

Caroga News Flash

Town Board Meeting Highlights

June 14, 2023

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This monthly Board meeting at Town Hall began at 6:00 PM and lasted 157 minutes. Twenty-six citizens attended the meeting in person. Mr. Shekerjian refused to allow anyone to attend via zoom, despite being told repeatedly that many people were trying to participate virtually but could not enter.

Supervisor Horton cancelled the “**2023 Term Extension Public Hearing**,” stating, “To have that start January 1, 2026 requires 150-day notice before the November election. We are now at 145 days... Unfortunately, I did not do my math properly, and 145 is not 150...So, there’s no Public Hearing.”

The Board scheduled three public hearings with citizen comments for July 12, 2023.

Resolutions / Local Laws:

1. **July 12, 2023 Public Hearing to Convey Town Land Along Irving Pond Creek** — Called for a public hearing about a proposed “land swap” for the golf storage renovation project (5-0 vote). [The \$450,000.00 storage building relocation is part of the \$9,000,000.00 municipal center plan. To make room for parking, the layout crosses the town land boundary onto private property. To acquire the neighbor’s land, Supervisor Horton and Councilman Sturgess have called to confer 8000 square feet of town land. Any resolution or local law to convey town land is subject to permissive referendum pursuant to Town Law § 64(2) and Municipal Home Rule Law § 24(2)(g).]
2. **July 12, 2023 Public Hearing for Tax Incentive Local Law #2023-01** — Called for a public hearing to receive comments on granting a 10% town property tax exemption to volunteer fire fighters and ambulance workers pursuant to NYS Real Property Tax Law § 466-A (5-0 vote)
3. **July 12, 2023 Public Hearing for Caroga Volunteer Fire Company Contract** — Called for a public hearing on the town’s 2024-2028 contract with the Caroga Lake Volunteer Fire Company with a 5% yearly increase and \$84,700.00 to assist with fire truck replacement (5-0 vote)
4. **Short-Term Rental Ordinance** — Approved emailing the final draft of the proposed Short-Term Rental Ordinance to Board members 10 days prior to July 12, 2023 meeting (5-0 vote)
5. **Wheelerville Bike Trails** — (see presentation notes on page 2)
 - Adopted the “Town of Caroga Local Trails Plan” as a guiding model for building (5-0 vote)
 - Approved applying for a Recreational Trails Program Grant (5-0 vote)
6. **Street Lighting** — Supervisor Horton reported, “The project is such a success...so I propose adding 2 additional decorative lights at an estimated cost of \$3,960.00.” Approved (5-0 vote)
7. **Other Business** —
 - Renewed 2024 \$1,500 contract with Fulton County Planning Department (5-0 vote)
 - Donated golf for 4 + 2 carts for Wheaton Golf Benefit, per request by Cindy Marler (5-0 vote)
 - Donated golf for 4 + 2 carts certificate for Caroga Lake Museum fundraiser (5-0 vote)
 - Approved fireworks at Canada Lake (7/1/23) and Pine Lake (6/17, 7/3, & 8/5/23) (5-0 vote)
 - Adopted Town Clerk / Tax Collector Record Books (5-0 vote)

Announcements:

- ❖ Thursday July 13 (7PM): Wheelerville Trails Meeting and Presentation at Town Hall
- ❖ Saturday July 15 (noon to 3PM): Volunteer Fire Company Auxiliary Chicken BBQ Fundraiser
- ❖ July 24-25: ProcellaCOR pilot area meetings with Aaron Ziemann & Ezra Schwartzberg

Upcoming Meetings and Events: <https://TownOfCaroga.com/calendar>

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Wheelerville Trails Update and Development Plan

<https://wheelervilletrails.com>

Jeremy Manning, Grantee and Trail Manager

Second Annual Wheelerville Trails Bike Festival: August 12 & 13, 2023

- 17 vendors, food trucks, beer
- 5 national brands participating
- 6 skills clinics
- 6 guided group rides
- Live Free and Fly DH Race
- Jump Jam
- Wheelie Competition
- Kids games and skills clinics

2023 — 2026 Goals

- Expand trails 12 to 15 miles including beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels
- Refresh existing trails
- Power in parking/jump area/EV charging
- Expand trails throughout Fulton County
- Wheelerville-Caroga Connector Trail (3 miles)
- Covered pavilion for events/day use
- Establish 501(c)(3)
- Bridge over Irving Pond Outlet
- Connect users to community/businesses

Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant (Consolidated Funding Application Due July 28th)

Federal Grant administered by NYS Office of Parks Recreation & Historic Preservation

Phase 1 (3.5 miles in 2024)

RTP grant funded on Town land with 20% local match (cash, in-kind, donations)
2 miles of Wheelerville-Caroga Connector Trail
1.5 miles of Beginner-Intermediate Trails

Cost:

Total: \$110,803
Grant Amount: \$ 88,600
Local Match: \$ 22,203

Phase 2

1 mile of Caroga-Wheelerville Connector
Privately Funded on Private Lands

Local Trails Plan — This planning tool is designed to serve as a recommended visual for trail development in Caroga, and it is helpful in securing project funding. Adoption of the “Town of Caroga Local Trails Plan” is necessary for the Recreational Trail Program Grant application.

Ongoing Funding and Management Model — Goal to establish a long-term cooperative agreement among Fulton County, Town of Caroga, and Wheelerville Trails 501(c)(3).

Action Items:

- 1) Resolution authorizing the Town of Caroga to apply for the *Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant* through the *2023 Consolidated Funding Application* for \$88,600 for the *Wheelerville-Caroga Connector Trail Project*
- 2) Resolution Adopting the “*Town of Caroga Local Trails Plan*”

Next Trail Meeting and Presentation: Thursday, July 13, 2023 at 7:00 PM at Town Hall

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