

Caroline Town Board Meeting Minutes of May 2, 2017

The Town Board Agenda meeting held on May 2, 2017 at the Caroline Town Hall was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Supervisor Mark Witmer.

Attendance:

Mark Witmer, Supervisor
John Fracchia, Councilmember
Irene Weiser, Councilmember
Gary Reinbolt, Councilmember
Cal Snow, Councilmember

Recording

Secretary: Rebecca Jordan, Deputy Town Clerk

Also present: 19 members of the public were present

Mr. Witmer started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Privilege of the Floor

Sam Trechter – In support of Trail. Benefits our community. Dangerous to bike on 79 & Coddington Rd. Exercise/Recreation benefits. Adds to green space utilizing non-motorized transportation. Safe travel corridor.

Diane Hamilton – In support of Trail. Child afraid to ride bike on road. Diane voice to younger generation with children that want the trail. Keep trail conversation open. Positive economic benefit.

Kevin McGuire – In support of Trail. Consistent with recreation, transportation, environment, & economy. Lived here since 2013.

Hollie Kitson – Pro Trail. Bike Commuter. Roads can be dangerous. Trail provides safety.

Marie Cope – Co-Owner Brooktons Market but speaking personally in support of trail. Lived here since 2011. As a real estate agent thinks it would improve property values.

Cindy – Opposes Trail. Provided pictures of poor County road conditions and pointed out that there is already a lack of funds and the trail will take even more away from upkeep and safety of roads. See Attachment 1 below.

Colin Meeks – Part of trail close to him closed by landowner, reason unknown. Supports opportunities trail provides

Dawn Loder – In support of Trail. A trail would be an asset to her family of small children. Roads wouldn't need as much money if less traffic with trail travel.

Theresa Gibian – The trail is a nice amenity.

Reports

Gary Reinbolt, Town Board – For executive session

John Fracchia, Town Board – No Updates

Cal Snow, Town Board – Slave Burial Ground and Ellis Hollow Rd. dedication are an ongoing discussion. Lenny Whittaker retired from the Highway Department today. He Started in April 1981. Beautification/junk cars. Cal to speak with Code Enforcement Officer re: junk cars. Contract negotiations ongoing. Memorial Day/cemeteries. Cal to connect with Town Historian, Barbara Kone.

Irene Weiser, Town Board –

BROADBAND UPDATE

Broadband - IW and MW met with Lee Haeefele on Apr 20 afternoon, then committee meeting that evening. Reviewed Haeefele map of Round 2 grant award and areas identified by State as unserved and eligible for bids for Round 3 funding which has just opened. Haeefele will consider applying for Round 3 funding to build out Fire Tower Rd area, but may need additional support from residents/town to cover costs for doing so. Other areas not w/in reach of Haeefele backbone. Conversation w/State BB office – Charter/Spectrum is required to bid on all areas not yet covered, but State not obligated to award funding to them. So, we may still have areas left to cover after Round 3. Clarity has offered that they may be able to help with that. Committee will circulate petition to unserved households indicating interest in getting BB service to hopefully attract Charter/Spectrum or other vendor's interest.

PHONES

Town Hall Phone System – discussed and will research Office 365 based Skype and other online VOIP business solutions. Probably much more cost effective than getting new in house PBS server and phone system.

Cell Service – Dryden just approved Verizon Tower. Interest is seeing if we can get Verizon to locate here.

Internet of Things – may be able to provide “text” service locally even if no cell coverage. IW met with Jon Bosak and Terry Moore (MCCI) to discuss possible applications for IoT network in Caroline.

AQUIFER PROTECTION

We met Apr 5, reviewed latest comments from GK and SW. Developed replies – sent back to SW. Next meeting May 3rd. Q's about what training/qualifications are needed to determine if aquifer contamination is a concern at a specific site, and who would be responsible (DEC, Soil & Water, Code Enforcement Officer) and who has authority to do this?

TCCOG

Gov's shared services proposal discussed. Soon a meeting of Town Supervisors, Mayors, County Admin to ID project for approval this fall, to begin in Jan 2018.

Continued discussion of Solar PILOT proposal IDA is considering. Also, discussion of Broadband for rest of County.

CCA meeting – (Community Choice Ag) NYSERDA Rep advance policy for CCA. Sustainability, getting renewables to market. Discussed challenges facing.

Town Business

Meeting procedure/etiquette. Desire to allow flexibility while maintaining consistency is important. Privilege of the floor is for addressing the Town Board, not to argue a point to other members of the public. Don Barber contributed explicit details of the process and running of Town Board meetings and “privilege” of the floor. Authorization to sign mowing contract for Town Hall & cemeteries. Address lawn clipping during droughts or otherwise unnecessary. Add a hold clause to language in contract. Discussion of feasibility assessment of Town Barns. Cost & proposal. Heating system for Historic Town Hall. Enroll in HeatSmart program. Receive energy assessment and bids with no cost nor commitment. Caroline Town Hall location invited in consideration for electric charging station.

Next week:

Chrys Gardener, Cornell Cooperative Extension - Invited to Business meeting to present in behalf of the beautification committee

Public hearing Moratorium

Discuss Charging station – clear expectations. No solicitation from Town

---Adjourn the meeting ---

A motion made by Mr. Witmer and seconded by John Fracchia to move to executive session at 9:11 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Jordan, Deputy Town Clerk

[Attachment 1](#)