

Report of the Hamilton Town Council Meeting 9.8.22

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Notes from the September 2022 meeting of the Hamilton, NY, Town Council (9.8.22)

At its regular September meeting, the Hamilton Town Council unanimously approved a law extending by six months the moratorium on seasonal accommodations within the Town. The extension will enable the Council to integrate seasonal housing regulations into the newly revised Hamilton zoning codes, said Supervisor Eve Ann Shwartz. It also allows time to coordinate with the Village of Hamilton, which is also considering seasonal housing issues.

With budget season beginning, the Council approved a local law that will allow the Town – if necessary -- to override New York State's two percent cap on municipal budget increases. As with most municipal governments in the state, the Council adopts similar legislation at the beginning of each tax season. Funding from the American Recovery Act enabled the Town to stay below the tax cap last year. Absent those funds in 2023, realities including compensation, insurance, inflation, and a continuing financial commitment to the Southern Madison County Ambulance Corps will almost certainly push this year's budget beyond the two percent cap, said Shwartz. The override legislation will be subject to a public hearing prior to a final vote at the October meeting.

Archaeological consultants are reviewing the plans for the 9-Mile Park prior to submission to the Department of Environmental Conservation. The public will have one more opportunity to review the plans following DEC approval. A grant from the office of State Senator Rachel May will help fund the park at the Hubbardsville launch site into 9-Mile Swamp.

Representatives of the Earlville For Earlville committee will staff a booth at Field Days to solicit program suggestions from the public.

Chris Rossi reported that the Hamilton Climate Preparedness Working Group is looking for another representative from the Town. The group meets monthly to promote local initiatives that address climate change. One of those initiatives, the Heat Smart Program, is accepting applications from citizens considering modifications to improve the efficiency of their home heating.

Dana Krueger will serve the remaining term of Town Council member Mary Dinski, who has stepped down for personal reasons. Shwartz introduced Krueger at the September meeting.

As advertised in a community-wide mailing, the Town will host a community cleanup day at the Town Garage from 7:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. October first. Details are available on the Town website.

The Town Council has initiated a search for a codes enforcement officer to replace Mark Miller, who is leaving to accept another position.

The Council's next regular meeting is scheduled October 13. Visit the Town website for details (<https://www.townofhamiltonny.gov/>)

Reported by Jim Leach for the Town Council