

## TOWN OF CLIFTON PARK TOWN BOARD

October 6, 2025

The meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Clifton Park was held in the Town Office Building at 7:01 p.m. Supervisor Barrett presiding.

## Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Supervisor Barrett  
 Councilman Morelli  
 Councilwoman Reid  
 Councilman Manir  
 Councilwoman Walowit  
 Town Clerk Ranze

Also Present: Paul Pelagalli, Attorney  
 Mark Heggen, Comptroller  
 Michael Woerner, Director of Parks & Recreation  
 Daniel Clemens, Director of Buildings, Parks & Recreation  
 Michael O'Brien, Collection System Manager – Sewer Department  
 John Scavo, Director of Planning & Zoning

MINUTES

MOTION by Councilwoman Walowit, seconded by Councilman Morelli, to approve the Town Board minutes of September 15, 2025, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Morelli, Councilwoman Reid, Councilman Manir, Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Councilwoman Reid** – Clifton Park Canal Fest will be held October 11-12 in the Hamlet Historic District of Vischer Ferry, to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Erie Canal. Events include historic marker dedication, parade, children's activities, food trucks, historic reenactments, tours, wagon rides, and photo contest voting. There will be temporary road closures in that area. Appreciation was extended to the volunteers and staff for their efforts.

**Supervisor Barrett** – The 2026 tentative Budget has been submitted, beginning the formal review process with upcoming workshops and a public hearing. The General Fund totals \$24 million, and the Highway Fund totals \$7.578 million. There will again be no General Fund tax in 2026. The Highway Fund tax is proposed at \$36.12 and the EMS tax at \$36.40 for a home valued at \$300,000. The budget includes a 3.5% employee Cost-of-Living Adjustment, accounts for rising health care and retirement costs, and remains within the state tax cap. Pending state legislation regarding EMS funding could affect future budgets. Clifton Park continues to provide high-quality services while maintaining one of the lowest tax rates in New York Stat.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

**Proposed amendments to Town Code to add Chapters 152 & 153 related to Prohibited Acts – Metal Detectors**

**Linda Seymour** – On behalf of the Historic Preservation Commission, we support the resolution's language clarification and request assistance in public outreach, suggesting inclusion in the Parks & Recreation bulletins and on the Town website. Emphasizing the importance of

informing residents that items on Town Property are not to be removed. Introducing Sue Thompson to provide additional context from an archaeological perspective.

**Sue Thompson** – Speaking on behalf of the Historic Preservation Commission, emphasized the importance of adopting the proposed law to protect the archaeological record on Town property. Explains that unauthorized digging destroys the context needed to accurately date artifacts and understand historical sites, noting that when items are removed improperly, valuable information is permanently lost.

**Dave Dittmer** – Expressed support of the proposal but raised a practical concern. Asking whether an exemption could be included in the law to allow the use of a metal detector by someone attempting to recover a lost personal item, such as a wedding ring, on Town Property.

**Supervisor Barrett** – Yes there would be an exemption for something of that nature.

### **Proposed amendments to Town Code Chapters 73 and 208 relating to short-term rentals**

**Supervisor Barrett** – Explains that this topic is being addressed at the state, county, and local levels. As part of the process, a SEQR negative declaration must be approved in conjunction with the hearing, referencing the resolution included in the meeting packet. This action is required in conjunction with the public hearing and any future regulatory measures that may follow as statewide standards develop.

Resolution No. 215 was read and put to a vote.

**Supervisor Barrett** – Stated that state and county regulations on short-term rentals are being finalized. The county occupancy tax and rental registry await the Governor's approval. Once enacted, rental companies will report listings to the county. The Town will manage annual inspections and permitting to ensure compliance.

**Priscilla Kelly and Ruth Finnegan** – Sisters that own a short-term rental, questioned the proposed primary residence requirement, asking if it originated from the Town or the State. They shared positive experiences with their short-term rental of a non-primary home and expressed concern the rule may be too restrictive.

**Supervisor Barrett** – Confirmed it is a Town provision. Noting that Clifton Park has few short-term rentals, the Town is being proactive in preparing for upcoming state and county regulations, and that no vote would occur this evening until county feedback and additional public input are received.

