

CAROLINE TOWN BOARD BUSINESS MEETING

February 12, 2020

Salute to the Flag (7:00)

Privilege-of-the-Floor: Opportunity for citizens to bring forward matters of concern

Please be prepared to make one statement not to exceed 3 minutes in length

Additions or Deletions from Agenda

Environmental Management Council Report

Highway Superintendent's Report

Supervisor's Report

Town Clerk's Report

County Representative's Report

Department, Committee, & Liaison Updates

Town Business (8:00)

- Transfers
- Approval of Abstracts: Highway, General, Lighting, Fire Protection
- Review of minutes of 12/3, 12/11, 1/7, 1/15, 1/22, 2/4 (www.townofcaroline.org/documents.html)
- Resolution to appoint Code Officer Greenhouse to Permanent Civil Service status
- Resolution in support of a "hands-off" policy for Tompkins County Forest Lands
- Review of the Proposed 2020 Legislative Program of the Association of Towns of New York State

——Adjourn——

Privilege of the Floor Policy at Caroline Town Board Meetings

- Privilege-of-the-Floor is offered at the beginning of town meetings as an opportunity for individuals to provide input to the town board. Speakers have up to three minutes, subject to modification depending upon time constraints of a particular meeting. Each resident is provided one speaking opportunity per meeting; written input is also welcome.
- Comments should be directed to the Town Board. The Supervisor or Councilpersons may answer questions brought forward or defer to allow for further research and thought.
- Respectful discourse is required.
- Personnel matters should be directed to the appropriate Supervisor or Department Head.

Resolution _ of 2020. Appointment of Code Officer Brooke Greenhouse to Permanent status

Whereas, Mr. Brooke Greenhouse successfully completed Building Code of New York State courses as of February 21, 2019; and

Whereas, Code Officer Greenhouse passed the Zoning/Code/Fire Enforcement Officer Civil Service exam on June 22, 2019, and Tompkins County Civil Service provided a Certified List on October 7, 2019; therefore be it

Resolved, Code Officer Greenhouse is hereby moved from Provisional to Permanent status as of December 5, 2019, marking the beginning of his required Probationary Period of from 8 weeks to one year.

Resolution _ of 2020. Recommendation of Hands-off Policy to Promote Old-growth Forests on County Lands.

Whereas, forests provide many benefits to our residents and the environment, and old-growth forests (those that are undisturbed by human intervention for centuries) are among the rarest habitats and pieces of biodiversity, and

Whereas, forests are in a natural state of flux where trees get sick and die, insects kill trees, wind blows trees over, and fire sometimes burns forests, and

Whereas, none of these natural phenomena need automatically trigger human intervention, and

Whereas, strategies of proforestation, the practice of purposefully growing an existing forest intact, benefit nature-based biological carbon sequestration and ecosystem services such as biodiversity enhancement, water and air quality, soil health, flood and erosion control, public health benefits, low impact recreation, and scenic beauty, and

Whereas, a proforestation policy is a low-cost/low-effort approach that avoids the impacts of logging on the landscape and the related erosion and costs to the County and Town of Caroline, and

Whereas, Tompkins County's Environmental Management Council has produced a draft report with different management options, noting, among them, that the forests will naturally develop to an old-growth state, and

Whereas proforestation will sequester quantitatively more carbon over the critical next few decades than cutting and regrowing forests,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Caroline Town Council requests that Tompkins County allow the land it owns to grow intact toward its full ecological potential without commercial logging.