

Notes from the Town of Hamilton February Meeting

The meeting opened with Hamilton Area Anti-Racism Coalition (HAARC) representatives submitting a request that the Town adopt a resolution against hate and intolerance. The Village of Hamilton is in the process of amending a similar resolution, at the urging of HAARC, which they had adopted years previous. The resolution presented to the Town Council expresses the inclusive values of our community and expands on those already expressed in the Town's Comprehensive Plan. The request was tabled until the March Town Council meeting for full consideration by the Board.

The Highway crew made 45 runs between January 11 - February 14, 2019. To date, \$56,073.74 has been received from the County for plowing. While not out plowing and sanding, the crew built a new sand screen, saving the Town close to \$10,000. Highway Superintendent Florenz reported that the crew is now required by NYS to take excavator training, which has been scheduled. NAPA now has a battery center at the Town garage ensuring fully charged batteries for all of our vehicles.

Colgate's annual gift to the Town of \$86,133 was received, as anticipated in the budget. The Town's 2018 AUD is ready to be submitted.

Please welcome our new Dog Control Officer, Gordon Baker. Clerk Reymers reported that there are new methods for getting lapsed dog license renewals up to date and getting non-licensed dog owners into compliance, as all dogs in the Town Hamilton must have a license.

Codes Enforcement Office Mark Miller has been busy with new home construction permits and renovation permits. The February Planning Board meeting was rescheduled due to weather and will meet again on March 12. This has delayed some applications – call the Town Office for details.

Historian Jack Loop submitted a detailed account of activities for 2018. The report, which is filled with interesting Hamilton history, is available on the Town website.

The Town Office building committee is working with the architect on finalizing construction documents, which will be ready to go to bid soon. The goal is to break ground on construction in May.

Recreation and Youth Committee representative Mary Dinski attended the meeting at Hamilton Central School concerning a student who brought a gun to school. Representatives from law enforcement, the school, and school district took questions from the community. Concerns about additional mental health services as well as increased security measures, including school resource officers, were discussed and are being considered. Dinski also attended a meeting of the Hamilton Coalition which is focused on drug, alcohol, and vaping issues. They discussed the potential impacts of the legalization of marijuana on the Town and what can we regulate to keep our community safe.

The PCD is hosting a presentation by the Hamilton Climate Preparedness Working Group (HCPWG) on March 5, 6pm at the Colgate Inn. Members of the group from the Town and Village of Hamilton and Colgate University will speak about our joint efforts to build local climate resiliency.

One of the provisions of the Town of Hamilton Comprehensive Plan is to hold a yearly review of its goals and actions. Over the course of 2018 the Town has acted on updating laws and initiating policies recommended in the Plan. The work will continue in 2019, including updating and editing the zoning law, making it easier to navigate. The Comprehensive Plan is available on the Town website.

The Hamilton Town Council meets on the second Thursday of the month at the Village Courthouse in the Village of Hamilton at 6:30 pm. **Our next meeting is March 14.** We invite and encourage you to join us. For more info visit www.townofhamiltonny.org

Submitted by Chris Rossi, Town of Hamilton Town Council