### **Proposed amendments to Town Code Chapter 93 relating to regulation of animal kennels and boarding facilities**

**Supervisor Barrett** – Announced that the Saratoga County Animal Abuser Registry has been approved and will be implemented within 90 days. He thanked those involved in advancing the initiative and highlighted the County Animal Shelter's role in rescuing and rehabilitating abused animals. Noting a regulatory gap in health and safety oversight for boarding houses and kennels, which are not inspected by NYS Agriculture and Markets. To address this, the Town is introducing local legislation requiring health and safety inspections for these facilities. The goal of working cooperatively with responsible businesses, ensuring pet safety, and strengthening consumer confidence, without imposing excessive costs or regulations. Recognizing Senator Jim Tedisco, thanking him for his statewide legislation proposing a New York State Animal Abuser Registry. Noting that while many counties have established local registries, a statewide system would be the most effective solution, preventing offenders from evading detection by moving between counties. Asked Senator Tedisco to speak on the matter.

**Senator Jim Tedisco** – Praised Clifton Park and Saratoga County for leadership on the Animal Abuser Registry, calling it an important public safety measure. He noted that animal cruelty often precedes violence against humans and supports stronger state action. He outlined his bipartisan legislation to establish a statewide Animal Abuser Registry, increase penalties under Buster's Law, require mental health evaluations for offenders, allow judges to revoke pet ownership, and protect animals left in vehicles. Commended local officials for being proactive in

addressing animal welfare and public safety. Commended Clifton Park and Saratoga County for creating the Animal Abuser Registry, noting that animal cruelty is linked to violent crime. Thanked the Town Board and residents for their support, emphasizing that progress comes from communication between elected officials and the public. Expressing pride in representing Saratoga County, praising the community's leadership and positive example.

**Supervisor Barrett** – Thanked Senator Tedisco for his leadership and said the Town supports statewide animal welfare legislation, including abuser registries and kennel oversight. He noted that while a statewide system would be ideal, local, and county measures will continue until such laws are enacted.

**Glen Clements** – Thanked Supervisor Barrett, the Town Board and Senator Tedisco for their commitment to animal welfare. He suggested that the Town and State consider requiring or encouraging kennels to have backup power systems, such as generators, to protect animals during power outages and extreme heat events. Proposed that the State explore tax incentives or financial assistance to help facilities install generators, noting the importance of preparedness as severe weather becomes more frequent.

**Senator Jim Tedisco** – Explained that the proposed law requires continuous on-site supervision of animals and temperature monitoring systems in kennels. If temperatures fall outside safe limits, operators must take immediate action, such as using generators or relocating animals, to ensure their safety and well-being.

**Supervisor Barrett** – Recommended improving Town-County communication with boarding houses and kennels so operators feel comfortable reporting issues early, helping address problems like temperature of safety concerns more effectively.

**Councilman Morelli** – shared a personal story about his dog being boarded at a facility where animals suffered neglect, highlighting the need for stronger kennel oversight. Saying the proposed Town legislation will address issues like climate control, nutrition, and inspections by Animal Control and Code Enforcement. Thanked Senator Tedisco and local partners for their collaboration and said the goal is to ensure all pets in Clifton Park and Saratoga County are safely cared for.

**Supervisor Barrett** – Thanked Councilman Morelli for his support in helping to promote and advocated for the Saratoga County Animal Abuser Registry, noting that his efforts to publicize the initiative and speak before county committees and the Board of Supervisors were instrumental in gaining public and legislative support for its passage.

**Councilwoman Walowit** – Reflected on the Time for Paws incident, thanking Councilman Morelli, Senator Tedisco, and Town officials for addressing animal safety. Noting how the situation became personal for the community, praised those who rescued and adopted affected animals, and supported the new kennel oversight measures to prevent future tragedies.

**Councilwoman Reid** – Thanked Animal Control Officer Terry Cook and her team for their dedication and support of animal welfare. Acknowledged the senator's efforts on state legislation, agreed livestock should be excluded due to practical concerns for farms, and noted working with the Town Attorney to draft similar local laws addressing neglect and abuse, including livestock cases. Commended the County for creating the Animal Abuse Offender Registry as a strong step toward protecting animals and ensuring accountability. Thanking the Senator for addressing the issue at the state level and agreed that livestock should be excluded from certain stipulations like climate control as it is not practical for farms.

