

Caroline Town Board Meeting Minutes of May 23, 2023

A Town Board Meeting was held hybrid and called to order at 7:05 p.m. and was hosted by Town Supervisor Mark Witmer

Attendance:

Supervisor Mark Witmer
Councilmember Cal Snow
Councilmember Tim Murray
Councilmember Kate Kelley-Mackenzie

Recording Secretary:

Jessie Townsend, Town Clerk

Public Attendance: 4 members of the public in-person, 12 members of the public via zoom

Supr. Witmer opened with the Pledge to the Flag.

Zoning Discussion

Continued discussion regarding the details of the water overlay districts, specifically focusing on the Standards as proposed in Section 5.3A of the draft law (*pages 65-69*).

The following 13 motions were made. All were approved unanimously.

Motion 1: Establish a single riparian buffer zone (no inner and outer).

By: MW – 2nd: TM

Motion 2: The riparian buffer shall be 75 feet from the stream bank in the hamlets and 100 feet from the stream bank in the remaining districts.

By: KKM – 2nd: TM

Motion 3: The riparian buffer shall apply for both perennial and intermittent streams (USGS).

By: MW - 2nd: KKM

Motion 4: The width of the riparian buffer for intermittent streams shall be 20 feet from the stream bank.

By: KKM – 2nd: TM

Motion 5: (page 68) Remove sentence in paragraph 1 that tree cutting within 25 feet of top of stream bank is prohibited.

By: MW – 2nd: CS

Motion 6: (page 67) Eliminate last bullet point regarding requirement for a Forest Stewardship Plan.

By: TM – 2nd: KKM

Motion 7: (page 67) Add to 2b a bullet point provision for removal of dead, diseased, or falling trees.

By: MW – 2nd: TM

Motion 8: (page 68) Revise language, “Tree cutting should retain at a minimum 50% of the tree canopy in the Buffer at all times.”

By: TM – 2nd: CS

Motion 9: (page 69) Remove the word “decorative” from bullet point 4.

By: MW – 2nd: TM

Motion 10: (page 69) Add bullets 2, 3, and 4 of 3b to 2b (permitted activities).

By: MW – 2nd: TM

Motion 11: (page 69) Under existing section 4, add current section 5 as “d. Parking or parking lots, except in connection with an Agricultural or Farm Operation.” Eliminates current section 5.

By: KKM – 2nd: TM

Motion 12: (page 69) Add to existing section 4, “e. Pervious surfaces may not be made impervious.”

By: KKM – 2nd: TM

Motion 13: (page 69) Eliminate section 3 and renumber the subsequent sections as 3 and 4.

By: TM – 2nd: MW

Other Discussion

Supervisor Witmer announced that Clm. Katherine Goldberg gave her resignation. The board will be moving forward to appoint a new board member. The appointment for this seat will be for the remainder of this year and will be voted on in the Fall 2023 General Election for the remaining two years of the term (1/1/24 – 12/31/25). Residents interested in this position should send a letter of interest to the Town Clerk.

The next zoning meeting was scheduled for Thursday, June 1st at 7pm.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Supr. Witmer and seconded by Clm. Murray at 7:21 p.m. and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessie Townsend