Caroline Quarterly

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TOWN OF Caroline

2670 Slaterville Road ■ P.O. Box 136
Slaterville Springs, NY 14881

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Supervisor's Office
Quarter 1 - 2021

Postal Customer

Caroline Town Officials

Town Board Members:

Supervisor, **Mark Witmer** 607-539-6400 ext 4
John Fracchia john.fracchia@townofcarline.org
Calvin Snow **cal.snow@townofcaroline.org**
Tim Murray tim.murray@townofcaroline.org
Katherine Goldberg
Katherine.goldberg@townofcaroline.org

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 – 8:30 pm
Friday 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Bookkeeper and Assistant to the Supervisor: Velvet Lyke 607-539-6400 x6
Town Clerk: Jessica Townsend 607-539-6400 x1
Caroline Town Hall, 2668 Slaterville Rd, Slaterville Springs, NY 14881
Tax Collector and Records Management Officer
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-Th 8:00 – 10:00 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**

2021 Calendar

Town Board Agenda Meeting	7:00 PM	Tuesday – 6th
Court	12:00-5:00 PM	Mondays – 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th
Court	11:30-2:00 PM	Tuesdays -6th, 13th, 20th, 27th
Town Board Business Meeting	7:00 PM	Wednesday – 14th
Planning Board	5:30 PM	Thursday – 8th
Review Board	7:00 PM	Tuesday – 20th – if needed
Zoning Commission	7:30PM	Tuesday – 13th, 27th
Caroline Center Church Fish Fry	5:00 PM	Friday – 2nd
Roadside Clean-Up Day		Saturday - 17th
Caroline Clean-Up Week	6:30 AM-4PM	Monday 26th – Friday 30th

2021 Calendar

Caroline Clean-Up Week, cont.	6:30 AM -12:00PM	Saturday, May 1st
Town Board Agenda Meeting	7:00 PM	Tuesday – 4th
Court	12:00-5:00 PM	Mondays – 3rd,10th, 17th, 24th
Court	11:30 -2:00 PM	Tuesdays -4th, 11th, 18th, 25th
Town Board Business Meeting	7:00 PM	Wednesday – 12th
Planning Board	5:30 PM	Thursday – 13th
Review Board	7:00 PM	Tuesday – 18th – if needed
Zoning Commission	7:30 PM	Tuesday – 11th, 25th
Caroline Center Church Fish Fry	5:00 – 7:00 PM	Friday – 7th

2021 Calendar

Town Board Agenda Meeting	7:00 PM	Tuesday – 1st
Court	12 ;00-5:00 PM	Mondays – 7th, 14th, 21st , 28th
Court	11 ;30-2:00 PM	Tuesdays -8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th
Town Board Business Meeting	7:00 PM	Wednesday – 9th
Planning Board	5:30 PM	Thursday – 10th
Review Board	7:00 PM	Tuesday – 15th – if needed
Zoning Commission	7:30 PM	Tuesday – 8th, 22nd
Caroline Center Church Fish Fry	5:00-7:00 PM	Friday – 4th

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 Happing in Caroline

Supervisor Notes:

Caroline Quarterly…Welcome to our inaugural edition of the Town of Caroline Quarterly Newsletter. We are implementing the newsletter to promote community engagement with local government, regardless of proficiency with, or for that matter interest in, smart phones or other digital devices. The newsletter will provide current contact information and public hours for each of the town departments that can be taped to your refrigerator and it will provide updates on town issues, initiatives, and accomplishments. We are also recommitting to keeping our Town Notebooks updated at the Caroline Reading Room, the Speedsville Store, Dandy Mart, and Brookton's Market for easy access when visiting those places once things open up.

Town planning…The Town Board adopted Caroline's updated Comprehensive Plan on January 13th after 7 years of careful work by the Planning Board. A key recommendation was to seriously consider enacting stronger land use regulations, including an appropriate zoning law, in order to be able to guide development in ways that promote the community vision. This priority was based on the recognition of increasing growth pressures that threaten Caroline's rural character and increase the potential for conflicting uses that may compromise property values and the quality of life for residents. As required, we've formed a Zoning Commission with the task to 1) examine existing conditions in the town, 2) recommend the boundaries and types of zoning districts and regulations to be enforced therein, 3) draft a preliminary report, 4) hold public hearings on that report, and 5) submit a final report to the Town Board. The Town Board has appointed Jean McPheeters, Bruce Murray, Evie Weinstein, and Ernie Bayles who will join Planning Board members Val Warke, Barbara Knuth, and Michele Brown on this Commission. Jean will serve as Chair and Councilmember Murray will serve as Liaison to the Town Board. Meetings of the Zoning Commission will be public, and agendas and minutes will be posted on the town website (Calendar/Notices) and listserve. Our sincere thanks to this group for stepping up for this important work for the Town.

