

Caroline Watershed Meeting Minutes 4/24/18

Attendance: Lucy Gagliardo, Mark Witmer, Kristen Hychka (and Hope), Jackie Cassaniti

Mark said Angel Hinickle will have a ditch training presentation for road crews on 5/3/18 from 8am to 1pm, call 607-257-2340 for the location. Kristen, who is also a member of the Water Resources Council will have a similar presentation in the fall, with a key speaker from the Cornell Local Roads Program and it will feature a panel discussion.

Members for the Watershed Committee will try to visit ditches in the town to see what needs to be done and suggest projects. The ditches should be mowed and taken care of to avoid sending debris to streams and the lake. They mentioned the CHIPS program for highway improvement; and how David Orr, from Cornell Local Roads would like to make ditch granting easier for people to access for environmental reasons.

The talk then turned to the Town's draft Caroline Stormwater Protection Plan. Mark and Kristen went over the report that is due in May, it will be presented to the town board soon. Angel and an intern looked at it a few years ago and it just needs to be updated.

Where could the tiles the farmers lay to remove water go? Instead of draining to road ditches, they could be directed to holding ponds on their property. Would they set aside land for a holding pond? A suggestion was made that NYS might purchase land on the farmer's property for such a purpose.

Lucy asked what are the measurable goals of the Stormwater Protection Plan and how are they presented to the public; she noted the work of CSI in volunteer monitoring of Six Mile Creek and its tributaries for sediment and pollution. Mark said the Watershed Committee tries to have a public event every year to talk about water issues. It is usually noted in the Brooktondale newsletter, The Old Mill, and posted at public spaces around town. Lucy said she would be interested in writing an article for The Old Mill about the watershed committee and emphasize the dates of the meetings, which are listed in the newsletter calendar.

Mark and Kristen, and Cindy Whittaker - Town of Caroline Highway Dep't - attended the Watershed Summit, representing the Town of Caroline, held by the Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Organization (I O), of which the town is a member, on April 19th. They said they thought it was run well. Check out the updated I O website at www.cayugawatershed.org which mentions the Six Mile Creek restoration, Barille I, although it doesn't go into detail.

Submitted by Jackie Cassaniti