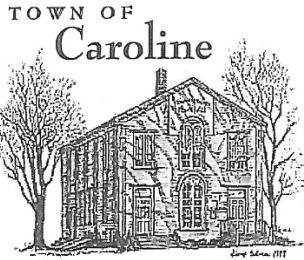


# Caroline Quarterly

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Slaterville Springs, NY 14881

Town Newsletter #3 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

**Michele Brown** michele.brown@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 Session: Monday @ 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

Thursday 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Saturday 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Room is Handicap Accessible



# October 2023 Calendar

Town Board Agenda Meeting	7:00 pm	Wednesday– 4 <sup>th</sup>
Town Board Business Meeting	7:00 pm	Thursday –19 <sup>th</sup>
Court Session	4:00 pm	Mondays – 2 <sup>nd</sup> ,9 <sup>th</sup> ,16 <sup>th</sup> ,23 <sup>rd</sup> ,30 <sup>th</sup>
Court Office Hours	12:00 -5:00 pm	Mondays – 2 <sup>nd</sup> ,9 <sup>th</sup> ,16 <sup>th</sup> ,23 <sup>rd</sup> ,30 <sup>th</sup>
Court Office Hours	11:30 am -2:00 pm	Tuesdays – 3 <sup>rd</sup> ,10 <sup>th</sup> ,17 <sup>th</sup> ,24 <sup>th</sup> ,31 <sup>st</sup>
Watershed Committee	4:00 pm	Tuesday – 10 <sup>th</sup>
Ag Committee	7:00 – 9:00 pm	Thursday – 12 <sup>th</sup>
Fire Company Meetings		
Slaterville	7:00 pm	Monday – 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Speedsville	7:00 pm	Monday – 9 <sup>th</sup>
Brooktondale	7:00 pm	Monday – 16 <sup>th</sup>



# November 2023 Calendar

## 2023 Calendar

Town Board Agenda Meeting	7:00 pm	Wednesday –1 <sup>st</sup>
Town Board Business Meeting	7:00 pm	Wednesday – 15 <sup>th</sup>
Court Session	4:00 pm	Mondays – 6 <sup>th</sup> ,13 <sup>th</sup> ,20 <sup>th</sup> ,27 <sup>th</sup>
Court Office Hours	12:00-5:00 pm	Mondays – 6 <sup>th</sup> ,13 <sup>th</sup> ,20 <sup>th</sup> ,27 <sup>th</sup>
Court Office Hours	11:30 am-2:00 pm	Tuesdays – 7 <sup>th</sup> ,14 <sup>th</sup> ,21 <sup>st</sup> ,28 <sup>th</sup>
Watershed Committee	4:00 pm	Tuesday – 14 <sup>th</sup>
Ag Committee	7:00 – 9:00 pm	Thursday – 16 <sup>th</sup>
Fire Company Meetings		
Slaterville	7:00 pm	Monday – 6 <sup>th</sup>
Speedsville	7:00 pm	Monday – 13 <sup>th</sup>
Brooktondale	7:00 pm	Monday – 20 <sup>th</sup>



# DECEMBER 2023 Calendar

## 2023 Calendar

Town Board Agenda Meeting	7:00 pm	Wednesday – 6 <sup>th</sup>
Town Board Business Meeting	7:00 pm	Wednesday – 20 <sup>th</sup>
Court Session	4:00 pm	Mondays – 4 <sup>th</sup> ,11 <sup>th</sup> ,18 <sup>th</sup> ,25 <sup>th</sup>
Court Office Hours	12:00 -5:00 pm	Mondays – 4 <sup>th</sup> ,11 <sup>th</sup> ,18 <sup>th</sup> ,25 <sup>th</sup>
Court Office Hours	11:30 am -2:00 pm	Tuesdays – 5 <sup>th</sup> ,12 <sup>th</sup> ,19 <sup>th</sup> ,26 <sup>th</sup>
Watershed Committee	4:00 pm	Tuesdays – 12 <sup>th</sup>
Ag Committee	7:00 – 9:00 pm	Thursday – 14 <sup>th</sup>
Fire Company Meetings		
Slaterville	7:00 pm	Monday – 4 <sup>th</sup>
Speedsville	7:00 pm	Monday – 11 <sup>th</sup>
Brooktondale	7:00 pm	Monday – 18 <sup>th</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

**Broadband:** The Feasibility Study for municipal broadband by Hunt Engineering is nearing completion. A preview was presented at the October 19 town board meeting by Ryan Garrison. The Town Board will be reviewing the study's recommendations and then pursuing an action plan. We are enthusiastic about building off Dryden's municipal broadband utility as an investment for our community's future.

**Town of Caroline Zoning:** The Town Board is conducting final revisions of the proposed zoning law. We expect that work to be completed soon and we will then schedule a Public Hearing before bringing it forward for a vote. The following are key elements that support goals of the Comprehensive Plan in encouraging the development of livable, diverse neighborhoods and hamlets, while protecting open space and fresh waters for agriculture, as well as recreational activities. It establishes a plan to guide future development that protects residences and businesses from incompatible uses. Here are some key features:

- Supports diverse communities by permitting Single-family and Multifamily Dwellings of four units or less in all districts, as well as providing development incentives for senior and affordable housing.
- Establishes Design Standards for commercial businesses.
- Protects open space by establishing a Conservation Subdivision provision for development of major subdivisions in which 50% of the land is left open.
- There are no minimum lot sizes. In the Ag/Rural District subdivision of lots is limited to an average of three acres so as to ensure a modicum of open space in most of the town. This provision gives property owners both responsibility and flexibility in how their land is subdivided.
- Supports local businesses and the local economy by permitting Home Business and Residential Secondary Businesses throughout Caroline.
- Allows agricultural pursuits and structures in all districts.
- Protects water quality and the interests of property owners by establishing modest, common-sense buffers along Caroline's waterways (Stream Corridor Overlay District).

