

September 15th Clifton Park Town Board Meeting Notes

First and Foremost, I want to congratulate John Scavo on his new position with Saratoga County and his promotion. Well Dissevered. For the past fifteen plus years, no one has done more for the future of our Town and keeping our Plans for our community on track than John. John has been a quiet hero getting the work done and hopefully someday soon he will receive the Key to Clifton Park honor.

So, Big shoes to fill and we all encourage an extensive outreach and hiring process that will take ample time to find someone of John's caliber.

In the meantime, there are important priorities moving forward that we must address and manage without John. Let us all try and work together to address these priority needs which are critical to Town's future. Here is my list:

- 1. Getting the town to approve Law firm for Concrete Batch Plant Moratorium work tonight. I support John's recommendation and see no conflict of interest. In fact, it will save the Town money by going with a firm already up to speed on the process.**
- 2. Next is the Solar Moratorium Advisory Committee and working with consultants selected to manage process that John has outlined. Committee will need a point of contact moving forward and will need to integrate Solar Advisory/Farm Ag work since both groups are working on zoning issues that relate to farmland protection.**
- 4. Next is a Trails Master Plan process for the town and with the consultant selected now is the time to move forward. Again, the point of contact needs to be decided to manage work.**
- 5. Additional Backlog of work includes the Open Space Stewardship Sub-Committee's three engineering studies pending which are in this year's budget (under Stewardship Committee Account) and the need to know when they will be executed. (Ray Seymour, Jen, and John have list of three projects including Rolling Meadows trail).**

6. Another project area that needs attention is when will Phase Two of the Town Center Park Development occur, projects selected and the point of contact to manage that process identified.

7. And a new effort by the Celebrations Committee, the Historic Preservation Commission, and the Friends of Grooms Taven with collaboration from the Open Space Committee calls for a Master Plan for Heritage Square. All of the above support an RFP to select an Historic Preservation Consulting Firm to do a Master Plan for Heritage Square, just like we have done with many other efforts for the Town like the Open Space Plan, Town Center Park, etc... We need to develop a Vision and Master Plan for the Square that includes a Comprehensive Analysis of Options & a Full Public Involvement process. Piecemeal approaches do not work; we need a Plan with priorities outlined over several years. And by working with Meghan in Parks, others in Planning, and Town Committees the intent of the RFP is to complete its work in 2027 with goal of announcing the Plan and seeking grants for implementation in 2028. No better time than our 200th anniversary to launch this Plan.

8. Lastly, Planning Board has 11 items on docket for September 29th meeting. While much of those project reviews will be done prior to John's September 25th last day, there may be a need for short term consultant work to address dockets over next three months.

I am sure I have not listed all of the important work ahead, but it is solid list of priorities. So, Folks on the board and those in the audience, if there was ever a time to put the politics aside it is now. The Town deserves leadership by all for we have a lot of work to do.

David Miller, Chair Clifton Park Open Space, Trails, and Riverfront Committee (9/15/26)