

8/1/14

Notes from the Hamilton Town Council

The Hamilton Town Council's June meeting started early to accommodate the Symphoria Concert held on the Village green. The July 3rd storm was a major topic of discussion. The Town Highway employees, local volunteer fire departments, Madison county road crew and NYSEG responded to numerous downed trees and power lines. Madison County declared a State of Emergency in the towns of Hamilton, Lebanon, and Brookfield, closing roads as needed. The Town Council will work with community members and first responders to make sure our emergency preparedness plan is ready for future situations.

Delta Engineering has started its study of our town roads. Working with Madison County, the company is assessing road condition and usage patterns. The information gathered will help shape the road use law and the road protection plan Delta is creating for the Town of Hamilton.

The numbers are starting to come in, and the solar array on the town garage is generating energy. Since August of last year we have generated approximately 8900kwh of energy, creating valuable carbon offsets while saving the town money.

The Town's Comprehensive Plan committee has been working with planner Nan Stolzenberg to create vision statements, goals and actions for the town. These are crafted from information provided by our community members through the survey, visioning workshop and focus groups. Once a draft plan is ready it will be presented to the Town Council and the community for comment and suggestions.

Our deer management committee, comprised of members of the Town Council, community, and Colgate researchers, has met to discuss the problem. The Committee is currently examining what can be done at the local level, and with the DEC, to better control the deer population and lessen problems with car, property, crop, and woodland damage.

Supervisor Shwartz reported that Madison County will receive the entire 3.5 million dollar annual payment from the Oneida Land Claim settlement in July. A portion of these funds will be used to pay for critical infrastructure improvements that have long been delayed, with additional investments to be made in economic development initiatives and emergency preparedness planning for the entire County. Supervisor Shwartz serves on three County Committees: Native American Affairs, Government Operations and Planning and Economic Development.

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 14 at 7pm. We invite and encourage you to join us. For more info visit <http://www.townofhamiltonny.org/>

submitted by Chris Rossi for Hamilton Town Council