

PUBLIC HEARING AND TOWN BOARD BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 7:00 pm

The April 17, 2024, Public Hearing and Town Board Business Meeting will be held at the Caroline Town Hall by Zoom videoconference. Members of the public may attend in-person or by Zoom. Minutes and video recordings will be posted on the [Town of Caroline website](https://www.townofcaroline.org). Comments may be provided at Privilege of the Floor during the meeting, by email (clerk@townofcaroline.org), or by mail (PO Box 136, Slaterville Springs, NY 14881).

INSTRUCTIONS TO ATTEND THE ZOOM MEETING (<https://zoom.us>)

You do not need to have a Zoom account to join. Options 2 and 3 are easiest without an account. You may need the Meeting ID for any of these methods.

Direct: <https://zoom.us/j/7142580644?pwd=MIJXbzJWZVZQa2VBaHF3NklKUGxLQT09>

Meeting ID: 714 258 0644; Passcode: xd3U0n

One tap mobile: +19292056099,,7142580644#; Phone dial-in: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
by phone press *6 to mute/unmute, *9 to raise hand

PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing to hear comments on purchase of a proposed recreational trail easement from New York State Electric & Gas Corporation and entering into a three-year Memorandum of Understanding with the towns of Ithaca, Danby, and Dryden for development and maintenance of a 7.8-mile extension of the South Hill Recreation Way Trail (see www.townofcaroline.org). Commenters should sign in at the Town Hall or raise their Zoom Hand if attending remotely. We will call on speakers in sequence of sign-up, alternating between in-person and Zoom. Speakers will have 3 minutes. We will alert speakers at 2 min, 30 seconds. Written comments can be submitted by email (clerk@townofcaroline.org), to the drop box at the Town Hall, or by mail (P.O. Box 136, Slaterville Springs, NY 14881), and must be received by 4 pm on April 17.

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

*Privilege of the Floor *: Opportunity for citizens to bring forward matters of concern. Please be prepared to make one statement not to exceed 3 minutes in length. Please sign up in advance on the sign-in sheet at the meeting hall or by raising your Zoom hand before the salute to the flag to be registered by the Clerk.*

Zoning Board of Appeals Interviews

Reports: Supervisor, Town Clerk, Code Officer, Committee Updates

Business:

Resolution to appoint members to the Review Board*

Resolution to Authorize Execution of a [Recreational Trail Easement with NYSEG](#) and an [Inter-municipal Agreement with the Towns of Ithaca, Dryden, and Danby](#)**

Resolution to Authorization of Change of Use of Clean Heating & Cooling Campaign Grant Funds***

Resolution to approve vouchers for payment of town bills

Approval of minutes of April 3, 2024

—————**Adjourn**—————

***Resolution___ of 2024. Appointments to the Review Board**

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board hereby appoints Jean McPheeters to the Review Board with a term effective immediately and extending through December 31, 2027; and further be it

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board hereby appoints John (“Jack”) O’Reilly to the Review Board as the Alternate Member with a term effective immediately and extending through December 31, 2025.

****Resolution___ of 2024. Authorization to Sign a Recreational Trail Easement with NYSEG and to Sign an Intermunicipal Agreement with the Towns of Dryden, Danby, and Ithaca for the South Hill Recreation Way Extension**

WHEREAS, the Town Caroline wishes to cooperate with the Towns of Ithaca, Danby, and Dryden to develop an extension of the South Hill Recreation Way from its present terminus at Burns Road to the Tioga County line; and

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

WHEREAS, a draft easement with NYSEG has been prepared for this project and has been presented to this Board; and

WHEREAS, an intermunicipal agreement with the Towns of Ithaca, Danby, and Dryden has been drafted setting forth the responsibilities and liabilities regarding this trail extension project and has been presented to this Board; and

WHEREAS, NYSEG has offered to sell a trail easement to the Towns based on a fair market appraisal price of \$36,667, with the Town of Carolines’s proportional share being \$16,416; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”) and its implementing regulations at 6 NYCRR Part 617, it has been determined by the Town Board that acquisition of an easement from NYSEG for the future South Hill Recreation Way Extension project is a Type II action pursuant to 6NYCRR Section 617.5(c)(39), and thus the acquisition of the easement is not subject to review under SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held pursuant to General Municipal Law Section 247; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroline Town Board hereby authorizes the execution of the proposed easement agreement with NYSEG for the extension of the South Hill Recreation Way, and further be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroline Town Board authorizes the payment to NYSEG of \$16,614 for the Town of Caroline’s portion of such easement upon closing the transfer and receipt of the executed deed of the easement, and further be it

RESOLVED, that payment of said funds are to be made from the Community Services Account, A8989.4, and further be it

RESOLVED, that the Town pay the incidental costs (recording fees and other similar expenses) as incurred in order to complete such closing, and further be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroline Town Board hereby authorizes the execution of the proposed intermunicipal agreement with the Towns of Dryden, Danby and Ithaca regarding future development, operation, and maintenance of the trail, and further be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to execute said easement, intermunicipal agreement, and other related documents on behalf of the Town.

Moved: Seconded:
Vote:

*****Resolution___of 2024. Authorization of Change of Use of Clean Heating & Cooling Campaign Grant Funds**

WHEREAS, the Town of Caroline received a grant award from NYSERDA for their successful first Clean Heating & Cooling Campaign of \$5,000 to support installation of Air-sourced Heat Pumps at one of the Town's community centers; and

WHEREAS, the Town has engaged with the Speedsville Community Center and Egg Geothermal on a Feasibility Study for a Thermal Energy Network in the Hamlet of Speedsville as a result of that initiative; and

WHEREAS, if successful, this will result in grant funds to support clean heating and cooling for the residents and businesses of Speedsville; and

WHEREAS, the Town is currently working on envelope improvements to the Old Town Hall to make it more energy efficient and has engaged with M/E Engineering through the County's Business Energy Advisors Program; and

WHEREAS, the effectiveness of any envelope improvements needs to be indicated by an ASHRAE Level II analysis to be recognized by NYSERDA; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Caroline Town Board hereby redirects the \$5,000 award for its Clean Heating & Cooling Campaign to supporting an ASHRAE Level II assessment of the Old Town Hall.