

## **Caroline Town Board Meeting Minutes of June 6, 2017**

The Town Board Agenda meeting held on June 6, 2017 at the Caroline Town Hall was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Supervisor Mark Witmer.

### **Attendance:**

Mark Witmer, Supervisor  
John Fracchia, Councilmember  
Irene Weiser, Councilmember  
Gary Reinbolt, Councilmember  
Cal Snow, Councilmember

### **Recording**

**Secretary:** Rebecca Jordan, Deputy Town Clerk

**Also present:** 8 members of the public were present

Mr. Witmer started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

---

### **Privilege of the Floor**

Bob Spaulding – After listening last month to comments concerning the proposed rail bed trail and in particular the expressed wish of individuals in favor of the proposal to find a compromise. I came away wondering what that compromise might look like. At this juncture I am still unable to imagine any compromise that would be acceptable to affected landowners. Instead I see the outcome as a dichotomy; very much a win or lose situation. If the proposal goes forward, the only thing compromised in the end would be the rights of property owners to fully enjoy the fruits of their labor and investment.

While a number of the people who favor the trail have pointed out their desire to use same for safer bicycle riding, we should remain focused on the reality that such a trail could never be justified as a transportation corridor. At best the trail would be a seasonal source of recreation. We are blessed both here in Caroline and the county, as a whole, to have a myriad of available and accessible recreational opportunities.

So, once again, this brings me back to a question of whether the basic rights of property owners should be compromised to provide privileges for others who have neither investment nor tangible need.

I see no legitimate need for the trail to be extended as proposed. We have other real infrastructure needs that should have priority. Let's begin to think about getting a dollar's worth for every dollar we spend rather than wasting time and money on things we don't really need.

Sam Trechter – advocate for extension of South Hill Recreation Way. If there's an easement issue, whose property is it? Question how much claim adjacent landowners have in adopting the rail land. Roads such as White Church and Coddington are not safe.

Marty Hatch – Interested in Chrys Gardner's presentation. Caroline is an adoptive town.

Connie O'Brien – Appreciative of the Town's improvement efforts. In support of the Trail. Brought petitions in support of trail extension containing approximately 50 signature, about half of which are Caroline residents.

Betty Dean – A trail in Caroline leading to Ithaca is a good idea however, does not agree with the path of the trail cutting too close to homeowner's property invading privacy & way of life. The old railway is a utility easement, not a public right of way.

Scott Dean – hunting sport cameras on posted property (Beaver Creek Rd) picked up walkers with dogs trespassing on posted land. Private property luxury is being threatened.

---

## **Reports**

**Cindy Whittaker, Highway Superintendent** – No Report

**Gary Reinbolt, Town Board** – No Report

**John Fracchia, Town Board**

## **Building and Grounds**

· Have read Historic Structure Report by Sam Coon (Cornell University) and am in the process of incorporating its recommendations into an RFP to have the Historic Town Hall painted.

## **Emergency Services**

· Have reviewed attorney's feedback regarding question of creating a "First Response" district as opposed to an ambulance district. While the town could create a district, it would still need to either a) create a service provider or b) contract with a current service provider. Both of these options have been previously explored and found to be unfeasible due to economic and staffing constraints.

· I have concluded that the only viable path forward for Caroline is to try to create a first responder network, which will require cooperation between the Fire District Commissioners and the Fire Chiefs of the three town squads. Core issues include: permission for a fire department to conduct first response activities in another district; allowing personnel from other fire departments to attach as first responders with Brooktondale Fire Department, the only squad that currently has recognized first response service. An appropriate next step would be for the town to request a meeting with the Fire Commissioners and Chiefs to discuss this possibility.

## **Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium**

· Attended the May 25th meeting of the consortium.

· The Board received the Audit Report from Insero & Company, which revealed no material weaknesses on the part of the consortium.

· The consortium is currently evaluating its governance structure due to significant growth in participating municipalities. Currently, each municipality has a representative on the board and, as a result, the board size has grown to over 30 members. A sub-committee has been created to consider alternative structures. I have joined that sub-committee.

· If the Town of Caroline is going to make any changes to its current health benefits plan, the consortium must be notified of the changes by October 1, 2017.

## **Joint Youth Commission**

· Attended May meeting of the Joint Youth Commission (JYC) on May 9, 2017.

