

Caroline Quarterly

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Slaterville Springs, NY 14881

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Supervisor's Office
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Caroline Town Officials

Town Board Members:

Mark Witmer, Supervisor 607-539-6400 ext 4
supervisor@townofcaroline.org

John Fracchia john_fracchia@townofcaroline.org

Calvin Snow cal_snow@townofcaroline.org

Tim Murray tim_murray@townofcaroline.org

Katherine Goldberg
Katherine_goldberg@townofcaroline.org

Or leave a message for a board member with the town clerk.
She will have them give you a call.

Town Board Meetings:

Agenda – 1st Tuesday of each month @ 7pm

Business – 2nd Wednesday of each month @ 7pm

Town of Caroline Library

Hours:

Saturday/Sunday 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Monday – Thursday 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Friday 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Bookkeeper and Assistant to the Supervisor: Velvet Lyke
607-539-6400 x6

Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Records Management Officer:
Jessica Townsend 607-539-6400 x1
Monday - Thursday – 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Highway Superintendent: Robert Spencer 607-539-7610

Town Justices: Susan Barr and Gary Reinbolt 607-539-7796

Court Clerk: Diane Gair 607-539-7796

Court Hours: Monday 12pm -5 pm, Tuesday 11:30am – 2pm

Code Enforcement Officer: Cory Williams
codeofficer@townofcaroline.org M/Wed 7:00 – 9:00, Tues/Thr
10:00-12:00 or by appointment

Planning Board: Bill Podulka, Chair
planning_board@townofcaroline.org Meeting's 2nd Thursday
of the month

Review Board: Craig Modisher, Chair
review_board@townofcaroline.org

County Legislator: Dan Klein dklein@tompkins.co.org

Town Historian: Barbara Kone carolinehistorian@yahoo.com

Librarian: Barbara Kone carolinehistorian@yahoo.com

Caroline Town Hall, PO Box 136, Slaterville Springs, NY 14881



October 2021 Calendar

Town Board Agenda Meeting	7:00 PM	Tuesday – 5 th
Court	12:00-5:00 PM	Mondays – 4 th , 11 th , 18 th , 25 th
Court	11:30-2:00 PM	Tuesdays -5 th , 12 th , 19 th , 26 th
Town Board Business Meeting	7:00 PM	Wednesday – 13 th
Review Board	7:00 PM	Tuesday – 19 th – if needed
Zoning Commission	7:15 PM	Tuesday – 12 th , 26 th



NOVEMBER 2021 Calendar

Town Board Agenda Meeting	7:00 PM	Tuesday – 2 nd
Court	12:00-5:00 PM	Mondays -1 st , 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd , 29 th
Court	11:30-2:00 PM	Tuesdays -2 nd , 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd , 30 th
Town Board Business Meeting	7:00 PM	Wednesday – 10 th
Review Board	7:00 PM	Tuesday – 16 th – if needed
Zoning Commission	7:15 PM	Tuesday – 9 th , 16 th



DECEMBER 2021 Calendar

Town Board Agenda Meeting	7:00 PM	Tuesday – 7 th
Court	12:00-5:00 PM	Mondays – 6 th , 13 th , 20 th , 27 th
Court	11:30-2:00 PM	Tuesdays -7 th , 14 th , 21 st , 28 th
Town Board Business Meeting	7:00 PM	Wednesday – 15 th
Review Board	7:00 PM	Tuesday – 21 st – if needed
Zoning Commission	7:15 PM	Tuesday – 14 th , 28 th

Note: Due to COVID-19 All Events are subject to change. Please check website for latest information including ZOOM call in information for any meetings held remotely.

For legal notices refer to the Ithaca Journal, our website at www.townofcaroline.org or contact the Town Clerk's Office at 539-6400 x 1

What's Happening in Caroline

Supervisor's Notes:

Public Meetings: On September 1 the New York State Legislature passed a bill re-authorizing attendance at public meetings by officials by remote videoconference through January 15, 2022. Town meetings will be by videoconference or hybrid in-person/videoconference at the town hall. Attendees must be masked and vaccinated.

LED Streetlights: Our LED streetlight project has been held up by a parts supply limitation. To remedy the growing number of streetlight outages, we have recently replaced those lights with LED fixtures controlled by solar sensors as a temporary measure. The [Design Report](#) for our LED streetlight project is at the town website (LED Streetlights, under Current Topics tab). The LEDs will provide us better lighting of our roadways, control and monitoring of each light, and significant savings of energy and money.

Broadband: Early this year Tompkins County hired Fujitsu to conduct a feasibility study for a fiber optic network to unserved or underserved areas of the county. Construction of the "backbone" lowers the financial bar for Internet Service Providers, promoting competition and thereby controlling costs. The Caroline Town Board endorsed this effort. The study's market assessment was completed in June and further work on a full buildout analysis was put on hold to allow further deliberations given the high up-front costs. To provide more immediate remedies, the County is working with partners to develop grant proposals for broadband buildout. They are also proposing to gather more accurate, finer-grained data on broadband service in our area to strengthen broadband planning efforts. One grant application is pending that would provide more service in Caroline and our County Planners are working to build the foundation for a robust, long-term solution for broadband in Tompkins County. **See Page 5 for access survey**

Bald Hill AT&T Cell Tower: The new AT&T cell tower atop Bald Hill is now projected to be operational by the end of November. The tower is awaiting fiber-optic connection by Spectrum/Time Warner. Verizon has also installed co-located antennae on the tower.

