

Caroline Town Board Minutes, March 4, 2008

The regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Caroline held on March 4, 2008 at the Town Hall was called to order by Supervisor Don Barber at 7:04 p.m.

Present:

Don Barber, Town Supervisor
Toby McDonald, Councilman
Pete Hoyt, Councilman
Dominic Frongillo, Councilman
Linda Adams, Councilwoman

Recording

Secretary: Debra DeAugustine, Town Clerk

Department, Committee, & Liaison Reports

Dominic Frongillo

Energy Independent Caroline. Top three goals for year are 1) collect data on wind resources in town; monitoring viable locations, 2) distribute 1200 energy efficient light bulbs, 3) education and community outreach. CFL distribution: April 19 distributes light bulbs. Need 80 – 120 volunteers. Also pursuing grant opportunities for renewable energy at the elementary school.

Planning Board. Had two meetings with focus groups; landowners and community groups. Presented options they plan to present to the community; got feedback. Public meetings are 3/27 and 4/2

Public information committee. Flyer (see attachment)

IT committee. Proposal from Bert Cooley (see attachment)

Pete Hoyt

Pipe froze in basement over the weekend; called Jay Payton. Squirrel had dug insulation out. Barry Goodrich informed where the switch is downstairs. Mr. Hoyt wants to replace insulation. Mr. Barber suggests nailing up foam insulation board; squirrels tend to get into fiberglass insulation. It will take two people a better part of the day. Board says to go ahead.

Toby McDonald

Long-distance phone company findings. Clerk: we no longer need DEC modem line; will be switching to high-speed. Between canceling DEC line and signing up with Pioneer long distance company, we can save \$140 per month. Customer service rating of outstanding. Keep Frontier service for local.

Motion to switch long distance phone carriers

A motion was made by Mr. Hoyt and seconded by Mr. McDonald to switch from AT&T to Pioneer for long distance service.

Passed Barber: Aye; Frongillo: Aye; Adams: Aye; McDonald: Aye; Hoyt: Aye

Highway dept: got three loads of salt last week, not worried about supply.

Annex project. Committee wants to give proposal to the town board April 8. Ms. Whittaker working with Steve Nicholson and Barry Goodrich to expose sewer lines to determine what's there. Committee believes that if they can build quality building in different area of site for equal or less money, that's the best option. Looking at modular construction. If Midnight Sun will be demolished or seriously remodeled, will need an asbestos survey. Company from Cortland will take a look and give quote on Thursday. What is the board's stance on volunteer labor? Town has an insurance policy that covers volunteers. Ms. Adams said there are trades with apprenticeship programs that need work experience. Mr. Barber pointed out that modular construction needs to take into account energy efficiency, and that fiberglass insulation is not acceptable. Will require three bids. Highway dept is willing to take care of certain site work after building in place. Most volunteer work to be used in landscaping.

Mr. McDonald got a call from a person looking to build a climbing wall business/ropes course. Do we offer tax incentives? No, but the state does, and the town can rescind it, but the town of Caroline has not.

Ms. Adams

Watershed committee. Kathy Vidovich presented Japanese Knotweed Eradication Project (see attachment) and budget summary under grant (see attachment). Trying to eradicate from Barrile project area. Came into area from some fill. Grows aggressively and takes out native species. Will use herbicide that's approved for aquatic use. Mr. Hoyt questioned cost. Barry Goodrich and Linda Adams explained that vast majority of revegetation costs is labor. Instead of paying, Town fulfills our piece by the value of that labor. Authorized to plant 235 trees; eg, white ash, red oak, sugar maple, which are more effective for erosion control and will also shade out the knotweed. Enough money left over from the FEMA funds from Barrile repair (\$24,000) to cover funds not covered under grant, we'll probably only need around \$2000.

Other watershed committee projects: 1) Maybe a grant on Valley Rd stream bank stabilization. We can expect to hear about those funds by the end of this month. Town has saved \$100,00 over several years for this project, but jumped on FEMA funding, which will cover 75-80% of project. 2) Pete Wiley project; TC soil and water is doing the work. Mr. Goodrich acting as liaison. 3) Approaches to Banks Road Bridge. 4) Tetco pipe near bridge. 5) Barrile II being overseen by TC Soil and Water. 6) Volunteer monitoring.

Trails committee. New contact at NYSEG is Bob Pass. He spent 8 years on a trail project in Seneca County, very similar to what's going on here, involving many municipalities. Still waiting for Bailey agency to come up with additional cost, if any.

Agenda Items

Set Public hearing for illicit discharge local law SEQR

Appoint members to Public Information Advisory Committee

Establish Information Technology Advisory Committee

Appoint Assessment Review Advisory Committee and set hearing date

Authorize addendum to contract with Better Housing of Tompkins County for housing rehab

Approve contract with Tompkins County for youth services

Adjourn

On a motion, the meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra DeAugustine, Town Clerk