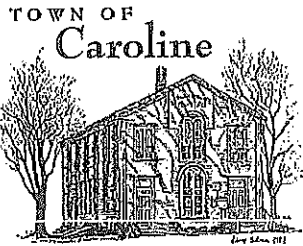


Caroline Quarterly

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Slaterville Springs, NY 14881

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Supervisor's Office
1st Qtr. 2023

Caroline Town Officials

Town Board

Supervisor: Mark Witmer:
supervisor@townofcaroline.org

Councilmembers:

Kate Kelley-Mackenzie
kate_kelley-mackenzie@townofcaroline.org
Caivin Snow cal_snow@townofcaroline.org
Tim Murray tim_murray@townofcaroline.org
Katherine Goldberg
katherine_goldberg@townofcaroline.org

Highway Department

607-539-7610

Superintendent: Bob Spencer
highway@townofcaroline.org

Town Court

607-539-7796

carolinetowncourt@nycourts.gov

Town Justices: Susan Barr and Gary Reinbolt
Court Clerk: Diane Gair
Court Office Hours: Monday 12 pm -5 pm
Tuesday 11:30 am – 2 pm
Court Held Mondays @ 4 pm

Town Hall

607-539-6400

Town Clerk: Jessica Townsend
clerk@townofcaroline.org
Bookkeeper and Assistant to the Supervisor:
Velvet Lyke bookkeeper@townofcaroline.org
Code Enforcement Officer: Clifford Babson
codeofficcer@townofcaroline.org
Planning Board: Bill Podulka, Chair
planning_board@townofcaroline.org
Review Board: Craig Modisher, Chair
review_board@townofcaroline.org
Town Historian and Librarian: Barbara Kone
carolinehistorian@yahoo.com

Town of Caroline Library

Saturday/Sunday 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Monday – Wednesday 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Friday 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm

History Room

January 5th – April Thursday 4:00pm – 5:30 pm
(weather permitting)
Saturday's 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Room is Handicap Accessible

February 2023 Calendar

Town Board Agenda Meeting	7:00 pm	Wednesday – 1 st
Town Board Business Meeting	7:00 pm	Wednesday – 8 th
Court Session	4:00 pm	Mondays – 6 th , 13 th , 20 th , 27 th
Court Office Hours	12:00 -5:00 pm	Mondays – 6 th , 13 th , 20 th , 27 th
Court Office Hours	11:30 am -2:00 pm	Tuesdays – 7 th , 14 th , 21 st , 28 th

March 2023 Calendar

Town Board Agenda Meeting	7:00 pm	Wednesday – 7 th
Town Board Business Meeting	7:00 pm	Wednesday – 14 th
Court Session	4:00 pm	Mondays – 6 th , 13 th , 20 th , 27 th
Court Office Hours	12:00 -5:00 pm	Mondays – 6 th , 13 th , 20 th , 27 th
Court Office Hours	11:30 am -2:00 pm	Tuesdays – 7 th , 14 th , 21 st , 28 th
Ag Committee	7:00 – 9:00 pm	Thursday – 9 th

April 2023 Calendar

Town Board Agenda Meeting	7:00 pm	Wednesday – 5 th
Town Board Business Meeting	7:00 pm	Wednesday – 12 th
Court Session	4:00 pm	Mondays – 3 rd , 10 th , 17 th , 24 th
Court Office Hours	12:00-5:00 pm	Mondays – 3 rd , 10 th , 17 th , 24 th
Court Office Hours	11:30 am-2:00 pm	Tuesdays – 4 th , 11 th , 18 th , 25 th
Ag Committee	7:00 – 9:00 pm	Thursday – 13 th

Note: 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 x1

What's Happening in Caroline

Supervisor's Notes:

Priorities for 2023

In the last newsletter I provided an update on the TCCOG Emergency Services Planning Subcommittee's progress towards addressing emergency services needs and our zoning plan development. Those two important initiatives are continuing to move forward and are priorities for this year. Below I summarize other key priorities for 2023. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

New Highway Facilities: Laberge Engineers completed a site evaluation study for new Caroline highway facilities in 2021. With the determination that it would be feasible to rebuild at the current site, the Town Board chose that option in line with our shared commitment to reuse resources and space, minimize sprawl, and preserve open land. We are now evaluating engineering firms to design, engineer, and oversee construction of new highway facilities.

Historic Town Hall: Through the efforts of former councilperson and beloved Carolinian Molly Adams the Caroline Town Hall was placed on the National Register of Historic Buildings in 2005. With assistance from Susan Holland of Historic Ithaca, we will be submitting an application for a Historic Preservation Grant for major improvements to our Town Hall.

Broadband: The Town Board has decided to commit our ARPA funds toward a robust broadband solution for Caroline. With support from the Town of Dryden, Councilmember Kelley-Mackenzie successfully stewarded a proposal for Tompkins County Community Recovery Funds for buildout of Dryden's municipal broadband project into Caroline. We are contracting with Hunt Engineers to conduct a partial buildout of municipal broadband from Dryden to Caroline and develop a town-wide plan for Caroline. This will position us well for funding to complete the project.

Agriculture and Farmland Protection Planning: The Town's Agriculture Committee is now working to develop an Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan for Caroline. The Agriculture Committee typically meets the second Thursday of the month at 7 pm at the Town Hall. You will hear more from them as they

reach out to get input on how to preserve and promote farmland and farming.

Safe Streets for All: Councilmember Kelley-Mackenzie engaged with the Ithaca Tompkins County Transportation Council to successfully secure a federal grant for multi-jurisdictional traffic safety planning. There will be a plan specifically written for Caroline, allowing us to apply for federal implementation funding. We look forward to enhancing safety for motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists.