Following on the heels of completion of the Comprehensive Plan, the Planning Board has completed a draft Solar Siting Law that will guide commercial solar energy project that he Town Board will soon be considering for adoption.

Watershed Committee…On February 23rd the Watershed Committee hosted a presentation by Dr. Leann Kanda on Spotted Salamander spring migration on Thomas Road (available on the Watershed Committee webpage). These cool animals are hidden under logs, leaves, and rocks for most of the year, but come out of the woodwork with the first spring rains to migrate to puddles, pools, and ponds to mate and lay eggs. Many crossroads where they are killed by passing cars. The Watershed Committee wanted to consider how we might reduce salamander death. . We decided to alert the public to the key triggers of salamander migration so that people could modify their driving habits. Kristen Hychka has been working with Caroline Elementary School children to create artwork and signage to let drivers know. Spotted Salamanders are good indicators of a healthy ecosystem and the temporary pools that Spotted Salamanders and other amphibians require for reproduction also reduce stormwater runoff, allowing precipitation to percolate into the soil.

The Watershed Committee's 4th Annual Roadside and Ditch Clean-up Day will be April 17. That's our official date, but you can work your section of roadway at your convenience. We encourage residents to adopt the roadway in front or their homes during Ditch Clean-up Day. Please check out the Watershed Committee Page for more information.

Brighten Up Caroline…Our Clean Energy Communities projects are coming to fruition. The conversion of our 79 streetlights to energy efficient LED fixtures will be completed this spring and a final push for town-wide distribution to LED bulbs to Caroline households is scheduled for Saturday, April 24th by a door-door contactless drop-off. Please let Program Director Emily Adams know your order request (up to 12 60W equivalent LED bulbs) so that we can prepare your order and put you on our list. To place your order please go to www.brightenupcaroline.org or contact Emily by call, text or email (607 708-0342; emilyfinnadams@gmail.com).

Patience on the pandemic…We've just passed the one-year mark of the COVID-19 pandemic and are making good progress. Please continue to protect each other by adhering to social distancing measures, including masking, and getting your vaccination. If you are in an eligible group, you can submit your name to the Vaccine Registry at the Tompkins County Health Department website (https://tompkinscountyny.gov/health/covid19vaccine). The Health Department will then let you know when vaccine appointments are available by sending a link or by phone call. The Town Offices (Clerk, Code Enforcement, Supervisor, Reading Room, History Center) are open, with distancing measures in place. We will soon be installing an audio-video system in the Town Meeting Room in the Historic Town Hall that will enable us to conduct hybrid in-person/remote public meetings, with distancing measures, in the near future.

Stay safe, be well everyone!

Tompkins County Government
Dan Klein, Tompkins County Legislature
dklein@tompkins-co.org
272-7582

Tompkins County government has a rich tradition of residents speaking their mind, either at public meetings or through direct contact with their elected officials. The pandemic has somewhat disrupted this practice, but we have adapted in the age of Zoom meetings.

At this point, there are several ways residents can contact elected officials. We all have public email addresses. I also choose to publish my home phone number (I still have a land line because of poor cell phone reception at my house).

Information about how to participate in County meetings can be found on the County's website, under "meeting portal". There are several options, depending on how you would like to participate.

If you wish to watch on the Youtube channel, then you can just click on that link.

If you want to be in the Zoom meeting as an observer, please notify our Clerk of the Legislature, Cathy Covert, at ccovert@tompkins-co.org, and she will send you a link.

If you want to make public comment "live" at the meeting, please notify Cathy of your interest in doing that at least 24 hours in advance.

Maybe by the time the next Caroline newsletter comes out, we will be back to in-person meetings. I look forward to that day.

I have found that residents often don't know which level of government handles which functions. This is understandable since there are many functions that local government provides, and there are several layers of government.

County government was originally established to carry out NY State mandates at the local level. This is still the backbone of what we do, although we have taken on a number of other functions as well.

