

## March Notes from the Supervisor

Revision of Caroline's Subdivision and Site Plan Review Laws is nearly complete. The revisions focused on highlighting opportunities for developers to incorporate measures to minimize greenhouse gas emissions and water use, thereby reducing building operating costs. I will soon be introducing the new laws to the Town Board. With their approval, we will then set a date for a Public Hearing, providing an opportunity for public review and feedback.

We are moving ahead with LED streetlight conversion, thanks in large part to collaboration amongst Tompkins County municipalities, with leadership by the City of Ithaca. Last year Tompkins County led a shared services panel composed of the county's town supervisors and village mayors, as required under the New York State budget. One of the opportunities identified in that effort was LED streetlight conversion because LEDs offer significant cost savings because of their energy efficiency and low-maintenance requirements. The City of Ithaca had already begun work on LED streetlight conversion and is leading this effort by sharing information and resources. It's more complex than I would have thought. First, the town needs to own the streetlight arms and lamps, currently owned by NYSEG. And we need detailed information on each streetlight to inform the design proposal. Terry Carroll and Lee Yoke from Cornell Cooperative Extension have offered to help us conduct a GIS inventory of our 77 streetlights and we will be doing that in the next few months. Our Clean Energy Communities grant to NYSERDA included a request for funding to support purchase of streetlight infrastructure from NYSEG, as well as the LED street lamps. We expect to hear about our grant within the next month.

The progress we're making on LED streetlights illustrates how much we gain by working together, whether it's NYSERDA's programs, incentives, or local coordinators, Tompkins County's stewardship of the Shared Services Panel, Energy Roadmap, and Energy Recommendations for New Construction, or information-sharing and support from municipal partners and Cornell Cooperative Extension. The Tompkins County Council of Governments has been instrumental in promoting discussions and sharing of ideas.