

7/2/13

## Notes from the Hamilton Town Council

The June 13 Hamilton Town Council began with an invitation from Mayor Miller to town and village boards to participate in the upcoming Fourth of July celebration. Earlville Trustee, Jerry Hayes, informed us that their Village meetings would take place on the 2nd Monday of the month over the summer. Earlville Days will take place on July 19 and 20.

Five community residents presented their concerns over High Volume Hydrofracking (HVHF), expressed a desire for education and community discussion, and asked what the Council has done on the issue. Council members spoke about the intent of the Town Council to work on HVHF and other energy matters in a way that maintains community while addressing the important issues of human health and safety, the natural environment and the economic well-being of the entire town. The Council discussed the creation of our Energy Working Group as a way of gaining insight through a diverse group of community members, and how that action has led to the creation of the comprehensive plan committee. Work on the update of the Comprehensive plan will include community dialogue on issues like HVHF, and will invite input from all town residents on this and many other important topics. The Town Council looks forward to more input from the community as the comprehensive plan process moves forward and reminded attendees that contact info and updates are posted on our website.

Despite the wet weather, the Town of Hamilton Highway Department has been busy with road resurfacing and maintenance. Superintendent Glazier continues to implement our vehicle sales and acquisition schedule, saving us on both equipment and maintenance costs. Although the rain hasn't stopped roadwork, it has setback our solar panel installation, with work now scheduled for the week of June 24.

Councilor Todd gave an update on the Records Retention work. With the help of our highway crew the committee moved over 100 boxes from the basement of the Town Office to a temporary work space, donated by Colgate, in the former Parry's building. The committee, along with Town Clerk Cathy Hotaling and Upstate Institute Summer intern Mae Staples, is sorting through documents to be saved or recycled. Town records have been found dating back to 1859!

The Energy Working Group report included news about Rolling Upland Wind Farm's possible siting in Madison through the Public Service Commission's Article 10 process, which the State can use to site electric generation projects exceeding 25mw. Hamilton could be considered a participating agency as our town and its residents could feel serious impacts from the project, and could receive intervener funds to help with associated costs.

The County Board of Supervisors narrowly passed the proposed agreement between New York State, Oneida and Madison counties and the Oneida Indian Nation (OIN). Hamilton Town Supervisor Shwartz reported that she voted against this agreement as it was inadequate in its compensation and protections for Madison County. This vote was made difficult by the understanding that the governor intended to move towards settlement with the OIN, despite negative effects on Madison County.

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, July 11, and will start earlier than usual, at 6pm. We invite and encourage you to join us. For more info visit <http://www.townofhamiltonny.org/>

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Submitted by  
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