

County of Albany

112 State Street
Albany, NY 12207



Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

6:15 PM

Held Remotely

Conservation, Sustainability and Green Initiatives **Committee**

PREVIOUS BUSINESS:

1. APPROVING PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

CURRENT BUSINESS:

2. AN ACT PERTAINING TO THE ALBANY COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
AND CONSIDERATION OF CRITICAL VIEWSHEDS OF THE
HELDERBERG ESCARPMENT

County of Albany

112 State Street
Albany, NY 12207



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 25, 2020

6:15 PM

Held Remotely

Conservation, Sustainability and Green Initiatives Committee

PREVIOUS BUSINESS:

Present: William Reinhardt, Beroro T. Efekoro, Matthew J. Miller,
Merton D. Simpson, Victoria Plotsky, Samuel I. Fein,
Patrice Lockart and Peter B. Tunny

Excused: Mickey Cleary

1. APPROVING PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made that the previous meeting minutes be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

2. ADOPTING THE PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO ALBANY COUNTY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT NOS. 1, 2, AND 3

A motion was made to move the proposal forward with a positive recommendation. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 384

**AN ACT PERTAINING TO THE ALBANY COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
AND CONSIDERATION OF CRITICAL VIEWSHEDS OF THE
HELDERBERG ESCARPMENT**

Introduced: 10/13/20

By: Perlee

WHEREAS, Albany County, pursuant to Article 11 of its Charter created the County Planning Board, and

WHEREAS, the Board is “advisory to and assist(s) the County Legislature ... on matters related to comprehensive metropolitan, regional, county and municipal planning and in performing the duties and responsibilities conferred upon a county planning board by Article 12-B of the [NYS] General Municipal Law and on such other related matters as shall be required or requested by the County Legislature.” (Albany County Code Article 11, Section 1103), and

WHEREAS, Albany County contains within its borders a variety of unique scenic and geological features of inestimable value to the County and the quality of life of its citizens, including the famous Helderberg Escarpment, and

WHEREAS, viewsheds of the Helderberg Escarpment from the Hudson Valley are of great economic, historic and cultural importance to residents and properties within the Towns of Guilderland, New Scotland and Bethlehem in particular, and

WHEREAS, residents of the aforementioned towns consider viewsheds of the Helderberg Escarpment to be a critical natural asset and wish to guide development to avoid unnecessary impacts upon the views of the escarpment, to the extent possible, and

WHEREAS, the County Planning Board is tasked with bringing “... pertinent inter-community and county-wide planning, zoning, site plan and subdivision questions to the attention of neighboring municipalities and agencies having jurisdiction, including “protection of community character as regards predominate land uses” (General Municipal Law 239-L – (2) (d)),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Legislature requests the County Planning Board, as part of its subdivision, site plan, zoning, and other reviews, address “viewshed”, a/k/a “important views”, pertaining to the Helderberg Escarpment, to identify and consider adverse impacts upon views and possible mitigation of those impacts, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Planning Board provide its comments in this regard to the referring agency with its other comments.