There are about 30 departments in Tompkins County government. The departments that you are most likely to interact with include the library, Recycling, Public Health, Mental Health, the Airport, the Sheriff, Social Services, Board of Elections, Veterans Affairs, Office for the Ageing, Assessment, Emergency Response (911), and Highway (and just to make it more confusing, there are Town roads, County roads, and State roads).

Tompkins County Government, cont.

and State roads).

The biggest area of public life that County government has nothing to do with is schools. School districts are governed by NYS law, have their own elected officials, their own budgets, and set their own tax levies. School taxes are the largest item on your property tax bill by far.

Town Court

The Town Court is currently open for traffic violations, small claims, evictions, and criminal cases. We have the capacity to welcome people both virtually and in person. Information on internet connections are on the court website, http://www.townofcaroline.org/town-court.html

Open door hours for the court : Mondays 12:00pm - 5:00pm and Tuesdays 11:30am - 2:00pm. If you need to file or make a payment, additional hours are possible by appointment.

People who are ill, show symptoms of covid, or have fragile health should contact the courthouse. We do not want ill people out and about. All New York or county health quarantine restrictions apply to court.

People with old traffic tickets are welcome to resolve them. There is information on the Tompkins County district attorney's website for those who seek plea bargains in violation traffic tickets. If the misdemeanor box is checked, you will have to come to court so send an email.

Many evictions remain restricted by the federal government. Information will be available soon on next steps in Tompkins County.

Email is the best way to reach us : carolinetowncourt@nycourts.gov

Those without email can call 607.539.7796. We are a part time court with limited hours.

Highway Department

It is that time of year again, the guys at the highway department are already working on spring tasks in hopes that the snow is gone for the season. We have already begun brush and tree work and road repairs from this harsh winter we had that caused damage on our town roads.

We are prepping for spring clean-up week that we've scheduled for April 26th- May 1st. Clean up week is a huge asset to the town however in the past it has been taken advantage of. So we'd like to set up clear expectations for those that use this service:

1. All drop offs will require proof of address to ensure residents of the Town of Caroline **only** are dropping off (as in years past people from other towns/counties have come to drop off their items)
2. Standard COVID-19 Rules apply
3. Hours M-F 6:30am-4pm and Sat 6:30am -12pm, no overnight drops please (as in years past this has been a huge issue of trash left in the parking lot that we have to take the time to clean up before we are able to begin day, and usually it's of items we are not to dispose of or that cost additional fees to dispose such as listed below)
    - NO TIRES
    - NO TV's
    - NO CONTRUCTION DEBRIS

We would like to keep this service for our residence each year as we have in the past, however if it continues to be misused, we may no longer be able to provide this great service as the additional expense of disposing restricted items and extra items from non-residents will overwhelm the benefit of this service. We hope we can all work together to ensure a successful clean up week for the Town of Caroline residences and to keep this service for years to come.

Thank you,

Bobby Spencer
Town of Caroline
Highway Superintendent

Town Clerk

We would like to share that in the next newsletter we will be including a Dog Enumeration Sheet. Please complete the sheet and return it to the Clerk's Office. Each resident needs to respond letting the Clerk know if they do or do not have a dog and if your dog is licensed. Please note all dogs are required to be vaccinated and licensed as per NYS.

Code Office

Code Officer, Cory Williams, joined the Town of Caroline in October 2020. He would like to thank all the residents for helping him get up to speed on projects around Town.

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

Please note if you are unsure if your project needs a permit please call the Code Office to verify.

Caroline Library

The Caroline Library located in the town hall has reopened following several weeks of being closed for COVID-19. Patrons must wear facemasks upon entering and sign into the logbook for contact tracing. Incoming books are disinfected and held in quarantine for 72 hours before being placed back on the shelves. Volunteers also must wear masks and disinfect surfaces.

A new addition to the library services is an outdoor bookshelf containing books that the public is invited to help themselves to. These books may be returned to the bookshelf or passed along to someone else who might enjoy them. These books are ones that the library has discarded and will eventually go to the Friends of the Library Booksale.

