

Caroline Town Board Meeting Minutes of April 4, 2024

The Town Board Agenda Meeting was held hybrid at the Caroline Town Hall, and was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Supervisor Witmer

Attendance:

Supervisor Mark Witmer
Councilmember Cal Snow
Councilmember Tim Murray
Councilmember Kate Kelley-Mackenzie
Councilmember Michele Brown

Also Present:

Highway Superintendent, Bobby Spencer

Recording Secretary:

Jessie Townsend, Town Clerk

Public Attendance: 2 in-person, and 3 via zoom

Supr. Witmer opened with the Pledge to the Flag.

Privilege-of-the-Floor

None

Interview for the Town’s Review Board

Adam Hilker - shared his desire to volunteer for an open seat on the Review Board, or the Zoning Board of Appeals. Owns a business in town and has extensive construction experience which has resulted in various projects throughout Tompkins County and is familiar with zoning laws procedures and ZBA’s. He expressed he is neither for nor against the new zoning law but agrees that the Town must prepare for future developing. Eager to be a part of the process.

Committee Reports

Hwy Supt, Spencer – Working with Angel from Tompkins County Soil & Water on the Brearly Hill Rd and South Rd culvert projects. The addition on Building 5 at the Highway Dept. is near completion. Concrete is getting poured on Monday and the overhead door will be installed in the upcoming weeks. Next project is to re-tin another outbuilding. Plans to meet with Mark and David from Labella early next week to finalize draft plans on the Highway Barn renovations. Lastly, the Annual Caroline Clean-up Week is scheduled for April 22nd – 27th. Visit the town website for more information on this event.

Resolutions

Resolution 83 of 2024. Set a Public Hearing regarding an Easement and Memorandum of Understanding for Extension of the South Hill Recreation Way Trail

Motion by: Witmer Second: Kelley-Mackenzie

WHEREAS, the Town of Caroline (hereinafter “Town”) wishes to cooperate with the Towns of Dryden, Danby, and Ithaca to develop an extension of the South Hill Recreation Way from Burns Road to the Tioga County line; and

WHEREAS, this proposed trail extension is on a former railbed owned by New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG); and

WHEREAS, a Memorandum of Understanding between the four partner municipalities has been drafted setting forth the respective responsibilities regarding this trail extension; and

WHEREAS, NYSEG has offered a Recreational Easement Agreement to the Towns based on a fair market appraisal price of \$36,667, with the Town of Caroline’s agreed upon share being \$16,416; and

WHEREAS, as a purchase of parkland this is a Type II action under Section 617.5(c)(39) of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act not requiring environmental review; and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to hold a public hearing pursuant to Section 247 of the New York State General Municipal Law regarding acquisition of open spaces; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that a public hearing will be held on April 17, 2024, beginning at 7:00 pm by the Town Board of the Town of Caroline to hear comments with respect to the approval of the aforesaid Memorandum of Understanding and Recreational Easement purchase; and further be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause public notice of said hearing to be given as provided by law.

Motion Carried.

Ayes: Witmer, Snow, Murray, Kelley-Mackenzie, Brown

Nays: None

Discussion on MS4 Reporting

In a recent Stormwater webinar, Clm. Snow shared discussions regarding new semi-annual reporting and other regulatory actions that will require thought and planning in areas throughout the Town. He requested that the Board stay mindful of these proposed items and that they continue discussion regularly. He also recommended that Angel from Soil & Water join a meeting to share further information and possible suggestions moving forward.

Approval of Minutes

The Caroline Town Board approved the Minutes of the March Agenda Meeting as prepared by Town Clerk, Jessie Townsend and the Public Hearing/Business Meeting as prepared by Assistant to the Supervisor, Velvet Lyke

Agenda Items for March Business Meeting

Information Session and Public Hearing to hear comments on the Easement and Memorandum of Understanding of the Extension of the South Hill Recreational Trail

Resolution to sign Easement Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding for the Trail Extension

Appoint Review Board members

Interview Applicants for the Zoning Board of Appeals

Possible discussion with Angel Hinickle regarding information for MS4

A Motion to enter Executive Session was called by Supr. Witmer and seconded by Clm. Murray at 8:18 p.m. to discuss personnel changes and carried unanimously. A Motion to exit Executive Session and adjourn the meeting was made by Supr. Witmer and seconded by Clm. Murray at 9:31 p.m. and carried unanimously.

---Meeting Adjourned---

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessie Townsend