**Attorney Paul Pelagalli** – Met with Councilwoman Reid and Animal Control Officer Terry Cook to refine local animal welfare laws. Separate legislation is being developed for livestock, distinct from the existing law covering domestic animals. The amendment would clarify definitions – such as temperature standards for animals in vehicles and boarding facilities – and specify that it applies to dogs, cats, and other animals over four months old, excluding livestock. Councilwoman Reid highlighted that stables differ from kennels, as temperature and shelter requirements are not the same, reinforcing the need for different standards.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 215 of 2025, a resolution to adopt a Local Law amending Chapter 208 of the Town Code to Define and Regulate Short-Term Rentals, Clifton Park, NY.

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Clifton Park proposes to adopt a Local Law amending Chapter 208 of the Town Code to include a definition for “Short-Term Rental” and establish regulatory requirements for such uses within the Town’s zoning framework, and

WHEREAS, the proposed action has been reviewed pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and has been classified as a Type I Action under 6 NYCRR Part 617.4(b)(2), and

WHEREAS, the Town Board, as Lead Agency, has caused to be prepared a Full Environmental Assessment Form (FEAF) Parts 1 and 2, and has duly considered the criteria for determining significance as set forth in 6 NYCRR Part 617.7, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has reviewed the proposed local law, the FEAF, and all supporting documentation, and finds that the proposed action will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Clifton Park, as Lead Agency, hereby determines that the proposed action will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and hereby issues a Negative Declaration pursuant to SEQRA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to sign the SEQRA Negative Declaration and file the Notice of Determination of Non-Significance in accordance with the requirements of 6 NYCRR Part 617.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Morelli, Councilman Manir, Councilwoman Reid, Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

Absent:

## DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 216 of 2025, a resolution adopting a local law to amend Town Code Chapters 152 and 153 regarding prohibiting the use or possession of metal detectors in Town nature preserves and parks.

Introduced by Councilman Morelli, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Reid.

WHEREAS, concerns have been raised regarding the use of handheld metal detectors in Town nature preserves and parks, and

WHEREAS, by using such devices, artifacts and items of historical significance can be obtained and possessed by private individuals, and

WHEREAS, use and possession of metal detectors are prohibited on land owned by the State of New York, and

WHEREAS, artifacts and items of historical significance unearthed on Town land are the property of the Town of Clifton Park, and

WHEREAS, on October 06, 2025, the Town Board conducted a public hearing on the proposal to prohibit the use of possession of metal detectors in Town nature preserves and parks, and

WHEREAS, public comment having been received and considered by the Town Board; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby adopts Local Law No. 11 of 2025, to amend Town Code Chapters 152 and 153; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this local law shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Morelli, Councilman Manir, Councilwoman Reid, Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 217 of 2025, a resolution adopting a local law to amend Town Code Chapter 93 regarding regulation of animal kennels and boarding facilities.

Introduced by Councilman Morelli, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Reid.

WHEREAS, there have been several occurrences in Saratoga County, and in counties in proximity to Saratoga County, of animal neglect and abuse at facilities for kenneling and boarding animals, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board intends to provide the Town’s Animal Control Officers, Code Enforcement Officers, and Fire Marshall with the authority to inspect and regulate facilities for kenneling and boarding of animals, and

WHEREAS, on October 06, 2025, the Town conducted a public hearing on the proposed regulation of animal kennels and boarding facilities in the Town of Clifton Park, and

WHEREAS, public comment having been received and considered by the Town Board; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby adopts Local Law No. \_\_ of 2025 to amend Chapter 93 of the Town Code to add §93-4, §93-5, §93-6, §93-7, §93-8 and §93-9, all related to animal kennels and boarding facilities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this local law shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Morelli, Councilman Manir, Councilwoman Reid, Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 218 of 2025, a resolution authorizing compensation to residents of Rustic Bridge Road.

