



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - September 19, 2017

Shenendehowa Central School District and Town of Clifton Park reach tentative agreement on land sale

The Shenendehowa Central School District and the Town of Clifton Park are pleased to announce that a tentative agreement has been reached on the sale of district-owned land adjacent to Shatekon/Arongen Elementary School to the Town of Clifton Park.

Shenendehowa will sell the district-owned land for \$1.1 million to the Town of Clifton Park. A separate Memorandum of Understanding for ongoing formal collaboration between the two parties will be agreed upon relating to matters of mutual interest to their respective residents.

“For many years the district has been focused on long-term planning and future needs,” said Superintendent Dr. L. Oliver Robinson, “Based on the rapid residential growth in Halfmoon, it is prudent to secure property in that town while it is available and affordable. The sale of this property provides the resources to do so.”

A committee with members of the Board of Education and the Town began negotiating the details of a potential sale after residents of the district defeated a referendum to sell the land to a developer.

On September 26, the Shenendehowa Board of Education will discuss details of the proposed sale at its regularly scheduled meeting and look to take action on a resolution to accept the bid from the Town at its meeting on October 10. The Town is expected to approve the contract for sale at their meeting on October 2. The finalization of the sale is contingent upon voter approval at a public referendum, planned for December 5. More details will be announced in the coming weeks.

“If the sale is approved through a referendum, the land will be used for public purposes providing future opportunities for a beneficial partnership between the town and the district, “ said Town Supervisor Phil Barrett. “A joint committee, detailed in a supplemental MOU, is important to long term collaboration on shared issues, including how the two adjoining properties at Exit 9 can complement each other to benefit our community.”

If the sale is approved, the Town Board will conduct a comprehensive, public planning process. The process will follow the same template as other long-term planning processes conducted by the Town Board in recent years and will include opinions and ideas from the community derived from public meetings. The Town is committed to investing funds to ensure there is a successful planning process and to complete short-term improvements to enhance the community’s enjoyment of the public parcel. The Town Board has been extremely successful in acquiring grant funding and will aggressively pursue grants for every stage of the planning and execution process.

“This agreement will facilitate more creativity in public and school use of land, while inviting active community participation,” said Board of Education President Bill Casey. “What is attractive to the district is the town’s commitment to buy this property and to budget additional funds (estimated to be approximately \$300-350,000 over the next two years) for the planning and first-phase of development of a beautiful parkland space right in the middle of our community.”

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