

Caroga News Flash

Town Board Meeting Highlights

May 13, 2026

<https://TownOfCaroga.com> contains all issues of the *Caroga News Flash*.

This monthly meeting began at 6:30 PM and included executive session for unspecified pending litigation and contract review. The meeting was led by Supervisor Jack Glenn. Council Members Rick Sturgess, Matt Cooper, Kim Walker, and Greta Frasier were present, along with Town Clerk Linda Gilbert and Highway Superintendent Roy Stock. In addition, 17 community members also attended.

The meeting featured hearings and adoption of local laws for energy systems and code enforcement.

Regarding municipal building projects, the Board anticipates work sessions later in May and June. As of May 13, 2026, the Town's remaining fire insurance bank balance is \$1,718,775.67.

Public comments again called on the Town Board to include the public's remote access to town meetings.

Resolutions:

1. Local Law Hearing & Adoption: Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Moratorium — (5-0 vote)

- The Board held a public hearing and adopted a revised Battery Energy Storage Systems Moratorium: https://townofcaroga.com/laws/law_2026_3.pdf
<https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Clean-Energy-Siting-Resources/Battery-Energy-Storage-Guidebook>
- Comments noted energy needs as well as concerns about fire safety and environmental/health risks. <https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/53174/20260319/ny-needs-more-power-the-battery-storage-debate-is-heating-up-in-the-adks>
- In response to public feedback, the Board modified the law to exclude variance options and residential systems, instead focusing the 1-year moratorium on commercial/utility-scale BESS.

2. Local Law Hearing & Adoption: Establishing a Local Code Enforcement Program — (5-0 vote)

- The Board held a public hearing and adopted the law as written, with pending updates by year end: https://townofcaroga.com/laws/law_2026_2.pdf
- As noted in the April 8 *Caroga News Flash*, local law alternatives are based on a NYS DOS model law: https://dos.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/01/2022%2001%2018_REG_1203_Model%20Local%20Law.pdf
- The Board deferred to Code Officer interpretations, insisting, "It's the whole code for the State. We can either adopt the whole thing or we don't, and if we don't then the State runs everything for us."
- Prior Local Laws adopting enforcement of the *New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code (the Uniform Code)* include: https://townofcaroga.com/laws/law_1985_2.pdf and https://townofcaroga.com/laws/law_2020_2.pdf
- Public comments noted substantial questions about proposed wording and clear needs for revisions.
- Conflicts exist with the proposed wording and current fee collection. The proposed law empowers the code officer to collect fees set by the Town Board, whereas Caroga's current process (like other local municipalities) has all fees collected in the Town Clerk's office, for internal control and records.
- The proposed law has confusing permit discrepancies with the *Town of Caroga Zoning Ordinance*, including both what is required (e.g., for water systems, site preparation, etc.) and when permits expire (i.e., the *Zoning Ordinance* provides for a one year permit with one year extension, whereas this notes six months to commence and expiration after one year with no reference to extensions).
- Public comments requested basic clarifications about the key details of new operating permits (e.g., for the Caroga Museum tents and food trucks with the craft fair and other community events).
- The proposed law has blanks for unspecified local laws, fees structures, and permit requirements.
- The Board did not discuss clause choice options and did not correct major errors or inconsistencies.

