

Caroline Town Board Agenda Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2021

The Town Board Agenda Meeting was held electronically via Zoom teleconference on April 6, 2021 beginning at 7:03 p.m. hosted by Supervisor Mark Witmer

Attendance:

Supervisor Mark Witmer
Councilmember Tim Murray
Councilmember Cal Snow
Councilmember Katherine Goldberg

Absent:

Councilmember John Fracchia

Recording Secretary:

Jessica L. Townsend, Town Clerk

Also Present: 3 members of the public

Supervisor Witmer began with a moment of silence to honor town residents, Charles Mohler and Dallas Micha, both of whom died unexpectedly this past week.

Privilege-of-the-Floor

Colin Hamilton – Spoke in support of the town adopting a Local Food Sovereignty and Community Self-Governance Ordinance for the assertion of unrestricted access to local food and the right to self-governance. This ordinance has been drafted and enacted in Maine and a movement has been begun in other rural municipalities. He would like to see Caroline support this effort.

Andrew Dygent – Spoke in support of the Local Food Ordinance. He has given material to the town board for their consideration. He believes that this ordinance fits with the town's Comprehensive Plan. He further recommended that the board seek legal counsel for their guidance.

The town board will look over the document and discuss at next week's business meeting.

Additions or Deletions to Agenda

Supervisor Witmer added discussion on Streetlights.

Resolution 88 of 2021. Accept proposal from Rene Carver for installation of AV system in Historic Town Hall.

A motion was made by Supervisor Witmer and seconded by Councilmember Goldberg as follows:
Whereas, the COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated holding public meetings by teleconference; and
Whereas, holding meetings by teleconference has resulted in increased attendance and reduced commuting miles and time for town officials and members of the public; and
Whereas, the Caroline Town Board recognizes that an audio-visual system that enables both in-person and remote attendance will facilitate the return to in-person meetings in a safe manner while also

maintaining the virtues in promoting public engagement provided by teleconferenced meetings;
and

Whereas, the Town Board has vetted a proposal by Rene Carver for purchase and installation of a
Caroline Town Hall Videoconference Solution for \$3,713 and finds it to be appropriate to our
needs; therefore be it

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board hereby accepts Mr. Carver's proposal.

Discussion: Clm. Murray asked for clarification on warranty and maintenance services.

Supervisor Witmer will follow-up with Rene.

Passed: Witmer: Aye Fracchia: Absent Snow: Aye Murray: Aye Goldberg: Aye

Resolution 89 of 2021. Confirmation of appointments to the Town of Caroline Zoning Commission

A motion was made by Supervisor Witmer and seconded by Councilmember Murray as follows:

Whereas, the Caroline Town Board, having reviewed the Town's updated Comprehensive Plan and
determined that the goals of the community would be well served by strengthened land use
regulations, established a Zoning Commission at its February 10 meeting (Resolution 64-2021),
as per Article 16, Section 266 of New York State Town Law; and

Whereas, Resolution 64-2021 created a Zoning Commission structure for the Town of three members of
the Planning Board and four residents of Caroline appointed by the Town Board, with one
councilmember to be appointed as Liaison to the Town Board; and

Whereas, the Caroline Town Board interviewed applicants for the Zoning Commission at its March 10
meeting and made four appointments; therefore be it

Resolved, the Caroline Town Board hereby confirms the following appointments and positions for a
seven-member Zoning Commission, with Councilmember Tim Murray serving as Liaison:

Planning Board members Michele Brown, Barbara Knuth, and Val Warke
Ernie Bayles, Jean McPheeters (Chair), Bruce Murray, and Evelyn Weinstein

And Further Resolved, the charge to the Town's Zoning Commission shall be to:

- 1) Examine existing conditions in the town,
- 2) Recommend the boundaries of zoning districts and regulations to be enforced therein,
- 3) Make a Preliminary Report (draft zoning regulations),
- 4) Hold Public Hearings on the Preliminary Report / draft zoning regulations, and
- 5) Submit a Final Report to the Town Board

Passed: Witmer: Aye Fracchia: Absent Snow: Aye Murray: Aye Goldberg: Aye

Committee Reports

Cal Snow, Councilmember – Discussed when open meeting might resume in person. He noted that he
has heard from many residents that would like to speak to the board without joining a meeting via zoom
conference. Supervisor Witmer noted that they are trying to move that forward by authorizing the
installation of an AV system in the Historic Town Hall. Further discussion regarding air filtration system
and other necessities to facilitate the return to in-person meetings in a safe manner.

Tim Murray, Councilmember – The Zoning Commission met last week for their first meeting. There
will be a follow up meeting next Tuesday, April 13th at 7pm to discuss the Comprehensive Plan and the
role of the commission.

Katherine Goldberg, Councilmember – Planning Board – Researching and planning Solar Siting Laws. The board discussed with Wil Lawrence and Clm. Goldberg referred the board to the Office of Renewable Energy Siting for more information. ([Office of Renewable Energy Siting Home Page](#) | [Office of Renewable Energy Siting \(ny.gov\)](#))

Discussion on Streetlights

Supervisor Witmer, Hwy Supt Bob Spencer and Town Clerk Jessie Townsend met with Nathaniel Durie last week to discuss the construction phase of the LED streetlights. The town was awarded a \$20k Smart Cities Grant for streetlight weather device technology. There were 4 streetlights in various locations town-wide that were chosen to have these devices activated. Concerns raised because of cell service availability throughout these areas and therefore resulting in further upfront and annual costs to use this. Supervisor Witmer recommended moving forward with the LED streetlight construction and release the Smart Cities Grant. The board unanimously agreed.

Approval of Minutes

The Business Minutes of March 10, 2021 and the Special Meeting of March 16, 2021 as submitted by Town Clerk, Jessica Townsend were unanimously approved.

Agenda items for April 14 Business Meeting

Review and discuss Ag Resolution and Solar Siting Law.
Resolution to Support the NY Health Act
Clean Heating and Cooling Campaign discussion
Local Food Sovereignty discussion

A motion to adjourn by Supervisor Witmer and seconded by Councilmember Snow and carried unanimously at 8:08 p.m.

---Adjourn the meeting ---

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica L. Townsend, Town Clerk