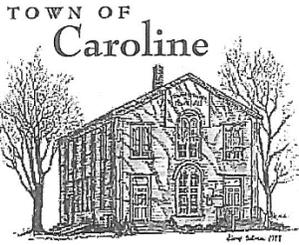


# Caroline Quarterly

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Slaterville Springs, NY 14881

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Supervisor's Office  
Quarter 2 - 2022

## Caroline Town Officials

### 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  
**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

**County Legislator: Dan Klein** dklein@tompkins.co.org

**Town Historian and Librarian: Barbara Kone**  
carolinehistorian@yahoo.com

### Town of Caroline Library

Saturday/Sunday 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Monday – Thursday 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Friday 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm

### History Room

Sept-Dec Thursdays 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm

# September

## 2022 Calendar

Town Board Agenda Meeting	7:00 PM	Wednesday – 7 <sup>th</sup>
Town Board Business Meeting	7:00 PM	Wednesday – 14 <sup>th</sup>
Court Session	4:00 PM	Mondays – 5 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup>
Court Office Hours	12:00-5:00 PM	Mondays – 5 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup>
Court Office Hours	11:30-2:00 PM	Tuesdays -6 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup>
Zoning Commission	7:00 – 9:30 PM	Tuesdays – 13 <sup>th</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup>



## 2022 Calendar

Town Board Agenda Meeting	7:00 PM	Wednesday– 5 <sup>th</sup>
Town Board Business Meeting	7:00 PM	Wednesday – 12 <sup>th</sup>
Court Session	4:00 PM	Mondays -3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> , 31 <sup>st</sup>
Court Office Hours	12:00-5:00 PM	Mondays- 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> , 31 <sup>st</sup>
Court Office Hours	11:30-2:00 PM	Tuesdays -4 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> , 25 <sup>th</sup>
Zoning Commission	7:00 – 9:30 PM	Tuesdays – 11 <sup>th</sup> , 25 <sup>th</sup>



## 2022 Calendar

Town Board Agenda Meeting	7:00 PM	Wednesday – 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Town Board Business Meeting	7:00 PM	Wednesday – 9 <sup>th</sup>
Court Session	4:00 PM	Mondays – 7 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup>
Court Office Hours	12:00-5:00 PM	Mondays – 7 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup>
Court Office Hours	11:30-2:00 PM	Tuesdays – 8 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 29 <sup>th</sup>
Zoning Commission	7:00 – 9:30 PM	Tuesdays – 8 <sup>th</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup>

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](http://www.townofcaroline.org) or contact the Town Clerk's Office at 539-6400 x 1

# What's Happening in Caroline

## **Supervisor's Notes:**

### ***Town of Caroline Zoning Planning Update***

In the last newsletter I provided an overview on our zoning initiative and our process leading to where we are now. The Zoning Commission has provided informative FAQs and they have carefully addressed hundreds of questions and comments that are posted on the Zoning Commission Page of the town website. I encourage everyone to read these because they are very informative.

Caroline is a wonderful place, so why change things? The updated Comprehensive Plan calls attention to the need for stronger land use planning in Caroline with the prospect of increasing growth pressures. Things are changing. That is the impetus for this town initiative, in my view. Sprawl and unplanned growth happen in a death-by-a-thousand-cuts process. We don't want to be in a position of "too little, too late." Zoning gives the town the ability to guide development in a way that protects the lifestyles and property values of each resident, while supporting the community's vision.

**Zoning Commission Update:** The Zoning Commission completed a draft of the first four Articles (Enacting Clause, Definitions, Districts, and Uses and Dimensions) and held two informational meetings the last week of June. The Zoning Commission continues to work diligently, carefully considering public input, in order to draft a plan that makes sense for Caroline.

**Land Use Moratorium:** Land Use Moratoria protect the interests of a town and its residents while new land use regulations are being developed. The Town Board extended the Land Use Moratorium until May 1, 2023, while the draft zoning law is being developed. This puts a hold on major development projects subject to Site Plan or Subdivision Review; it does not apply to residential building projects, home businesses, or projects not subject to Site Plan or Subdivision Review. There is also a Waiver Process that can be pursued if an applicant feels that a qualifying project poses little or no harm to the Town's interests and halting it would present a hardship to the applicant.

**Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan:** The Town's Agriculture Committee has embarked on producing an Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan for Caroline. They have submitted a grant proposal for assistance from Cornell Cooperative Extension and are earnestly proceeding to begin this work. The Agriculture Committee meets once each month.

**Code Enforcement Update:** Welcome to Mr. Cliff Babson, our new Building Inspector. Cliff will be transitioning into his office in the next few weeks. Steve Cortright and Brian Buttner will continue to hold the fort until he's settled in. Thanks to Steve and Brian for their excellent assistance while we've worked to fill this position.

**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 see the town website for more information.

## ***Tompkins County Legislature Report***

### **Dan Klein, [dklein@tompkins-co.org](mailto:dklein@tompkins-co.org)**

Last year, Tompkins County received \$20 million in federal stimulus funds. County government incurred a lot of extra costs during the pandemic, and so this money was welcomed. It is partly responsible for keeping the County tax levy increase to zero last year.

As a further way to give this money to the community and to make Tompkins County stronger, we set up a \$6.5 million grant program we are calling the Community Recovery Fund. The fund should be launching this month. Applications will probably be accepted through October, with the grants being awarded around the first of the new year.

The money came from ARPA – the American Rescue Plan Act, and so we must follow the rules and reporting procedures of that piece of legislation.

The goals of the program include addressing the impacts of Covid 19, responding to diversity, equity, and inclusion needs, supporting local not-for-profits

### ***TC Legislature Report Cont.:***

and small businesses and addressing critical needs in local services such as childcare, job training, housing, and broadband internet.

The minimum grant will be \$10,000. Matching funds are not required but might strengthen an application.

We welcome the organizations that are already watching this process and are good at getting grants. But we also want to invite in the not-for-profit organizations and small businesses who do not normally compete in the world of grants. We will be doing a lot of outreach for this purpose. We will keep the application and reporting process as easy as possible.

### ***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](mailto:clerk@townofcaroline.org)), or by mail (P.O. Box 136, Slaterville Springs, NY 14881).

### **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>

### ***Caroline Local Ag Committee***

The Caroline Town Board formed a Local Agriculture Advisory Committee by Resolution 101 of 2021 to investigate and recommend measures for the Town to support local agriculture and food justice issues. Please contact Councilmember Katherine Goldberg ([Katherine\\_Gold-berg@townofcaroline.org](mailto:Katherine_Gold-berg@townofcaroline.org)) if you have questions *or would like to share feedback on any Agricultural issues within the Town.* We invite residents *to join* the Local Agriculture Advisory Committee. Please send a statement of interest along with your name and phone number to Town Clerk Jessica Townsend at [clerk@townofcaroline.org](mailto:clerk@townofcaroline.org). *Engagement around Agricultural issues is welcome at any time, independent from membership in the Agricultural Committee. If you would like to be kept informed of ongoing Agricultural issues via email list, whether or not you are a member of the Agricultural Committee, please contact Councilmember Katherine Goldberg.*

### ***Town Clerk***

#### **Just a few reminders:**

- (1) If you have recently split/subdivided your property, you will need a Certificate of Apportionment from the Tompkins Assessment Office. This is an important step to ensure you are paying the correct amount on your next tax bill. If you have any questions about this, call me and I will give you more information.
- (2) If you drop by the Town Hall outside of business hours, documents can be left in the secure drop-box located to the right of the front door. I check this box daily and will mail you back the necessary documents you are trying to obtain. Enjoy the end of summer!
- (3) For Lifetime Hunting/Fishing Holders you can have your license replaced for FREE from Aug 29-Nov 1

### ***Highway Department***

#### **The Highway Department Hours**

October - March 6:00 am – 2:30 pm M-F  
April – September 6:00 am – 4:00 pm M-F

***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](mailto:bookkeeper@townofcaroline.org))***