

## ***Supervisor's Report, August 9, 2017***

### **Correspondence of Note:**

- Girl Scouts Caroline Beigel, Lily Dean, and Cecily Hansen of Slaterville Springs earned Bronze Awards for their project to make blankets for kittens and cats at SPCA. Sent letter of appreciation to each of them.

### **Supervisor Notes:**

- Finger Lakes Land Trust - Cal Snow and I attended Tompkins County Legislature meeting on July 18th to speak in support of the Finger Lakes Land Trust's request for \$15,000 contribution from Tompkins County toward their WQIP grant application for Lounsbery Tract Agricultural and Conservation Easement. We provided legislators a letter (attached) signed by all town board members pointing out the value of protecting farmland and Six Mile Creek and that this easement would further the goals of the Town's Comprehensive Plan in bolstering the local agricultural economy and the rural nature of Caroline. The measure later passed unanimously.
- Worked with T.G. Miller to provide NYSDHSES an updated project scope for Buffalo Road Creek II. There was no increase in the length of the project, nor cost.
- Worked with T.G. Miller to submit WQIP Culvert Replacement and Streambank Stabilization grant proposal for Ekroos Road culverts. Obtained two-year temporary easements from land-owners.
- Nathaniel Haviland-Markowitz, intern at CCE, assisted us with completing Climate Smart Communities Resiliency questionnaire that will aid us in evaluating areas for improvement.
- With assistance from Code Officer Kevin McMahon we completed our fourth "high-impact action item" of the 10 listed under NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities Program, Energy Code Training. The other three are completion of a Solarize Program, adoptions of the Unified Solar Permit, and Benchmarking of building energy use. With completion of four action items, Caroline has now qualified for a NYSERDA grant for which we will need to submit a proposal within 90 days.
- 2018 Budget requests sent to town departments.
- Trail. Posted our town attorney's Legal Memo Regarding Title to Railroad Bed on the town website. My observations:
  1. The Town's attorney, Guy Krogh, has concluded, ***NYSEG holds valid title to the rail bed. Chapter 21 of the NYS Laws of 1828, including specifically § 8 therein, is clear and unambiguous that the I&O Railroad actually took true title - fee simple absolute.***
  2. The trail extension is unique in that it would provide a direct, safe route for non-motorized transit between Brooktondale and Ithaca. No other such corridor exists.
  3. There is widespread support in Caroline for extension of the South Hill Recreation Way Trail.
  4. Concerns have been raised that the trail would create unacceptable impacts.
  5. These concerns are among the 11 issues articulated by the 2008 Caroline Town Board that have been thoroughly and satisfactorily addressed by the 2009 Caroline Trails Committee Report. This document that has information specific to the proposed extension relevant to planning issues. I appreciate the hard work of the former Natural Areas and Trails Committee members who researched and compiled this document.
  6. The proposal is to reinforce the rail bed with gravel/stone. For the four Caroline residences that neighbor the NYSEG property, the closest proximity of the rail bed is approximately 300 ft. We would work with neighbors to mitigate potential impacts and maintain the natural character of the rail bed.

***By developing a project proposal that incorporates the community vision, mitigates concerns, and details costs, funding, and management plans, we can make an informed decision.***