Introduced by Councilwoman Walowit, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Morelli.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) commenced a project to lay a power line from Quebec, Canada to Astoria, Queens, New York; and

WHEREAS, the project has included considerable work for an extensive period of time on and near Rustic Bridge Road in the Town of Clifton Park; and

WHEREAS, twenty-six residences on Rustic Bridge Road have been damaged due to the many large trucks and excavation apparatus involved in the CHPE project; and

WHEREAS, CHPE has agreed to pay compensation to Saratoga County towns, including Clifton Park; and

WHEREAS, payments will begin to be received in 2026; now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, that the twenty-six identified residences and households located on Rustic Bridge Road shall each receive a one-time payment of \$2,500 as compensation for the damage caused by the CHPE project; and be it further  
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RESOLVED, that payments shall be made from funds received from CHPE pursuant to the agreement reached between Saratoga County and CHPE.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Morelli, Councilman Manir, Councilwoman Reid, Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

**Councilman Morelli** – Discussed the ongoing disruptions caused by the Champlain Hudson Power Express project, noting that twenty-six residents on Rustic Bridge Road have endured years of noise, dust, and traffic. Propose that the Town Board consider a one-time payment to compensate those residents, using revenue the town will receive from the project.

**Supervisor Barrett** – Spoke of the Champlain Hudson Power Express project caused major, long-term disruptions for Rustic Bridge Road residents, including heavy noise and traffic. The company will repave part of the road, and the town will finish the rest. Proposed using a portion of future project revenue for a one-time payment to affected residents as fair compensation for their hardship.

**Supervisor Barrett** – Noted that agenda item number four, concerning the abandonment and continuance of a portion of Sunset Street, is still under review and will not be acted on at the current Town Board meeting. The Board will therefore proceed to item number five.

Resolution No. 219 of 2025, a resolution to authorize the Comptroller’s Department to purchase replacement credit card machines from Clover, in agreement with Key Bank Merchant Services, the Town credit card provider.

Introduced by Councilwoman Reid, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Manir.

WHEREAS, the Town has been notified by Key Bank that the current Clover credit card systems have reached the end of their support and maintenance provision, resulting in the Town being unable to obtain service and security updates on the devices, and

WHEREAS, the Comptroller wishes to purchase new credit card machines, as noted on the attached Schedule A, that will integrate into the Town’s current system, both in person and online, and

WHEREAS, Key Bank Merchant Services, the Town’s credit card provider, has provided a quote for replacement credit card machines from Clover, at a cost not to exceed \$8,025, as detailed in the attached Schedule A; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town is authorized to purchase replacement credit card machines from Clover, at a cost not to exceed \$8,025, to be paid from accounts as noted on the attached Schedule A.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Morelli, Councilman Manir, Councilwoman Reid, Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

**Mark Heggen** – Explained that the resolution will update the credit card machines used in the Parks and Recreation Department, the Transfer Station, the Town Clerk’s Office, and the Court Offices, noting it as a straightforward equipment upgrade before opening the floor for discussion.

Resolution No. 220 of 2025, a resolution approving an agreement with Barton & Loguidice for engineering services required for the Barney Road Pool liner replacement project.

Introduced by Councilwoman Reid, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Manir.

WHEREAS, Barton & Loguidice (B&L) previously conducted a conditions assessment of the three Town swimming pool facilities, which resulted in pool liner replacements at the Locust Lane and Country Knolls pools, and

WHEREAS, B&L has notified the Director of Buildings, Parks & Recreation, Daniel Clemens, in correspondence dated August 8, 2025, attached, that the Barney Road Pool liner system is approaching the end of its anticipated life span and a replacement system should be considered, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clemens has recommended that Barton & Loguidice be hired, at a cost not to exceed \$39,000, to provide engineering and design services in support of developing plans and specifications for the replacement of the pool liner system, as well as advertising and review of responses to a request for bids; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Supervisor is authorized to execute the attached agreement with Barton & Loguidice for engineering and design services associated with the Barney Road Pool liner replacement project, to be paid no more than \$39,000 from A-7150-00135 (General Fund — Barney Road Pool - Engineering), with a transfer from Unreserved Fund Balance (A00914) for \$39,000.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Morelli, Councilman Manir, Councilwoman Reid, Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

**Supervisor Barrett** – Reports that after replacing the Locust Lane and Country Knolls Pool liners, the Barney Road Pool liner is now due for replacement. The town is applying f a New York SWIMS grant to help fund the project and has engaged Barton & Loguidice, the firm that handled the previous pool liner replacements.

