

March 6, 2007

Minutes of the Public Hearing on the proposed Stormwater Regulations, held at the Caroline Town Hall in Slaterville Springs, NY, on March 6, 2007.

Clm Cope absent until late. Members of the public: Debby Gross and Peter Hoyt.

Clm. Frongillo explained that a small part of Caroline is included in the Ithaca area Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewage System (MS4) requirement that a law be passed controlling stormwater that flows untreated into Lake Cayuga. Caroline could have worked up a law about the small area, but since this regulation will be required by all Towns eventually, the Watershed Committee decided to get the job done now.

The regulations cover three land sizes--small (.5 to 1 acre), medium (1 to 5 acres) and large (over 5 acres). Each size required a different permit application. Some effort went into creating an application for the small that would not be onerous or expensive for that landowner. Committee member Barry Goodrich has produced a notebook which can be given to applicants explaining each kind of application.

Attorney Guy Krogh has checked the details. Lansing passed a law last year but may revise it to be more like ours. Other Towns who are just getting started are working from the Caroline prototype. The law must be passed by January 2008.

Regulations on Illicit Discharge will have to be in place by January 2008 also. Sharon Anderson is preparing to have a meeting on the issue at the Town Hall soon.

Clm. Seely asked how the public would be educated about this law. There could be cases of land disturbance without a building permit being involved. Answer: eventually there will be a Stormwater Officer to identify and patrol. In the meantime, the Committee can do public service announcements in the Old Mill, the newspaper, Pat Brhel's column, and the website.

Clm. Seely also asked how these regulations would apply to the Highway Department when, for example, they do ditching. Roadside ditches certainly carry stormwater.

Attorney Krogh has suggested a change in the reference to wetlands. Clm. Seely knows that the Army Corps is responsible for wetlands smaller than 12.8 acres. Clm. Frongillo will be consulting with DEC about this issue and will bring information to the Board. The next step is to prepare the Environmental Assessment Form and publicize it as necessary. Then the Board will vote to accept the law.

This hearing was closed at 7:28 pm.

The meeting continued with discussion about SEQR review of the law. Clm. Frongillo was advised to contact Cathy Valentino of the Town of Ithaca to get a copy of their form. He can also find out more about who it should be sent to.

Mike Barylski at the DEC in Cortland was mentioned as a good contact person. He would know who to talk to about wetlands.

Clm. Farnum reported that John Confer would come on March 13 to bring his plan about the salamanders on Thomas Road. For this year he plans signs and student guards, rather than culverts, until he can get more information from an official herpetologist. He can follow Supt. Whittaker on the

agenda.

There has been a conference on the Larkin property. Mr. Larkin really wants to give the land to the Town and have it be held as open space, but he does not feel able to give money for administrative support in addition. The Town will explore how it can hold funds to provide such administration. Meantime, Clm. Farnum will contact Nancy Ostman of Cornell Plantations about the Cornell natural area across route 79 from the Larkin property. She will also talk to Jim Curatolo of the Upper Susquehanna Coalition. Her birder friend Laura thinks it is a good area for birds, but advises against board walks. She will talk to Kathleen Quinlan who is chairing the trails committee for the Planning Board. Clm. Seely commented that she should contact Attorney Krogh about how to restrict the sale of the Larkin land.

The Emergency Committee will have a meeting on March 22. Before that she will meet with some emergency personnel to explore a checklist that she found online. She is trying to rewrite the Emergency Management Plan to be less bureaucratic and more user-friendly. Emergency planning needs procedures to be spelled out.

Clm. Seely reported that there would be a working session of the Noise Committee at 7 pm on March 15 at the Town Hall. They will review and update their conclusions, taking into consideration the comments made at the public hearing. He has put an ad in The Shopper and a Brief will appear in Saturday's Ithaca Journal. It was suggested that he take the first 15 minutes of the meeting to reframe the issue -- maybe expand on Brenda's power-point. Many rumors are flying, so people need a reminder.

