

May Notes from the Town Supervisor

I've been working with Terry Carroll of Cornell Cooperative Extension and Assistant Becky Jordan toward several of NYSERDA's Clean Energy Community "High-impact Actions." We've completed Benchmarking - entering a year's worth of energy use data for our municipal buildings and a commitment by the Town Board that we will update this annually. The value of benchmarking is that we will be able to assess where we have the most potential to improve energy efficiency in town building operations. We've also achieved the Solarize High-impact Action: 16 Caroline residential solar photovoltaic systems resulted from the Solar Tompkins Program, plus 25 solar PV systems in the earlier Solarize Tompkins SE Program. I'm also working with our Code Officer, Kevin McMahon, on an Energy Code Training exercise that will give me and others an opportunity to learn first-hand about energy code measures that Kevin typically deals with. NYSERDA has a total of 10 high-impact action items that we will be working to achieve. Why are we doing this? Ultimately, we are engaging with this New York State initiative to make progress toward energy efficiency and renewables to address climate change. In the near term, there is the carrot of limited grants to towns that achieve at least four of the 10 high-impact actions. We are working to qualify for these funds to support further progress towards a low-carbon life in Caroline.

Related to this, the Caroline Town Hall lot, which serves both visitors to town offices as well as Park-N-Ride folks, has been selected to be evaluated for a charging station for electric vehicles. The town board endorsed a non-binding Notice-of-Intent and we will be getting a proposal this summer. This initiative is working to broadly deploy electric vehicle charging stations in order to encourage transition to electric cars.

Clp. Fracchia and I have been working on developing a bid document for painting the Historic Town Hall. A Cornell Student has been developing a Historic Structure Report this this term for our town hall that will help guide this work. We plan to release the Request for Proposals very soon and get the town hall painted!

With the successful Round II Award to Haeefe TV for build-out of fiber-to-the-home in Caroline, Clps. Weiser and Reinbolt are now working to identify areas still in need of coverage so that they can be included in Round III proposals to the New York State Broadband Program.

We have received a lot of input on the South Hill Recreation Way proposal. We are awaiting confirmation from County Planning on the final License Agreement with NYSEG before further consideration.

The Town Board decided to postpone the start-date for the Moratorium on Site Plan and Subdivision Review to July 1 from concerns expressed about the timing in relation to the building season. We revised the document and will reconsider at our June 6 Agenda meeting.

Engineering plans and permitting are nearing completion for the second phase of stream stabilization on Buffalo Road Creek. This work is on target for completion this year.