Resolution No. 221 of 2025, a resolution authorizing the Supervisor to execute a Saratoga County Trails Program grant award contract for support of the Crescent Woods to Country Estates Connector Multi-use trail paving project and to award a quote for the project.

Introduced by Councilwoman Reid, who moved its adoption, seconded Councilman Morelli.

WHEREAS, the Planning Department has submitted a grant application to the Saratoga County Trails Grant Program for funding assistance to advance the project to prepare and pave the existing stone dust path that starts on Patriot Circle in Countryman Estates and ends on Spencer Street in Crescent Woods, and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 269-2025, the County Board of Supervisors awarded \$7,100 in funds to the Town to support this project, and

WHEREAS, Daniel Clemens, Director of Buildings, Parks & Recreation, has received three (3) quotes for the trail paving project, and recommends accepting the quote of \$9,830 from Capital Asphalt LLC, Clifton Park; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to execute the grant contract as approved by the Board of Supervisors and to engage Capital Asphalt LLC to complete the project; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Comptroller is authorized to increase Other Governmental Revenue (A-1289) by \$7,100, and a corresponding increase to A-7629-200 (General Fund – Trails Contractual – Equipment) and to transfer from SP9-7115-200 (Stony Creek I Park District – Park District Labor & Equipment – Equipment) to SP9-7145-200 (Stony Creek I Park District – Countryman’s Estates - Equipment) \$2,730.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Morelli, Councilman Manir, Councilwoman Reid, Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

**Supervisor Barrett** – Announced that the trail connection between Countryman Estates and Crescent Woods has been completed, funded through a County Trail Grant and a partnership with Stony Creek Park District, fulfilling a project long requested by nearby residents.

Resolution No. 222 of 2025, a resolution authorizing the increased hourly payment rate made to Lifeguards for training and retention bonuses from grant funds received from the NYS Division of Local Government Services, Local Government Efficiency (LGE) program.

Introduced by Councilwoman Walowit, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilwoman Reid.

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 184 of 2025, the execution of the LGE Grant agreement and a schedule of payments of an estimated additional hourly payment rate of \$2.20/hour to Lifeguards who agreed to work an extra week in the 2025 season, were approved, and

WHEREAS, the Director of Parks and Recreation, Mike Woerner, has since determined that fewer employees agreed to work the additional week resulting in a much higher additional hourly rate of \$8.515 to be paid to applicable employees; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Town Board approves the increased additional hourly payment rate of \$8.515/hour to be paid to Lifeguards who agreed to work an extra week in the 2025 season.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Morelli, Councilman Manir, Councilwoman Reid, Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

**Supervisor Barrett** – Reported that the town used state grant funds to extend the pool season and provide additional pay to lifeguards who stayed on longer. The program was successful, helping with lifeguard retention and recruitment.

Resolution No. 223 of 2025, a resolution declaring a public emergency pursuant to General Municipal Law Section 103(4) for a replacement sewer pump in the Wildflower pump station.

Introduced by Councilman Morelli, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Manir

WHEREAS, on May 7, 2025, Collection Systems Manager, Michael O’Brien, identified a sewer pump failure in the Wildflower pump station that left the pump station operating with just one pump, and

WHEREAS, it was determined that the failed pump motor was beyond economical repair, and

WHEREAS, Section 103(4) of the NYS General Municipal Law provides that in cases of an emergency arising from unforeseen circumstances affecting public property or the health or safety of the public, the Town Board may authorize the purchase of service, material, and equipment without competitive bids, and

WHEREAS, Mr. O’Brien determined that Siewert Equipment could provide a Liberty pump to replace the failed Hydromatic pump, on an emergency basis, pursuant to invoice totals not to exceed \$8,275, attached, to be installed by the Sewer Department; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board determines that the resulting damage to sanitary sewer systems due to the pump failure constitutes an emergency for procurement purposes under Section 103(4) of General Municipal Law, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Comptroller is authorized to pay an amount not to exceed \$8,275, from G7-8111-00200 (Clifton Park Sewer District #1 – Equipment) per the invoice attached, to compensate Siewert Equipment for the pump.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Morelli, Councilman Manir, Councilwoman Reid, Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

**Michael O’Brien** – Noted that the town is replacing a malfunctioning pump with a new, more efficient model, which will also result in cost savings.

