

Caroline Quarterly

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

Town Newsletter
#2 of 2023

Town Board

Supervisor: Mark Witmer

supervisor@townofcaroline.org

Councilmembers:

Kate Kelley-Mackenzie

kate_kelley-mackenzie@townofcaroline.org

Calvin Snow cal_snow@townofcaroline.org

Tim Murray tim_murray@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

codeofficer@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

Summer Thursday 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Saturday's 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Room is Handicap Accessible



2023 Calendar

Town Board Agenda Meeting	7:00 pm	Wednesday – 7 th
Town Board Business Meeting	7:00 pm	Wednesday – 21 st
Court Session	4:00 pm	Mondays – 5 th , 12 th , 19 th , 26 th
Court Office Hours	12:00 -5:00 pm	Mondays – 5 th , 12 th , 19 th , 26 th
Court Office Hours	11:30 am -2:00 pm	Tuesdays – 6 th , 13 th , 20 th , 27 th
Ag Committee	7:00 – 9:00 pm	Thursday – 8 th
Fire Company Meetings		
Slaterville	7:00 pm	Monday – 5 th
Speedsville	7:00 pm	Monday – 12 th
Brooktondale	7:00 pm	Monday – 19 th



2023 Calendar

Town Board Agenda Meeting	7:00 pm	Wednesday – 5 th
Town Board Business Meeting	7:00 pm	Wednesday – 19 th
Court Session	4:00 pm	Mondays – 3 rd , 10 th , 17 th , 24 th , 31 st
Court Office Hours	12:00-5:00 pm	Mondays – 3 rd , 10 th , 17 th , 24 th , 31 st
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
Fire Company Meetings		
Slaterville	7:00 pm	Monday – 3 rd
Speedsville	7:00 pm	Monday – 10 th
Brooktondale	7:00 pm	Monday – 17 th



2023 Calendar

Town Board Agenda Meeting	7:00 pm	Wednesday – 2 nd
Town Board Business Meeting	7:00 pm	Wednesday – 16 th
Court Session	4:00 pm	Mondays – 7 th , 14 th , 21 st , 28 th
Court Office Hours	12:00 -5:00 pm	Mondays – 7 th , 14 th , 21 st , 28 th
Court Office Hours	11:30 am -2:00 pm	Tuesdays – 1 st , 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd , 29 th
Ag Committee	7:00 – 9:00 pm	Thursday – 10 th
Fire Company Meetings		
Slaterville	7:00 pm	Monday – 7 th
Speedsville	7:00 pm	Monday – 14 th
Brooktondale	7:00 pm	Monday – 21 st

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 x 1

What's Happening in Caroline

Supervisor's Notes

Zoning Plan: At the April 5, 2023, Caroline Town Board meeting the Town's Zoning Commission presented their Final Report on Proposed Zoning Regulations for Caroline to the Town Board. The Town Board has now begun their own review before holding a Public Hearing and voting on adoption. I want to express my deepest gratitude to the members of our Zoning Commission, Chair Jean McPheeters, Ernie Bales, Michele Brown, Barb Knuth, Bruce Murray, and Bill Podulka.

Broadband: We are working with Hunt Engineering on a feasibility study for Caroline municipal broadband. **Please return the enclosed broadband survey (or submit via the town website home page) to help us inform this study.** We look forward to moving this initiative forward to enhance broadband access in Caroline.

Emergency Services Planning: As a result of discussions and planning over the past three years by a Tompkins County Council of Governments subcommittee, we are now honing a proposal for countywide support for emergency first response. Our goal is to improve emergency first response times and support our existing first-response agencies. The energy and expertise of the Tompkins County Department of Emergency Response has been invaluable. I will be updating the community on this initiative as it develops.

Sustainability: Brighten Up Caroline is now complete, having converted our streetlights and two fire halls to LED lighting and distributed LED bulbs to Caroline households. In addition to the energy and cost savings, the town now has much more control over operation and maintenance of its streetlights.

Capital Projects:

Highway Facilities. LaBella Engineering has been selected to design and administer construction of new highway facilities at the current site. We are just beginning that work and look forward to making this needed capital improvement a reality.

Historic Town Hall. We are working with Historic Ithaca on a Historic Renovation Grant for the Historic Town Hall. Susan Holland from Historic Ithaca and architect Steve Gibian are providing their expertise in developing the proposal. More soon!

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or feedback. —Mark

Town Council Vacancy

I am very sorry to report that Katherine Goldberg has stepped down from the town council. I want to express my deep gratitude to Katherine for her service. Her willingness and ability to dissect and address matters head-on was invaluable to me as Supervisor and to our deliberations as a board. Thank you so much, Katherine.