**Emergency Services Planning:** Since the beginning of 2020 the Tompkins County Council of Governments subcommittee on Emergency Services Planning which I chair has been steadily developing a plan to address the need for timely emergency medical response in our town and others in Tompkins County. I'm very happy to report that we put forward a plan that was endorsed by the

by the Tompkins County Shared Services Committee for submission to New York State for 2024 pilot-year funding. We feel that this proposal is particularly strong as a county shared-services project because it addresses a well-recognized need for timely emergency medical first response. The plan is for deployment of three rapid medical response teams that will provide first response to medical emergencies. By responding quickly to calls throughout the county, this program will support all existing first-responders, including ambulances and fire departments, and it will shorten the response times in more rural parts of the county. We are grateful for the strong support from the Tompkins County Legislature.

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

## Tompkins County Legislature Report

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

The County is proposing initiating a pilot (experimental) countywide rapid medical response system. The idea is that there would be 3 vehicles positioned around the county, each staffed with an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). These vehicles would be able to respond quickly to certain kinds of 911 calls, and could provide appropriate medical response. They would not be transporting patients. This project is not intended to replace any services currently being offered.

The service would be in effect Monday to Friday, 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. This would cover times of heavy call volume and times when volunteer EMT's are not as available to respond.

In addition to decreasing response times, this system would reduce the number of calls where an ambulance is dispatched to a situation that ends up not needing an ambulance. This project won't solve every problem, but it is the most positive development concerning rural emergency medical response that has come along in a long time.

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

The County is seeking grants for the startup costs for the first year. After that, the projected annual operating cost is about \$500,000. The County will probably ask the Towns to contribute a little financially to the project in future years, but this is not a precondition for starting up the program.

If the Town of Caroline were to start its own similar service, the estimated annual operating expense would be \$557,000, paid for completely by Caroline tax dollars.

The Tompkins County Fire and EMS Chiefs Association has unanimously endorsed the program.

There will be a public hearing on the proposal on October 3 at 5:30 at the County Legislature meeting.

The other long-time, stubborn issue that should be improving in the foreseeable future is broadband internet. In October, the County will be receiving proposals for how to provide broadband access to every unserved address in Tompkins County. That's over 1,200 addresses, many of which are in Caroline.

The County will be looking to pay for this one-time broadband buildout with a combination of grant money, County taxpayer money, and funds from the internet service providers.

I will continue to report on these projects as they develop.

Thanks to the Caroline Town Board for their role in both these efforts.

## **Town Clerk**

The Clerk's Office is open Monday-Thursday from 8AM to 2PM or at other times scheduled by appointment. We will be closed November 13<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

*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))*

## **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 4:00 pm – 6:00pm  
Saturdays 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Handicap Accessible  
For Appointments email Barbara, Jennifer or Shuly

[carolinehistorian@yahoo.com](mailto:carolinehistorian@yahoo.com)  
[Shuly@frontiernet.net](mailto: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**

**Summer Hours:** Monday – Thursday 6:00 am – 4:30 pm

**Winter Hours:** Monday – Friday 6:00 am – 2:30 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. Meetings can be attended from your computer or phone via Zoom teleconference (link available on the Home Page of the Town's website). 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).

**Seeking members on the Town's Review Board and Planning Board**

We are soliciting applications for membership on the Town's Review Board and Planning Board. We have one vacancy on the Review Board and three vacancies on the Planning Board.

**The Planning Board** conducts planning work and advises the Town Board on planning measures. Recent accomplishments have been updating the Town's Comprehensive Plan, and drafting a Solar Siting Law and a Battery Energy Storage Systems Siting Law.

**The Review Board** administers applications subject to the Town's Site Plan and Subdivision Review Laws. These are applications for major projects, including major subdivisions, commercial/retail establishments, large-scale solar or battery storage projects, and telecommunications towers. Persons interested in serving on either of these boards should submit a letter explaining which boards they are interested in serving on and why they are interested in serving, detailing relevant community and/or work experience to the Town Clerk ([clerk@townofcaroline.org](mailto:clerk@townofcaroline.org)). Please include your address, email, and phone number.

**Mobile Home Residents: Stay Warm in Winter, Cool in Summer!**

A new program from Sustainable Finger Lakes will help 50 low-to-moderate income mobile home owners in Tompkins County upgrade their homes with high-efficiency heat pumps and electrical upgrades. These home energy improvements will provide income-qualified mobile home residents with year-round comfortable temperatures, healthier air quality, long-term affordability, and an alternative to fossil fuels. For more information contact the Project Coordinator: [holly@sustainablefingerlakes.org](mailto:holly@sustainablefingerlakes.org) 607-272-1720. This project is funded in part by Tompkins County via the Tompkins Community Recovery Fund.

For free home energy advising and support for all home types, please contact Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins County at 607 272-2292.