Resolution No. 224 of 2025, a resolution authorizing alcoholic beverage to be served at a gathering to be held at the Clifton Park Senior Community Center on October 11, 2025.

Introduced by Councilwoman Reid, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Manir.

WHEREAS, Jagdish Solanki, Clifton Park, is hosting a party from 4:00 P.M. to 12:00 A.M., and

WHEREAS, a request has been received for permission to serve alcohol in the form of beer and/or wine at the event, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Jagdish Solanki is hereby authorized to serve beer and/or wine at a gathering at Clifton Park Senior Community Center on October 11, 2025, from 4:00 P.M. to 12:00 A.M., consistent with the terms of the permit application received in the office of the Clifton Park Senior Community Center.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Morelli, Councilman Manir, Councilwoman Reid, Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

Absent:

DECLARED ADOPTED

Resolution No. 225 of 2025, a resolution authorizing a second professional services agreement for an appraisal of a 31.74-acre land parcel adjacent to Riverview Road.

Introduced by Councilman Morelli, who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilman Manir.

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 63 of 2025, the Town Board authorized the execution of a grant contract under the Recreational Trails Program of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) for the acquisition of a 31.74-acre parcel adjacent to Riverview Road, and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 172 of 2025, the Town Board authorized the first professional services agreement with Stropp Appraisal for appraisal services of the land parcel, and

WHEREAS, the Planning Department advises that NYS OPRHP requires a second professional appraisal of the property to meet the grant program standards, and

WHEREAS, after reviewing the list of appraisers who responded to the request for proposals for professional appraisal services of the land parcel that were opened on July 7, 2025, the Planning Department recommends selecting the next respondent on the list, GAR Associates, and

WHEREAS, GAR Associates submitted a proposal, attached, with a conforming quote in an amount not to exceed \$4,900; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Planning Department is authorized to engage GAR Associates, Clifton Park, NY, for professional appraisal services, per the attached scope of services and proposal dated June 10, 2025, in an amount not to exceed \$4,900, to be paid from A-1940-200 (General Fund – Other Town Payments – Equipment).

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Morelli, Councilman Manir, Councilwoman Reid, Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

**Councilman Morelli** - Explained that the town is pursuing the potential acquisition of a parcel on Riverview Road next to the Vischer Ferry Preserve, a top priority of the Open Space, Trails, and Riverfront Committee. The goal is to expand the preserve and prevent future development. The town has grant funding for the effort and has completed the first required appraisal, requesting board approval for a second independent appraisal to move forward with negotiations.

PUBLIC PRIVILEGE

**Sarah Gunner Moorfoot** – Addressed the Board regarding the deteriorating basketball courts at the Common, last resurfaced in 2013. Noting repeated discussions since 2021 without action and describing unsafe conditions due to cracks, pooling water, and mold causing frequent slips and injuries. Equipment and lighting are also in disrepair. Citing the courts’ community importance and volunteer maintenance efforts, urging that resurfacing and repairs be included in the 2026 budget to ensure safety and preserve the program’s value to residents.

**Supervisor Barrett** – Asked if it had rained lately.

**Sarah Gunner Moorfoot** – Clarified that the basketball courts become dangerously slick even without rain, noting that morning dew and seasonal temperature changes in the fall create persistent moisture on the surface.

**Supervisor Barrett** – Noted the importance of continued investment in town recreation facilities, including parks, fields, and courts. Confirming that the basketball courts were last fully resurfaced in 2013 and acknowledges the need to address facility maintenance given current usage and capacity.

**Kurt Swartz** – Spoke about unauthorized campaign signs repeatedly placed on his property without consent. Citing trespassing and littering laws, explaining that the signs pose safety hazards to his farm operations and livestock. Stressing the need for respect for private property, greater accountability for campaign agents, and better enforcement to prevent future violations.

**Supervisor Barrett** – Asked if code enforcement was called. We will ask code enforcement to take care of that.

**Kurt Swartz** – No. Noting the issue affects more than just his property and thanked the board.

MOTION BY Councilwoman Walowit, seconded by Councilman Morelli, to adjourn the meeting to the next regular meeting or any other meeting necessary for the conduct of Town business.

Motion carried at 8:51 PM

Stephanie Ranze  
Town Clerk