

8/2/13

Notes from the Hamilton Town Council

The July Hamilton Town Council meeting began early, to have business finished before the Symphoria concert starting at 8 pm on the village green. Hamilton Mayor Margaret Miller introduced Tim Collins. Tim has been hired by SOMAC to tighten up billing operations and identify ways to improve the financial stability of the service.

The intense rain and flooding have kept our road crew very busy. Hamilton suffered damage to twelve roads, with trees down, and roads and pipes washed out. The town will be receiving FEMA funds to cover a large percentage of the damage done between June 28 and July 11.

The Town Council passed resolutions to consider two new local laws. These laws would convert the positions of Town Clerk/Tax Collector and Town Highway Superintendent to appointed rather than the elected positions. As with other towns that have adopted this mode, the intent is to make town operations more efficient and professional. The complexity of the work for both of these positions has greatly increased in recent years, which highlights the need to fill vacancies on the basis of qualifications. Appointing the Clerk/Tax Collector and Highway Superintendent would eliminate the burden and uncertainty of campaigning every two years, and make the positions less vulnerable to the partisan politics of elections. The Town Council will hold a public hearing on the laws as part of our August 8 Town Council Meeting. The laws are subject to mandatory referendum and will be on the ballot in this fall's elections. Visit our website for copies of the proposed laws.

An additional resolution was passed, to contract with Delta Engineering to create a road protection plan and road use law for Hamilton. This law would protect our roads from damage by large industrial projects creating road impacts beyond those usually felt by the town. The towns of Brookfield and Lebanon are considering joining us in working with Delta.

Work continues on the Records Retention project, with thousands of town documents being perused and classified for archiving. The work will continue through the fall and help is welcome. If you would like to volunteer with the Records Retention team please contact Councilor Carolyn Todd through our town website.

Our Comprehensive Plan Committee is moving forward in our work with planner Nan Stolzenburg. We are in the data collection phase, with baseline information on town demographics being assembled by Nan and Colgate Upstate Institute intern Mae Staples. The committee is also preparing for community surveys and meetings coming this fall.

The Hamilton Town Council meets on the second Thursday of the month at the Town of Hamilton office in the Village of Hamilton at 7pm. Our next regular meeting is Thursday, August 8. We invite and encourage you to join us. For more info visit <http://www.townofhamiltonny.org/>

submitted by Chris Rossi