

Colden Planning Board Meeting

January 23, 2024

Planning Board
Members Present: Walt Kammer (Chairman), Andrew Gow,
George Reinhardt, Cheryl Schenne, and Bobby Walker

Excused: Dakota Forgione and John Riley

Also Present: Jim DePasquale (Town Supervisor), Carrie DePasquale
(Assistant Recreation Supervisor), Tom Dziulko (Fire
Inspector/Asst Code – Enf. Officer),
Garry Pietraszek (Councilman), and Jesse Hrycik (Councilman)

The January 23, 2024 Planning Board Meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by Walt in the courtroom at the Colden Town Hall.

Walt explained that Bernie from Rotella and Wendy Salvati (WWS) couldn't attend the meeting. Walt indicated that the Town arranged for Wendy to attend virtually but technology problems at Wendy's end made that interaction impossible so the dialog with Rotella was tabled.

The Board Members reviewed the September 19, 2023 minutes and Cheryl motioned to approve the minutes and George seconded. The motion passed unanimously, with Bobby abstaining (not present for that meeting).

Colden Comprehensive Plan Update

Walt mentioned the comments that were submitted by Bobby and Andy and they were forwarded to Justin Steinbach (CPL). CPL agreed to execute those changes as a condition of Planning Board advisory approval and recommendation to the Town Board for adoption. CPL agreed. Walt requested to have the draft copy updated with the changes well prior to the announcement of the Town Board action(s). Justin agreed to make the changes within five working days. The Town Board will be able to schedule the Public Hearing at their February meeting. Bobby made a motion to approve the submittal of the Planning Board advisory action for the Colden Comprehensive Plan Update; that was emailed by Walt on Friday, January 19, 2024 at 5:21PM and Andy seconded. All were in favor. Walt will send that recommendation to the Town Board.

Grant Support

Walt reviewed that Bernie from Rotella and Carrie DePasquale spoke at the last coordination meeting in September 2023 regarding the Parks and Recreation program and the grant available for playground equipment that meets ADA standards. At least two items were under consideration at that time, (1) creation of a Colden Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and (2) update of playground equipment to be ADA compliant.

Consideration is underway for a new support building at the park, storage, equipment protection, Parks & Recreation Office area, etc. Walt reviewed the proposed new building under consideration for the park. Walt mentioned, as per Wendy Salvati (WWS) a septic system needs to be installed before the funding would be issued (this should be clarified). The Town Engineer is working on the high-level planning for the building at the location suggested by the parks department staff. Another potential project might be related to the area where the new disc golf course is being created. Walt reviewed the potentially nice wooded area adjacent or near the disc golf course; it might be nice to have ADA-compliant accessible trails generally following the new disc golf course. This might be a pleasant ADA trail in a natural wooded area as the “path clearing” for the golf course might make that use reasonable.

More possible projects were discussed. Walt reviewed that the Town Attorney will need to be involved with the ECRT use of sidewalks near the school and bridge. Possible sidewalk and bridge safety upgrades might have possible funding under a NYS safe routes to school grant initiative. routes. There’s a grant for safe routes to school. The ECRT aspect of the project will require a Change of Use (CoU) and building permits for trail overpass bridges, along with a SEQR per NYS mandates. Supervisor Jim DePasquale mentioned that redoing the bridge would require building a bigger sidewalk with more protection for the bridge’s sidewalk. Jim also mentioned that the county should help with the process and as we will need Engineer plans for redoing the sidewalk.

On a different topic, specifically the erosion damage to Murray Hill Rd, Supervisor Jim DePasquale mentioned to the Board Members that the Town applied for FEMA money for initial Murray Hill work.

The other issue related to ECRT coordination relates to the existing “humpback” bridge on Mill Street just west of State Rd. That bridge’s conditions will not allow large fire and EMS vehicle passage to the homes west on Mill St. Of course, an ongoing renovation is also underway near that existing bridge. Specifically, Walt referenced the local church being converted into a single-family home, and while the bridge is not needed for that project entry and egress (driveway is on State Rd), the small distance between the former church and Mill St is rather small. So that parcel’s landscaping and topographic layout might be impacted. To bring the bridge to modern standards is a major expense, thus legal coordination with ECRT (managers of the old railbed to trail project) as well as engineering is needed. Grant funding for engineering studies or for bridge reconstruction would be a great aid to resolution of the bridge problem for EMS and First Responder access to the Mill St homes to the west.

Walt reviewed the Senior Center and Town Hall parking lots pavement status. The Town Board agreed to have the Highway Department chip/seal both lots as a temporary safety measure. Discussion with Walt reviewed that improving the surface integrity of the parking lots is a safety matter as well as improving ADA access to both the Senior Center and the Town Hall building.

Walt reviewed that Wendy is working with the Town Clerk for LGMF grants related to electronic document storage.

Walt reviewed the lighting district and the process for NYSEG to update the Hamlet of Colden historic lighting poles to LED. After months of interaction that hasn't been resolved and it appears that no reasonable fiscal solution with NYSEG or NYSERDA is likely. Therefore the focus of our LED upgrade might shift to other grant mechanisms for ADA, public safety, homeland security, and other sources different than "saving energy costs". Walt is currently searching for a grant that might be able to help cut down the Town's costs for newer lighting options in the hamlet.

Walt reviewed the topics at a high level and all details will be deferred to the next Planning Board meeting.

No new business was discussed.

Andy motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 PM, and Bobby seconded. All were in favor.

Submitted by: Crystal Barrett