Zoning Commission: The Zoning Commission is continuing its work with our Planner, meeting on the second and fourth Tuesday's of the month. Upcoming dates are Oct 12, 26, and Nov 9. Later this fall the Zoning Commission will be holding a public outreach meeting to get community input to help inform their discussions. Stay tuned. They are working to craft development guidance regulations that promote the

vision of the town as stated in the Comprehensive Plan, protect property owners from inappropriate development, and avoid undue hardship on individuals. Please check the town website (www.townofcaroline.org, see Notices, Calendar) for meeting dates and times. Agendas, minutes, and meeting documents are on the [Zoning Commission page](#) (in Committees, under Offices tab).

To attend any Zoning Commission meeting:

Direct: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7142580644>

Meeting ID: 714 258 0644

One-tap mobile: +19292056099, 7142580644#; Dial by phone: +1 929 205 6099).

Land Use Moratorium: The Town's [Local Law to Extend the Current Land Use Moratorium](#) is currently in place. Land Use Moratoria protect the interests of the Town and its residents while new land use regulations are under consideration. The moratorium does not apply to residential building projects. Please contact me or Code Officer Williams if you have questions.

Caroline Campaign for Clean Heating and Cooling continues:

The Town of Caroline is partnering with [HeatSmart Tompkins](#) on a Campaign for Clean Heating and Cooling. Incentives are available to low- and moderate-income households for insulation and air sealing, energy efficient heat pumps, and heat pump water heaters. A successful campaign will result in greater comfort and energy savings for participating households and grant funding for the Town - a win, win.

The town newsletter with active links is posted on the Town website (under Documents Tab). If you do not wish to receive a paper copy, please let us know (email Velvet Lyke at bookkeeper@townofcaroline.org) to be removed from the mailing list.

Please note that Tuesday, November 2nd, is Election Day. This is your opportunity for input on the direction of your town government. Please remember to vote.

Tompkins County Legislature

There is always lots of activity going on in County government, but September and October is by far the busiest time of year. This is budget season, where we squeeze in 10 extra meetings to review every part of the County's \$194,000 budget.

We have several key positions to fill right now too. Our County Administrator left in the Spring. This is the chief executive position for the County, and the job is huge. Lisa Holmes is our interim County Administrator, and she is doing an amazing job. The process to appoint a permanent County Administrator takes many months, and we are looking to hire someone right around the new year.

We will also be losing Jonathan Wood, our long-time County Attorney, January 1. The process to replace that position is also extensive. The institutional knowledge we will lose with his departure is huge.

We also lost our Budget Director, Caroline resident Kevin Maguire, over the summer. Getting his replacement on board before budget season was a top priority.

In addition to the budget and hiring key positions, we are actively engaged in a number of endeavors, big and small. Here is a sample:

- We are in the midst of a Countywide broadband internet study. We want to be able to provide high-speed internet to the unserved areas of the County, many of which are in Caroline.
- We have set up a Recovery Fund. We will take applications from community organizations for funding to build back better from the pandemic. At the time of this writing, there are still many details to be worked out about the process.

Tompkins County Legislature, cont.

- We are debating modifying the fund balance policy. The fund balance is like our saving account. The current policy is 10% of our annual expenditures. The recommendation is to have at least two months cash on hand, which would mean changing the policy to about 16%.
- Recently, the Town of Dryden received NY State funding to replace the Freese Rd. bridge. Dryden decided to replace the bridge with a one-lane bridge. Even though the County recommended a two-lane bridge, Dryden expects the County to pay for the Town's share of it. This is resulting in an extensive debate about the County's bridge policy.

I am always willing to provide more information and talk with anyone about County issues.

Dan Klein

dklein@tompkins-co.org

Town Clerk

The dog census was a huge success. The number of residents who returned the forms and/or came into the office to register their dogs was fantastic. Please continue to return the forms if you have not done so and remember to license any new dogs you may obtain.

Hunting and Fishing Licenses are available at the Town Hall please come in during office hours and I would be happy to assist you.

We also have a Notary Public at the Town Hall on Mon, Tues., and Thurs. for your convenience.

Jessica Townsend
Town Clerk

Historian

The History Room is Open:

October – December: Thursday 3:30 – 5:00 pm

Highway Department

The Highway Department is currently working on the necessary road repairs, brush trimming, roadside mowing, and other general maintenance.

The Highway Department will return to winter hours in October. 6:00 am – 2:30 pm M-F

Broadband Access Survey

New York State is conducting an ambitious online survey on local internet service.

This information is essential for building out broadband service throughout New York State.

Please do the **survey!**

<https://www.empirestatebroadband.com/>

Code Office

Please feel free to contact Cory Williams, Code Officer at 607-539-6400 x3 or codeofficer@townofcaroline.org to discuss your project.

Office Hours: M/W 7:00-9:00; Tue/Thr 10:00-12:00
Or by appointment (please call or email)

Building Permits Forms can be obtained via the Town Website under the Code Office or by visiting the Town Hall

You may drop off your building permits and paperwork anytime M-Thu from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

UPCOMING Meeting Zoom Information

Town Board Agenda Meeting (First Tuesday of Month @ 7PM)

Direct Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81899193017?pwd=V1M3bmQ0SE1NZ0p6c0N0WmJBREJsUT09>

Without Zoom account: <https://zoom.us/join>;

Meeting ID: 818 9919 3017 Passcode: 876767

Phone dial-in: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

By phone press *6 to mute/unmute, *9 to raise hand during meeting

Town Board Business Meeting: (Wednesday, 8 days after Agenda Meeting)

Direct Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86148710458>

Without a Zoom account: <https://zoom.us/join>;

enter **Meeting ID: 861 4871 0458**

Phone dial-in: +1 929 205 6099 US

Zoning Commission (usually 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month, 7:15pm)

Direct Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7142580644>

Without a Zoom account: <https://zoom.us/join>; enter

Meeting ID: 714 258 0644

One tap mobile: +19292056099, 7142580644#

Dial by phone: +1 929 205 6099