



Tompkins County
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY

121 East Court Street
Ithaca, New York 14850

Katherine Borgella, AICP
Commissioner of Planning and Sustainability

Telephone (607) 274-5560

December 9, 2020

Mark Witmer, Supervisor
Town of Caroline
PO Box 136, 260 Slaterville Road
Slaterville Springs, NY 14881

Re: Review Pursuant to §239 -l, -m and -n of the New York State General Municipal Law
Action: Town of Caroline Draft 2020 Comprehensive Plan (November 1, 2020)

Dear Mr. Witmer:

This letter acknowledges your referral of the proposal identified above for review and comment by the Tompkins County Department of Planning & Sustainability pursuant to §239 -l, -m and -n of the New York State General Municipal Law. The Department has reviewed the plan update, as submitted, and has determined that it has no negative inter-community, or county-wide impacts.

The plan update is well prepared and thoughtful and supports many of the principles and policies of the *Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan*. The Department offers the following comments regarding the proposed plan, which are not formal recommendations under General Municipal Law §239 -l, -m and -n.

COMMENTS

- On pages 19 and 21 of the Draft Comprehensive Plan, two aquifer studies prepared by USGS are referenced. As the Draft Plan notes, the recharge systems for the aquifers studied in these reports are complex. We suggest adding language to the Plan that the reports provide some guidance on the location of the principal aquifer recharge areas that may be helpful in guiding the Town when identifying potential impacts of development proposals on these aquifer systems.
- On page 23, the Draft Comprehensive Plan references the presence of Noteworthy, Distinctive, and Characteristic Views identified in the County's Scenic Resources Inventory. We suggest that you clarify that the Characteristic Views are merely examples of typical views found throughout the county and, in and of themselves, are emblematic of the overall character of the Tompkins County and do not need the same level of protection as Noteworthy and Distinctive Views.

- References. There are two places in the Draft Comprehensive Plan where references could be more accurately described:
 - On page 22 of the Draft Plan, it credits the Tompkins County Environmental Council as the source of the Unique Natural Areas data. They are more accurately referred to as the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council.
 - Map 3-3 is entitled “2015 County Mapped Wetlands.” The map should more properly be called the Tompkins County Water Resources Council-Adopted Wetlands.

Please inform us of your decision so that we can make it a part of the record.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine Borgella". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Katherine Borgella, AICP
Commissioner of Planning and Sustainability