Monday – Thursday	6:30-8:00 pm
Friday	2:00-6:00 pm
Saturday and Sunday	1:00-3:00 pm

Historian

After mid-September I will be taking my husband back to NC to continue his medical treatment, but the Deputy Historian, Jennifer Johnson, will have the room open on Thursday evening @ 4:30 PM if anyone is interested in dropping in. We are in the process of putting up a few new displays, in addition to our "permanent" ones of "Dr. Mary's office", "Railroads in Caroline", "Handiwork", and "Carl English paintings." We have some information on researching your home and lots of "family files" if you are researching families in Caroline.

The Old Mill, from Emily Adams

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce all the residents of Caroline to The Old Mill, a newsletter put out by the Brooktondale Community Center.
The newsletter is now in its 59th year, and it has seen many changes in that time! I am the current newsletter editor, but during many years of my childhood, my mother Molly Adams also served as editor, and I remember her taking editions off to be mimeographed every month. Each typographical error on her stencil had to be corrected manually by brushing over it with correction fluid, waiting for it to dry, and then re-typing. Naturally, a smudge spot remained on the copies where the stencil had been altered. Nowadays, I compose on two large computer monitors, where I make hundreds of typographical errors, fix them instantly, and no one knows or cares. The results are sent digitally, in full color, to roughly 300 email addresses in Caroline and further afield. However, the community center also still publishes a 16-page black & white version of The Old Mill, because not everyone in Caroline has internet service or a computer, and some of the people who **do** have computers would rather have a break from them! A paper newsletter is perfect for taking out on the porch or setting next to the bathtub.
What news can you read in The Old Mill? Regular features include reports and submissions from our local elected officials, from Caroline Elementary school, the Slaterville fire department, Cooperative Extension, the NY Statewide Senior Action council, and so forth. I also publish a monthly page (or two pages!) from the Caroline History Club, often with old photos from the area. Two local farmers submit regular stories about life on the farm. The Caroline Food Pantry announces its food distribution dates, along with updates from the Give and Take Closet located next door to it. If local churches or fire departments are holding fish fries or pancake breakfasts or BBQ's, I announce those. When locals get together to start an exercise group or garden tour or cooking zoom class, they tell me about it and publicize it for them. I'm happy to print obituaries or memorial notices, recipes, essays or poems, health tips, sustainability tips, etc. I look forward to the time when I no longer feel the need to post links for COVID testing and vaccination plus updates on treatment, research, and other developments. When I had time, pre-pandemic, I liked to contact local "pillars of the community" and interview them for feature stories and hope to start that up again soon. I also hope to include more events and information from Slaterville and especially Speedsville -- where residents may not realize that the Brooktondale Community Center sees itself as serving the whole Town of Caroline, not just Brooktondale.
Naturally, I also publish news items from the Brooktondale Community Center itself! The BCC holds an annual Apple Festival and hosts other activities. Their extremely popular summer camp for children will be operating again in 2021, and they recently built a lovely public walking trail behind their main building and large pavilion on Valley Rd.
If you would like to receive a digital copy of The Old Mill, you can sign up online at https://tinyurl.com/oldmillnews. It's free! If you would like a paper copy sent to your home, please send a check for $10 to cover printing and postage costs, to P.O. Box 135, Brooktondale, NY 14817 (or contact me directly at 607-708-0342 about one of our newsletter sponsorships for those with financial hardship). If you would like to submit an event notice or an article, or if you'd be willing to be interviewed for a story or want to suggest someone I should interview, also please feel free to call me!

The Old Mill is also welcoming new Silver and Gold Sponsors, who make small donations and then have their businesses recognized on the back pages of the Old Mill. Silver sponsorships are $60 per year (pro-rated to $5 per month) and Gold sponsorships are $120 per year (pro-rated to $10 per month).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Caroline Center Church Fish Fry
April 2nd , May 7th, June 4th 5:00-7:00

Burn Ban – March 16 – May 14

Clean-Up Week: April 26th – May 1st (see details in Highway Department Report

Zoom Information:
Town Board Agenda Meeting
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:
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

Caroline Food Pantry

The Caroline Food Pantry is "drive-thru" for all customers, please remain in your car.

April Schedule

First Letter Last Name	April 5th	April 19th
5:00	L,M,N,O	G,H,I,J,K
5:15	P,Q,R	L,M,N,O
5:30	S,T,U	P,Q,R
5:45	V,W,X,Y,Z	S,T,U
6:00	A,B,C	V,W,X,Y,Z
6:15	D,E,F	A,B,C
6:30	G,H,I,J,K	D,E,F

Please check website for times for May and June (carolinefoodpantry.org)