The Town Board is now accepting applications from individuals wishing to fill Katherine's seat for the 2023 calendar year (this seat will be voted on in the fall 2023 general election for the remaining two years of the term, Jan 1, 2024, through Dec 31, 2025). Interested parties should send their application letter to the Town Clerk explaining why they are interested in serving on the Town Council, relevant experience, which areas of Caroline town government they are especially interested in, and their priorities (clerk@townofcaroline.org; Town Clerk, Town of Caroline, P.O. Box 136, Slaterville Springs, NY 14881). The deadline for applications is Friday, June 30. The Town Board plans to interview applicants at the July 5th Agenda Meeting and make the appointment at the July 12th Business Meeting.

Tompkins County Legislature Report

Dan Klein, dklein@tompkins-co.org

Assessments

On March 27, the Tompkins County Assessor and I met with a group of residents in Speedsville to talk about property assessment. Many people have seen their assessments go up sharply in the last 2 years. Assessments are an attempt to pinpoint the price your property would sell for, in as fair a way as possible.

Although no one likes their assessment to go up, it is obvious to most people that the housing market in Tompkins County is crazy. The median sales price for a 2-bedroom house in Tompkins County rose 37% in the last 12 months!

TC Legislature Report Cont. :

When you look at numbers like that, you see that for the most part, assessments do reflect reality.

If you think the County Assessment office got something wrong about your property, you should contact them to see what your options are.

Something I always tell people is that just because your assessment went up, it does not automatically mean that your taxes will go up. Two years ago, my tax bill went down by a few hundred dollars.

The thing local government can do to help is to try to keep the tax levy low. The levy is the total amount taken in by taxes. For the last 2 years, both Tompkins County and the Town of Caroline kept their tax levy change to zero. Unfortunately, the budget outlook for the County this year is not looking so good. I will report on that as it plays out over the year.

Town Clerk

The 2023 Caroline Town & County tax collection period has concluded in the Clerk's Office. If you have questions relating to unpaid taxes, or 2nd Installment Payments, please call the County Budget & Finance Office at (607) 274-5545. Any further tax payments should be sent directly to the County Budget & Finance Department at 125 E. Court St. Ithaca, NY 14850.

All Town & County tax receipts (current year or past years) can be found here: [BAS | Internet Tax \(basgov.com\)](#)

if searching by owner name, use last name only

**Please note the Clerk's Office has new hours from June 1 – September 1
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 8 am-2 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)

CAROLINE HISTORY ROOM

In Old Town Hall Offers You:

Displays and Exhibits of Local Antiques
Help with Family and Genealogy Searches
Research into Local Organizations, Churches,
Schools, etc.

Open Thursday Evenings 4:00 pm – 8:00pm
Saturdays 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Handicap Accessible
For Appointments email Barbara, Jennifer or Shuly

carolinehistorian@yahoo.com
Shuly@frontiernet.net

Code Enforcement

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

Code Enforcement Hours:

Monday and Wednesday – 8 am – 2 pm (appointment preferred)
Friday - Available by Appointment

Highway Department

Highway Summer Hours:

Monday – Thursday 6:00 am – 4:30 pm

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).



Postage



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

Broadband Internet Survey

Town of Caroline
PO Box 136
2668 Slaterville Road
Slaterville Springs, NY 14881



TOWN OF CAROLINE

Return Address:

This survey is intended to gather information from the Town of Caroline residents regarding their current broadband internet services. Please fill out this survey and return via mail or by dropping off at the Town Hall located at 2668 Slaterville Rd., Slaterville Springs, NY. This survey can also be taken online at the Town's website, www.townofcaroline.org/broadbandsurvey. The Town of Caroline is committed to ensuring residents have access to quality internet so information on this topic will help inform the Town's decision-making process.

1. Which of the following would you qualify as?

Please check one.

- Private Residence
- Home Business
- Business
- Farm
- Other

2. Please provide your street address. Your address is needed to identify eligible addresses that qualify for broadband project funding.

3. Do you currently subscribe to internet service?

- Yes
- No

4. Who is your Internet Service Provider (ISP)?

5. Approximately, how much do you pay per month for your Internet services? *In order for us to get the best information on the cost of internet, please review your monthly bill to identify the "Internet Services" price and report that amount for your answer.*

6. What Internet service speed do you currently receive from your provider, if any?

You can visit <https://www.speedtest.net> to test your internet speed and identify your ISP.

7. Would you be interested in broadband internet if at least 100 Mbps download by 20 Mbps Upload were made available below market cost?

The national average for internet service speed is 50 Mbps download.

- Yes
- No

8. Would you like to know when service will be available?

- Yes
 - No
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