were appointed last week.

**Climate Smart** – Supv Leifer said he is still waiting on the purchase agreement for the LED lighting project. Cl Sparling reported they discussed the new clean energy actions guidance. John Kiefer drafted a resolution for the Climate Smart Community to adopt the New York Stretch Code that passed unanimously, and he will bring that resolution to the Planning Board.

**Broadband Committee** – Supv Leifer and Cl Lamb will meet with someone from a town in Idaho to see how they are running their system. They met earlier in the week with a representative from USDA Rural Development who seemed positive about the town applying again for ReConnect funding and securing a grant. Our project fits the USDA Rural Connect program that has \$750,000,000 this time around. The grant application would be submitted in July with announcements by the end of the year.

**CITIZENS PRIVILEGE**

None

**OTHER BUSINESS**

It was noted that we still have openings on the Recreation & Youth Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals.

Cl Skaley would like to schedule a zoom call with our financial consultant and bond counsel for Monday or Tuesday next week.

The town needs to have a Minority Business Officer in place for certain grant applications for federal money. Supv Leifer agreed to serve in that capacity. If a resolution is necessary, it can be done at the March 2 special meeting.

With respect to the AOT Conference, Cl Sparling reported that all nominations were approved and all resolutions passed.

There being no further business, on motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bambi L. Avery  
Town Clerk

**MEMO**

To: All Town of Dryden Advisory Board Chairs/Zoom meeting hosts  
From: Supervisor and Town Board  
Re: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INCREASING SECURITY IN ZOOM MEETINGS  
Date:

---

There's an active role for meeting hosts in reducing disruptions. Everyone needs familiarity with the security button functions.

- All town advisory board hosts should review these links:
  - <https://zoom.us/docs/doc/Securing%20Your%20Zoom%20Meetings.pdf>
  - [Zoom Security Features: Reduce the Odds of Zoombombing | IT@Cornell](#)
- Anyone hosting a meeting on behalf of the town needs to be familiar with using appropriate pre-meeting and in-meetings settings. For instance, if screen sharing, you must disable attendees from annotating so full control is maintained for writing on the screen.
- Hosts should authorize at least one co-host to help with meeting management.
- Waiting rooms must be used and we recommend not admitting anyone without a full name displayed, (unless participating by phone).
- Disable participants from renaming themselves while in a meeting. We also recommend turning off the use of profile images.
- Host and co-hosts should be aware of the security function that allows the suspension of all participant activities at any point during a meeting. This option gives the host a chance to get things under control in critical situations.
- Options for muting all participants and removing disruptive guests need to be understood and used. Our public meetings carry 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment rights, so these actions should be used sparingly and only to ensure that work can be conducted.
- Even with these steps, online open meetings may still encounter disruptive behavior. We can't guarantee meeting security and must recognize and accept the risks that go with conducting town business in this period.
- If your meeting is disrupted, please report the incident to the Supervisor.

Whereas the Town of Dryden is in the process of updating the Comprehensive Plan, and;

Whereas the Agriculture Advisory Committee reviewed the 2045 website and the materials being considered and used in the Comprehensive Plan update process with a view towards its possible impact on agriculture, and;

Whereas the residents of Dryden value our rural setting, and wish to maintain our open landscape, and support the Dryden farming community, current and future, is very important, and;

Whereas the Dryden dairy farmers have been long outstanding stewards of the land and improved management techniques have reduced the environmental impacts of the farms,

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the Agriculture Advisory Committee recommends that the following items are of great importance and should be strongly considered in the Comprehensive Plan update;

- More opportunities for farmers markets in the Town of Dryden.
- Support for increased production of produce and meat to sell locally.
- Retaining the right to farm law.
- Retaining the right to convert small plots of open land to berry, small fruit, or vegetable production.
- Assurance that all zoning is welcoming to new farmers.
- Public education about agricultural practices, including, but not limited to, Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs). This could include educational materials to be sent to the local Board of Realtors.
- Continued preservation of our clean waterways in two drainage districts: the Chesapeake Bay and St. Lawrence River.

S Foote 1<sup>st</sup>- M McRae 2<sup>nd</sup>- All in favor