The flashing lights at Caroline School: has Supv. Barber received a letter from DOT yet? No. Clm. Seely is afraid that this project is going to be expensive for the school district.

Midnight Sun/Annex: (discussion to be continued when Ed Cope appears, see below).

Clm. Frongillo: Sharon Anderson was awarded \$148,000 from the Water Quality Improvement Program to support activities of the Stormwater Coalition. In Tompkins County she plans 1) research into and presentation of options for municipal washbays; 2) a stormwater website; 3) training on wetlands; 4) turf grass management. She will suggest projects for municipalities based on their annual reports. The grant runs until 2009.

The DEC comment on Caroline's MS4 report was forwarded to Sharon. Dan Kwasnowski in Dryden was upset at the criticism of Dryden's report and contacted Scott Cook, who said the DEC was being strict to motivate action. Scott reassured Dan that Tompkins County is far ahead of other areas.

Sharon Anderson is setting up a training on Illicit Discharge, to be held at the Caroline Town Hall, date to be announced.

TC SWCD has received a grant for a streambank project downstream of Barrile. It will be a joint project with assistance from several sources. People have been warned to watch out for shallow aquifer.

The ENERGY INDEPENDENT CAROLINE Committee has developed goals for the year which include continuing the local survey, publicizing profiles on citizens who conserve energy, writing a business plan for a community-owned wind project, investigate renewable energy at Caroline School, etc. It was suggested that Clm. Frongillo contact the City of Ithaca committee that is working on the biodiesel idea. The Energy Committee plans to provide monthly tips in the Old Mill. Clm. Seely was

asked to attend their next meeting to share information about Town properties.

The Rec Partnership Board met with municipal representatives on February 28 to discuss the revised Agreement. Comment is needed from Caroline by March 13.

There will be a meeting with the Town's webmaster to take down a lot of old information. A proposed plan and timeline, dealing with redesign of the site and appointing of webmaster, was distributed.

The Stormwater Officer grant awarded to Newfield, Ulysses and Caroline will be discussed. Sharon Anderson works under a 5 year plan to implement MS4 regulations. Her job may be finished by the time a Stormwater Officer is hired.

Supervisor Barber: The proposed new Well Water Regulations from the Health Dept were copied and distributed. He would appreciate comment. The Six Mile Creek Monitoring Program needs to set up an oversight committee. A new state law is enforcing "violence prevention in the workplace." He will write up and introduce a policy for the Board to consider.

At the Association of Towns meeting, he found a company that would upgrade our Employee Handbook for \$3000. This company is knowledgeable about policies and could bring together our collection of policies. It would be good to have this work in place soon, so the committee that will work on the employee contract due at the end of 2007 will have it to refer to.

An issue to consider is Radio Communication protection. The County is concerned to keep structures lower than its new towers to prevent obstructing the microwave beam. The County has drafted a suggestion for a Town regulation.

Res 1 of March 2007: Authorizing the Supervisor to sign a subordination agreement with Wells Fargo Bank of North America on the mortgage to be taken out by Pat Brhel. There is a 5-year lien on her property as the result of HUD repairs. The resolution was moved by Supv. Barber, seconded by Clm. Seely. All present in favor; Clm. Cope absent.

Discussion of the architectural proposals from David Klein (DLK), Hunt Architects (John Barrabas), and Tom Schickel. Clm. Cope arrived at 9:30 pm, having been at an energy meeting in Ithaca. There was general agreement to continue with Tom Schickel. Clm. Seely will bring a contract to the March 13 meeting. He will use a standard AIA contract as the basis. The Town can look at the contract and then authorize the supervisor to sign pending approval of Guy Krogh.

Agenda items: EAF for Stormwater, Thomas Road, Contract with architect, Website, Violence Policy, Speedsville light, Community Service Award, Planning Consultant contract.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 pm on a motion from Supervisor Barber and a second from Clm. Seely.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Adams, Deputy Town Clerk