

Urgent care asked to screen lights for neighbors' benefit

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"I think it's a huge improvement from the last ones we saw," HPC member Rita Geiben said.

"And for these guys being national, I think it is a huge (concession)," Fittante replied. "It's a huge cost to them, too."

"Well, it looked really cookie-cutter before," Frankovitch said.

"We'll be the first one with it," Fittante said.

Some additional backfill will be added along the north periphery. An existing retaining wall on the west side will be lengthened heading north.

The building is expected to have red awnings and blue windows, which is not popular with the Planning Board.

Member Savana Bevacqua called it a "stamped Niagara Falls

Boulevard business kind of look."

She added, "As far as the looks of the building, I understand that it's branding. I personally think it's way out of place for Lewiston, but it sounds like there's not much that we can do about that."

Her bigger issue was with the type of fencing set to be installed behind the 6-foot northside shrubbery.

"I personally do think that they should have solid fencing along Onondaga, as a courtesy to the neighbors back there who are very concerned with the parking, the lights from the vehicles," Bevacqua said.

Fittante's proposal called for a chain-link fence with a privacy mesh screening. Bevacqua said that wouldn't provide much relief.

"I do feel very strongly about

this fencing in the back, for the neighbors at least, I think it's a concession they can make to be good neighbors," she said.

Fittante asked, "Would you be OK with 4 feet? Just a 4-foot fence. The headlights are already less than 4 foot."

Bevacqua said, "If it was solid, with shrubbery – with tall shrubbery – I think so."

Fittante said, "I just think that a 6-foot would be way too intrusive up there. ... Four foot is going to more than adequately shield the headlights."

Board member Joseph Sorce said, "It will look much better cosmetically."

Fittante noted his client, "answered every question that you guys suggested" at past presentations.

Without the access road going behind the APlus convenience store/Sunoco gas station – which was a big concern for Planning Board Chairman Norm Machelor – 33 parking spots are now shown in the parking lot configuration.

Decorative shrubbery and windows were added to the east and west sides of the building.

A peak was added to the 30-foot-tall structure. Site lights will be shielded, and heating, ventilation and air conditioning units will be screened off and placed behind the peak.

Fittante said these specific concessions were "a first for them."

"They've gone, I think, well above and beyond what the standard is," he emphasized.

Ingress and egress will be on Center Street. As of now, there

are no restrictions as far as turning options.

Proposed hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily.

Machelor said, "We like the fact that they're not doing any entry or exit on Ninth Street. I like that part. The neighbors are going to like the fencing better. I like that part. The shrubbery is better. I like that part. They put a peak on, to hide the infrastructure; that was good. It seems to me there's more windows than there were. Because that one east elevation was just going to be a solid wall."

"This is going to be interesting."

Fittante's proposal was unanimously approved by both boards and will now go to the village trustees for final approval.

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Town Board hears no comments on Briar Oaks Estates project

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best candidate for our Recreation director position. So, at this time, I would like to make a motion to appoint Catherine Cvijetinovic as our new recreation director."

A motion was made and approved.

Cvijetinovic takes over a multi-faceted Recreation Department whose offerings include youth baseball and softball for ages 4-16. In addition, the department sponsors a year-round schedule of supervised and special events for all ages. Fall, winter and spring programs include swimming (open and adult aerobics classes); instructional kids' basketball; open gyms for kids and families; after-hours homework help/tutoring; volleyball and many other activities.

The department also operates the Lewiston Family Ice Rink in Academy Park during the holiday season. And it offers a number of youth programs, including instructional tennis, basketball, swimming and other athletic activities, plus arts and crafts, preschool sessions and field trips.

Broderick said Cvijetinovic previously worked at the Branches of Niagara campground and resort on Grand Island: "She was the director of recreation there since 2017. Her husband works at Niagara University as assistant recreation director and she has a 9-month old."

"Welcome aboard; we're excited to have you."

Broderick said the position pays

\$46,476 annually, and the town is allowing Cvijetinovic two years to move into Lewiston or any adjoining municipality to adhere to town code on residency requirements. "This is a traditional appointment on her taking the next Civil Service test for recreation director, and she's aware of that."

Cvijetinovic is expected to begin her new position Feb. 28.

Other personnel news includes the resignation of Jarred Volker from the Lewiston Police Department, and the rehiring of Josh Salada as a part-time hire with LPD. Still more news included Town Board approval to begin the hiring process of seasonal applicants for 2022 Recreation Department openings. Look for upcoming announcements in the Tribune/Sentinel, as well as posts on the town's website, www.townoflewiston.us.

In other news from the work session:

•The Town Board opened with a public hearing on the Briar Oaks Estates major subdivision final plat for property owned by Mark and Debra Perry and Briar Oak Circle LLP at 4639 Vrooman Drive.

Kristin Savard, PE, owner of Advanced Design Group, represents the owners. She said the applicant seeks to subdivide the approximately 35-acre property as follows: 12 separate parcels of 11 lots, with one remaining as open land; a 13.7-acre (plus/minus) project area to be subdivided off; a 400-linear-foot (plus/

minus) extension of West Park Drive, terminating in a cul-de-sac; and parcel properties ranging in size between 14,541 square-foot and 28.48 acres.

In addition, all public utilities in the development would be constructed under the town's PIP program and turned over to the town upon completion; the project would be New York State Department of Environmental Conservation State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System compliant, and include a wet detention pond. No variances are being requested as part of the subdivision process.

The public hearing itself had no comments among Town Hall attendees or Zoom visitors during a very brief session. The board announced no action would be taken on the Briar Oaks Estates project that night.

•Wrapping up, the board approved two projects that were recommended earlier by the Planning Board. That included a site plan/special use permit for Robert Kuhn, owner of a property at 2371 Ridge Road. The approval included conditions on the placement of motorcycles and 4-wheelers in areas 60 feet parallel from Ridge Road and not in the right-of-way on the property.

The second approval was for a special use permit for Our Lady of Fatima Shrine, 1023 Swann Road, for placement of an electronic message sign with landscaping on the property.

IN THE NEWS

Virtual session next week on Tonawanda Coke soil study

The Tonawanda Coke Soil Study team announced a virtual community meeting on results of the Tonawanda Coke soil will take place at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24, via Zoom.

According to rep Charlotte Hsu of the University at Buffalo media relations department, the session will focus on the investigation of soil pollution in local communities that may have been in the path of emissions from the former Tonawanda Coke Corp.

plant. A federal judge ordered Tonawanda Coke Corp. to fund the study after the company was convicted of violating the Clean Air Act and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

"The study's findings will benefit local communities by providing them with information about what chemicals are in their soil, how widespread any pollution may be, and whether these pollutants may have originated at the Tonawanda Coke plant. Scientists have completed their analysis, and will share the study's findings at the community meeting," she said.

Hsu said the research was con-

ducted by a team of scientists from the University at Buffalo and SUNY Fredonia, led by Joseph Gardella Jr., Ph.D., SUNY distinguished professor in the UB department of chemistry, who has about 40 years of experience studying the environmental impact of industrial pollutants.

Residents who may be interested in attending can visit the community meeting registration page at https://buffalo.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjwvce2hpjstG-9Sl_GsP6F5Zq0S_P39VQn2V.

Those with questions about the study can contact Gardella at tsoilstudyquestions@gmail.com.