The Regular Meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Heather Mowat at 5:30 P.M. at which time the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. In attendance were Board Members Julius Fuks, Jr., Lis DeGironimo, G. Brymer Humphreys, and William Morris. Board Member absent: Elis DeLia. Absent also is Code Officer Joseph Booth. Also in attendance: Councilman David Reynolds; Town Attorney Herbert Cully; Highway Superintendent Richard Sherman; Assessor Darlene Abbatecola, and Dolores Shaw, Secretary.

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Draft minutes of the December 10, 2018 Planning Board meeting were reviewed by each Board Member. Motion was made by Board Member Bill Morris to approve these minutes; seconded by Board Member Lis DeGironimo. Board Member Julius Fuks, Jr. abstained as he was not in attendance for that meeting. All others approved.

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Kristine & Frank Giotto, Mallory Road & Mohawk Street, New Hartford, New York. Minor two lot subdivision. Tax Map #340.000-4-11.1; Zoning: Residential/Agricultural. Murray Kirshtein, Esq. and Mrs. Kristine Giotto appeared before the Board.

Chairwoman Mowat was advised that this property is zoned Residential/Agricultural. Town Attorney Cully stated that this is a parcel being cut out of the larger parcel and it is 1.39 Acres in size. He reviewed the map and deed descriptions and they comply. In discussions with Code Officer Booth, this meets all setback requirements. He has also met with Attorney Kirshtein on several occasions regarding this subdivision.

Chairman Mowat asked if there were any questions from Board Members. There being no further input, motion was made by Board Member Bill Morris to approve this subdivision as presented; seconded by Board Member Julius Fuks, Jr. All in favor.

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Continuation of the Public Hearing for a Special Use Permit for the House of the Good Shepherd, 1550 Champlin Avenue, Utica, New York (Town of New Hartford), to install a 8’+ fence around building. Tax Map #317.000-2-1.1; Zoning: Institutional. Mr. Brian McKee, CEO of The House of the Good Shepherd and Mr. Clinton Lanckton, Director of Maintenance, appeared before the Board.

Chairwoman Mowat explained that this is a continuation of the Public Hearing previously held on December 10, 2018 and she asked for comments from the public:

-Mrs. Christine Cirasulo, 316 Winchester Drive. She met with representatives of the House of the Good Shepherd. They made leeway about hedges and some kind of barrier. She mentioned this program
benefits the kids and if it can help them, she is for it. They are not required by the State to put up the fence but they are willing to do it.

-Mr. John Constas, Village of Yorkville Codes/Zoning Enforcement Officer, and Assistant Fire Chief in Yorkville. He asked if they can get access to the building and can their trucks get in and out so as not to hinder fire safety.

-Mr. Fernando Sortino, 314 Winchester Drive. He agrees with Mrs. Cirasulo. There are slats in the back part of the fence but wondered if they can get them on the side also – he would like this.

-Ms. Kelli Thomas, 309 Winchester Drive. She agrees also with Mrs. Cirasulo and Mr. Sortino.

Chairwoman Mowat read an email from Ms. Kathi Martin, 302 Washington Drive, which states she is in favor of the fence proposal. This has been made a part of the file.

Mr. Brian McKee, CEO, addressed the fence slats – they are vinyl material weaved through. He will support as much vinyl as possible. They will probably leave the rest of the fence open for surveillance and safety. Further, they reviewed the original plan approved and some of the foliage deteriorated. They didn’t know about the commitment that was made years ago. They will replace foliage where necessary. Regarding the longer fence, they will continue to work with the neighbors to determine what it would take to do it. They can do this in the spring. Regarding garbage pick-up and smoking. He notified the garbage company regarding dumpster pick up times. They are working with them to make it better for less interruption for the neighbors. They have also discussed smoking with their employees and they won’t be doing so on the neighbor’s land.

Board Member DeGironimo asked them to address the Yorkville Fire Department’s concerns. Mr. McKee said they haven’t outlined it yet but they are anticipating a double gate. As far as the ability around the perimeter – they can access it. House of the Good Shepherd can’t be certified until they meet Fire Code regulations. They will do what is necessary without encroaching any further on the neighbors. If they have to, they will come back before the Planning Board. The Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief of Yorkville will review the map again with Mr. McKee. The revised map will be sent to Code Officer Booth for review.

Board Member Fuks asked about timeframes for the fence since the program begins February 1st. Is the plan to install the fence as provided on the drawings or something different. What do you envision as a modification. Mr. McKee said there is a slight change that brings the fence closer to the building because they had to accommodate a berm and walking path. As far as installation of foliage, it will be done when they can and they are intending to move forward with the fence as soon as possible when a permit is approved.

Chairwoman Mowat addressed the kind of foliage. Mr. McKee didn’t bring the plan with him. However, it will be bushes and something comparable – no flowers. They will stage it; they have land to accommodate a lot of green space.
Chairwoman Mowat also stated that the Oneida County Planning Department came back with no recommendation. She also commended the House of the Good Shepherd representatives for the work and interaction they did with their neighbors.

Motion was made by Board Member Julius Fuks to approve the Special Use Permit for the fence to be located on the property, and pending the approval of the Office of Children Services, and Yorkville Fire Department’s approval for fire access around the perimeter of the building; seconded by Board Member Bill Morris. All in favor. Actual name of the building is Milton Abelow Children’s Shelter.

Mr. McKee will be forwarding Planning Board secretary Dory Shaw a copy of the revised plan.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:00 P.M. by a motion of Board Member Lis DeGironimo; seconded by Board Member Brymer Humphreys. All in favor.

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Respectfully submitted,

Dolores Shaw
Secretary/Planning Board

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