Septic System Replacement Opportunity for Low-Moderate Income Residents:

The Tompkins County Health Department has secured a grant for septic system replacements for income-qualified properties. Please contact the Tompkins County Whole Health Department or visit the town website for more information.

Tompkins County Legislature Report

Dan Klein, dklein@tompkins-co.org

County Legislature News

Dan Klein
dklein@tompkins-co.org

In 2021, Tompkins County received \$20 million from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the Covid relief package aimed at local governments. The County decided to put about \$6.5 million of that money into a grant program to give to local businesses and not-for-profits. This Community Recovery Fund would help offset some of the impacts of the pandemic and would also help spark progress on some of the big, expensive issues that sometimes seem unsolvable such as mental health, childcare, emergency medical services, and homelessness.

We received over \$32 million in requests for this money. In December, we announced the recipients of the grants. Many of the grants provide countywide benefit. Here are the ones being given to organizations that are located in Caroline.

TC Legislature Report Cont.:

\$132,333 to the Town of Caroline for the broadband internet initiative
\$24,000 for a generator for Brooktondale Community Center main building
\$10,000 for Brookton's Market for building improvements

A full list of the applicants and recipients can be found by searching for "Tompkins recovery".

Ag Committee

Join Us! Thursday April 6, 2023, 6-9 pm

Caroline Community Ag Gathering

for past, present and future farmers, homesteaders, gardeners, equestrians, owners of ag land, and anyone who supports agriculture and is interested in preserving rural lands and working farms in Caroline

at the Brooktondale Community Center
524 Valley Rd

Learn about the activities of the Caroline Agriculture Committee and what is involved in developing an Ag plan for the town. Ag Committee members will prepare food but feel free to bring a dish to pass as well!



Public Meetings

Town meetings are now being held by hybrid in-person/videoconference at the Historic Town Hall. We urge that attendees continue to wear masks to maximize safety to all attendees, as per the Tompkins County Health Department Advisory. Meetings can be attended from your computer or phone via Zoom teleconference. Minutes and recordings of meetings are available on the town website. Comments for the Town Board may be provided at Privilege of the Floor during the Zoom meeting, by email (clerk@townofcaroline.org), or by mail (P.O. Box 136, Slaterville Springs, NY 14881).

Town Clerk

As many of you know, January is always the busiest month of each year. Although we will continue to collect payments through March, we have already received 83% of the total collection!

As a reminder, for those of you that paid the 1st installment, you will receive a letter from Tompkins County detailing the due date and ways to pay the 2nd installment. The payments CAN NOT be accepted at the Town Clerk's Office.

Code Enforcement

Building Permits are available at the Town Hall or on the Town website.

Code Enforcement Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Other times available by Appointment

Highway Department

Superintendent Bob Spencer would like to remind everyone that there will be no roadside parking in the town for the winter season. This is mandatory because the Highway Department must maintain the roadways and make them safe for all residents.

The Highway Department Hours

November - March Monday – Friday 6 am – 2:30 pm
April – September Monday – Thursday 6 am – 4:00 pm

The town newsletter with active links is posted on the Town website (under Documents Tab). If you do not wish to receive a paper copy, please let us know (email Velvet Lyke at bookkeeper@townofcaroline.org)

Zoning Commission

The Zoning Commission of the Town of Caroline has completed the Preliminary Report to the Town Board. This report, dated January 31, 2023, contains the complete draft of the zoning law as well as a report on the work of the Zoning Commission since March 2021. It also details the sections of the Zoning Law that relate directly to goals from the Comprehensive Plan. Additionally, it lists changes that were made to the first and second drafts following input from the public.

Public notices of these two meetings were published in the *Ithaca Journal* on February 7, 2023, and the Preliminary Report was posted on the Town Website

(<http://www.townofcaroline.org/zoning-commission1.html>) on February 2, 2023. On the website you can read and download the entire Preliminary Report, which contains the draft of the zoning law as of January 31. You can also find the draft of the law alone and the zoning map of the town.

The Zoning Commission will be holding two public hearings on this report on:
February 22, 2023, at the Town Hall in Slaterville Springs from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. This meeting will be for in-person attendees and for those who participate via Zoom. The public will sign-up in person or on Zoom to speak and speakers will be allowed up to 4 minutes each.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7142580644>
February 28, 2023, at the Brooktondale Fire Station from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

This meeting will be for in-person attendees and for those who participate via Zoom. The public will sign-up in person or on Zoom to speak and speakers will be allowed up to 4 minutes each.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7142580644>
February 28, 2023, at the Brooktondale Fire Station from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. This will be an in-person meeting only. Attendees will register to speak and will each be allowed up to 4 minutes.

Zoning cont.

The Zoning Commission also welcomes comments in writing. Please address those to the Zoning Commission, and send them to the Town Clerk, PO Box 136, Slaterville Springs, NY 14881 or bring them to the Town Clerk's Office, or email them to Clerk@TownofCaroline.org. **Written comments must be postmarked, emailed, or left at the Clerk's office by Friday, March 3, 2023.**

Please consider being specific in your comments by referring to an Article and section number, or page number, so that we can know exactly what section you are referencing and consider your comments carefully.

The Zoning Commission will meet again in March 2023 to discuss comments that we heard or that were sent to us and we will deliberate on changes to the Preliminary Report. Once we have completed those discussions, we will create the Final Report to the Board, make edits as needed, and then vote on sending the report to the Town Board. Once we have presented the Board with a Final Report, the Zoning Commission will dissolve.

Thank you for your attention,
Jean McPheeters, Chair
for the Zoning Commission of the Town of Caroline
Ernie Bayles
Michele Brown
Barbara Knuth
Bruce Murray
Bill Podulka

All Town Zoom Meetings can be located using this information

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7142580644>

Meeting ID: 714 258 0644

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,7142580644# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7142580644>