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3. **Comprehensive Plan Committee** — (5-0 votes)
 - Approved the grant-funded Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan budget of \$145,000, including 10% match. It specifies \$134,000 for a consulting contract, plus \$11,000 for town and county services.
 - Appointed additional members to Caroga’s Comprehensive Plan Committee: WUFS Superintendent Nicole Dettenrieder, Planning Board Chair Al Kozakiewicz, and local engineer Chase Steenburgh.
4. **Adirondack Community Foundation Grant for the Caroga Summer Youth Program** — (5-0 vote)
 - Accepted the \$5,000 ACF grant for the youth & created a separate line item to record expenditures.
5. **Temporary Road Closures for Event Safety at Sherman’s Park** —
 - Tabled the public safety request for Town approval to close the road through Sherman’s Park on 5/23, 7/3, 7/7, 7/11, 7/22, 7/25, 7/29, 8/1, 8/5, 8/8, 8/15, 8/29, 9/5, 9/12, and 9/19, stating that the Caroga Lake Volunteer Fire Company has road closure authority, whereas the Caroga Highway Department Teamsters Union contract demands that “*work cannot be taken away.*” Mr. Sturgess alleged that employee overtime for each closure would cost the Town “*\$15,000 worth of labor.*” Board members support event staff and pedestrian crosswalks to manage road safety at Sherman’s.
6. **Royal View Pub & Campground (2533 NY-10)** — (4-0 votes with Council Member Frasier abstaining)
 - As a public comment, the Clerk reviewed Royal View’s incomplete permitting process. The Town received no paperwork from Ms. Frasier about the required pending Use Variance nor NYS permits since the 1/27/2025 Planning Board approval of the Site Plan Review with the following conditions:
 - (1) *That all necessary permits are obtained from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.*
 - (2) *That all necessary permits are obtained from New York State Department of Health including sanitary.*
 - (3) *That all necessary permits are obtained from New York State Department of Transportation with the town receiving a response back.*
 - (4) *That the applicant obtains a Use Variance from the Caroga Zoning Board of Appeals for the ‘Pub’ building.*
 - (5) *And any other permits that are required in order to commence construction with all reports being filed in the office of the Town Clerk per Article 6 Section VIII paragraph D(1).”*
 - Despite pending building permit issues, the Board approved NYS Liquor Authority 1-day special-use permits and dancing at Royal View Pub on 7/3, 7/12, 7/26, 8/9, 8/15, 8/16, 8/23, 9/26, and 10/11.
7. **Lakes Management Program** — (5-0 vote)
 - May 19 Meeting Minutes: https://www.townofcaroga.com/lakes/caroga-lakes-management-committee-meeting_05-19-2026.pdf
 - Approved Luke Horst as the 2026 lead diver for the Lakes Management Invasive Species Program.
 - Approval occurred despite the Board’s 10/8/2025 meeting with a member of the Diver-Assisted-Suction-Harvesting (DASH) team who reported direct witness of Mr. Horst’s misconduct (see <https://www.townofcaroga.com/notes/wb2025a.pdf> & <https://www.townofcaroga.com/notes/wb2025b.pdf>).
8. **Resignation of Leigh Anne Loucks as the Supervisor’s Confidential Secretary** — (5-0 vote)
 - With regrets, accepted the resignation letter for the role of Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor.
9. **Other Town Business** — (5-0 votes)
 - Discussed and approved NYS retirement reporting for eligible employees of the Town of Caroga.
 - Approved repair of the stairs for the Nick Stoner Municipal Golf Course.
 - Approved \$6,087.50 (50%) contract payment to Red Dragon for the Town Hall heating system.
 - Approved purchasing up to 20 American flags with poles and holders for the NY-10/29A corridor.
 - Approved bills and meeting minutes for 04/08/2026.

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Announcements:

- ❖ The next Town Board meetings will be Tuesday, **June 9** at 11:00 & Wednesday, **June 10** at 6:30 PM.
- ❖ **Primary Election Day** is June 23, 2026: <https://townofcaroga.com/notes/primary-election-2026.pdf> .
- ❖ Explore **Things to Do** in Caroga and across Fulton County at <https://www.44lakes.com> .
 - **June 23** 5PM: Caroga Boaters' Safety Course, see <https://www.registerd.com/events/view/243207> .
 - **June 25** 7PM: Caroga Museum Opening: Road to Revolution, see <https://carogamuseum.org> .
 - **June 28-September 19**: Caroga Lake Music Festival and More, see <https://carogaarts.org> .
 - **July 6** 9AM-Noon: Paint Recycling at Vrooman's Parking Lot, see www.paintcare.org .
 - **July 11** 10AM-3PM: Caroga Museum Artisan & Vendor Fair, see <https://carogamuseum.org> .
 - **July 18** Noon-3PM: Fire Co Chicken BBQ, see <https://townofcaroga.com/notes/clvfa-2026-bbq.pdf> .
- ❖ June is Great Outdoors Month (<https://recreationroundtable.org/events/great-outdoors-month/>).

*It reminds us that rural towns like Caroga do not need to reinvent the outdoor way of life.
It is already here. Our job is to protect and connect what we already have.*

CONGRATULATIONS!

New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) Awarded \$5.2 Million Capital Projects Grant to Support Caroga Arts' Completion of the Sherman's Park Amphitheater

"This grant is the realization of something we have been working toward for a very long time," said Kyle Barrett Price, Founder, Executive and Artistic Director of Caroga Arts Collective. "The enhanced sound, lighting, and visuals will provide a world-class audience and artist experience, along with the seating and audience wing will bring the full amphitheater to life. The belief in New York State and in our community will help this become reality and allow continue the great tradition and legacy of Sherman's to continue under Caroga Arts care. We are profoundly grateful to NYSCA and Governor Hochul for recognizing what the arts mean to this region — and for helping us build something that will serve the Southern Adirondacks for generations to come."

"New York's powerful arts and culture sector is a formidable asset," Governor Hochul said. "Our continued investments in museums, theaters and art centers generate incredible returns — sparking innovation, boosting local economies, driving visitors and making us the global epicenter of arts and culture." New York State Council on the Arts Executive Director Erika Mallin said, "We know that when the arts flourish, communities follow — bringing energy, creating jobs, expanding accessibility, & increasing tourism. This grant program is a critical investment in our creative sector, empowering our creative community and inspiring innovation. Congratulations to all the grantees, we look forward to seeing these diverse projects develop all throughout the state."

To learn more about supporting Caroga's future at Sherman's Park & the mission of Caroga Arts, visit carogaarts.org/reimagining-campaign .

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ALBANY BUSINESS REVIEW 2026 HONOREE

Jake Tennis
Royal Mountain Ski Area
Caroga Lake, NY