

Notes from the May 2022 meeting of the Hamilton, NY, Town Board (5.12.22)

The May meeting of the Hamilton Town Council was devoted largely to taking stock of ongoing initiatives.

Highway Superintendent Luke Dowsland said his crew had cleaned up an estimated 200-300 trees that were downed by a spring snowstorm. During that cleanup the used chipper that the Town recently purchased from the county had essentially “paid for itself,” said Dowsland. The Town is making the chipper available to neighboring townships. The Town took delivery of its new truck on the day of the May meeting, and it had already been used to deliver its first load of stone.

Supervisor Eve Ann Schwartz said that sales tax receipts continue to run ahead of budget by approximately 11.5 percent.

Town Clerk Sue Reymers reported that Colgate student. Jason Qian will develop, distribute and analyze a community survey during his six-week summer internship sponsored by Upstate Institute. The Council unanimously approved the destruction of outdated records enumerated in log compiled by Reymers.

The Highway Committee has determined that the new Town garage can be built on the site of the current garage and salt shed. Demolition and construction will be phased to allow for uninterrupted service. Now that the site has been finalized, the Town can engage engineers to assist in designing the structures.

Shwartz reported that Jocelyn Gavitt, the newly appointed executive director of the Partnership for Community Development, has been attending introductory meetings with PCD’s constituents.

Travis DuBois presented the latest operating summary for Southern Madison County Ambulance Corps (SOMAC). The Town underwrites SOMAC operations, which the Council closely monitors.

In her professional work prior to PCD Gavitt (a licensed landscape architect) had been working with the Town on the design of a small park in Hubbardsville at the launch site for 9-Mile Swamp. Dowsland, Shwartz and others have been working with Gavitt to finalize plans for parking, a walkway, a pavilion and other amenities at the park. The final drawings will be subject to approval by the Department of Environmental Conservation and the State Office for Historic Preservation.

The Council continues to review recommendations for changes in the zoning code; the changes will be subject to public review before final approval.

After carefully analyzing the pros and cons of adopting the State’s new stretch building code prior to statewide implementation, the Council decided against early adoption. The Council felt that the potential cost increases imposed by the code for new construction and renovation overrode the financial incentive to the Town for early adoption, especially given that neighboring municipalities have not adopted the new code.

The Council unanimously approved the appointment of Carol Lawrence as the Town’s new Dog Control Officer.

Finally, a ribbon-cutting ceremony to dedicate the new Town Hall has been scheduled for Saturday, June 18.

The Council’s next regular meeting is scheduled June 9. Visit the Town website for details (<https://www.townofhamiltonny.gov/>)

Jim Leach for the Town Council