· Kris Bennett did a presentation on a Vitality Checklist & Youth Engagement. The JYC appears to have all of the right elements in place

· In April 2017, 37 Caroline youth participated in JYC funded programs (see below)

**Youth served by municipality by JYC funded program, April, 2017**

(duplicated count) Source: Monthly program reports to JYC for May 2017 meeting

	T. Caroline	V. Cayuga Hts.	T. Ithaca	V. Lansing	Other	TOTAL JYC	TOTAL ALL
<b>Learning Web</b>	2	12	48	6	0	68	68
Career Expl/Apprenticeship	2	11	44	5	0	62	62
Volunteer Commun. Service	0	1	4	1	0	6	6
<b>Cornell Cooperative Extension</b>	29	17	34	5	22	93	131-136
Boynton-Lunch Bunch	report not broken out by municipality					8	12
DeWitt-Lunch Bunch	report not broken out by municipality						12-17
Caroline 4th & 5th grade club	9	0	2	0	1	11	12
DeWitt-Board Games/D&D/Magic	5	1	6	0	3	12	15
Boynton-Bobcat Chefs	0	6	10	2	8	18	26
Boynton-Wacky Wednesdays	0	6	2	0	6	8	14
DeWitt-Yearbook Club	3	1	4	1	1	9	10
DeWitt-Art and Soul	2	1	1	1	0	5	5
Caroline-Outdoor Adv/Nature Jour	6	0	2	0	1	8	9
Spr. Break Magic & Board Games	2	1	3	1	1	7	8
Spr. Break Girl Ventures	0	0	1	0	1	1	2
Spr. Break Birding Trip	2	1	3	0	0	6	6
<b>IYB Youth Employment Service</b>	2	1	6	1	2	10	12
YES Connect	2	1	6	1	2	10	12
YES Summer Jobs Program	6	6	29	5	13	46	59
<b>Coddington Road CIT Program</b>	recruitment done this month, not broken out by municipality						

Prepared by Kris Bennett

**Cal Snow, Town Board** – Wet weather causing erosion, trees down, culvert washouts. Cindy will be attending the Cornell Rural Roads Program next week. Retiring long term elected Justice. Are we best served/is it best practice to have two Justices? Who is the deciding authority? What do other towns have? Consolidate?

**Irene Weiser, Town Board** – No Updates

**Karyn Scott, Joint Youth Commission** –

Joint Youth Commission May 2017 Meeting Notes

JYC Meeting held 05/09/17:

- Kris presented the vitality checklist which was a form that she filled out to critique the JYC. Most of her answers were "usually" which were the highest mark awarded. The other options were "sometimes" and "never."
- Kris shared a video that described the importance of having youth board members, youth advisors, or youth sub-committees. This allows committees to hear their prospective and possible solutions. This can also encourage the youth to feel more involved and typically promotes community pride.
- We will discuss the possibility of having a youth survey (needs assessment) at the next meeting.
- Lansing and Caroline still have vacant seats

· We discussed the JYC Facebook page and how it can be improved -Thank you for allowing the Town of Caroline webpage to provide a link.

· The planning updates for 2018 were discussed and we are planning on presenting the information and having the paperwork ready to present to the board members around August.

---

## **Town Business**

### **Presentation by Chrys Gardener on Tompkins County's Rural Beautification Grants Program**

<http://ccetompkins.org/gardening/community-beautification/rural-grants>

### **Public Hearing on Moratorium on Subdivision and Site Plan Review for 180 days**

No public comment. Public hearing closed at 7:28PM.

### **Resolution xxx of 2017**

**Local Law No. \_\_\_\_\_ providing for a Moratorium on Actions subject to Site Plan or Subdivision Review for a period of One-Hundred Eighty (180) days**

#### **A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Irene Weiser**

A resolved, the Caroline Town Board hereby adopts Local Law No. \_\_\_\_\_ providing for a Moratorium on Actions subject to Site Plan or Subdivision Review for a period of One-Hundred Eighty (180) days

**Adopted** Witmer: Aye; Fracchia: Aye; Reinbolt: Aye; Weiser: Aye; Snow: Nay

### **Interview of Don Barber for Subdivision Review Board –**

**Irene – Are you aware that this is a multi-year time commitment? Yes**  
There aren't regularly scheduled meetings. Time lines for review.

**John – What got you interested in this role?** To engage in the process. The town takes an important lead role and it's important to continue participation.

### **Resolution xxx of 2017**

#### **Appointment of Don Barber to the Review Board**

#### **A motion was made by Mark Witmer and seconded by Irene Weiser**

A resolved, the Caroline Town Board hereby appoints Don Barber to the Subdivision Review Board for a term of four calendar years

**Adopted** Witmer: Aye; Fracchia: Aye; Reinbolt: Aye; Weiser: Aye; Snow: Aye

Agenda Items for Business Meeting:

**----Adjourn the meeting ----**

A motion made by Mr. Witmer and seconded by Irene Weiser to adjourn at 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Jordan, Deputy Town Clerk