

# **County of Albany**

112 State Street  
Albany, NY 12207



## **Meeting Agenda**

**Tuesday, November 24, 2020**

**6:15 PM**

**Held Remotely**

### **Conservation, Sustainability and Green Initiatives** **Committee**

**CURRENT BUSINESS:**

1. APPROVING PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES
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, October 27, 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

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

Tabled at the request of the Sponsor.

**RESOLUTION NO. 384**

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

Introduced: 11/24/20

By: Perlee, Reinhardt, Plotsky, Simpson, Smith

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 in order to effect the legislative intent of this Resolution, the Albany County Department of Planning is hereby directed to

prepare a Scenic Resources Assessment and Viewshed Inventory for the primary public roadway corridors and priority viewsheds within the aforesaid townships. Said Assessment and Inventory shall be incorporated within and made a part of the County's Comprehensive Plan and any other Regional Plan or other land use guides to which the County is a party or contributor.

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