

Caroga News Flash

Town Board Meeting Highlights

May 14, 2025

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

This monthly meeting at Town Hall began at 6:30 PM and lasted 75 minutes, including executive session. Twenty residents attended the meeting. Council Member Deluca was not present.

GOLF COURSE

Supervisor Ralph Palcovic reported on policy discussions about recreational uses of town land.

- The Board “officially closed and retired” the 4/16/2025 “golf-only policy” proposal, given that 1925 and 1937 land deeds require use “as a *golf course and for other recreational purposes*.”
- Council Member Glenn said he plans “to come back with revisions,” despite the documented risks of the policy (see https://www.townofcaroga.com/news_flash/flash_2025-04-16.pdf).

GOLF CLUBHOUSE

Supervisor Palcovic also gave a brief update about ongoing plans to rebuild the Golf Clubhouse:

- On May 13, CT Male delivered a preliminary site plan proposal for a new Golf Clubhouse and future lower-level Town Hall at 1801 NY Route 10 (on the corner of Irving Pond Road).
- The Board will “harmonize plans” and continue working with CT Male to advance the project.

WHEELERVILLE TRAILS

Trail Manager Jeremy Manning wrote and submitted the grant application to bring \$324,000.00 to the Town. He announced that Wheelerville Trails has been invited into **Bike Borderlands**:

“Bike Borderlands is part of a larger effort led by the nonprofit Northern Forest Center to energize rural communities and help more people discover this part of the world, move here, start a business, and Live the New Forest Future.”

Explore the 2-nation, 3-state, 8-destination trail networks here: <https://www.bikeborderlands.com>.

Resolutions:

- 1. Proposed Local Law #1-2025: Abolishing Elective Office of Highway Superintendent —**
 - The Board voted 4-0 to hold a public hearing 6/11/2025 from 7:00 to 7:15 PM for the public to share input about a proposed local law to abolish the elective office of Highway Superintendent and empower the Town Board to appoint the Highway Superintendent.
 - If the Board proceeds to use Municipal Home Rule Law to supersede NYS Town Law and Public Officers Law, then this Local Law must be approved by a majority of Town electors at a mandatory voter referendum (presumably 11/4/2025). For full text, see page 3 below.
- 2. Proposed Local Law #2-2025: Dog Pooper Scooper — (4-0 vote)**
 - The Board voted 4-0 to hold a public hearing 6/11/2025 from 7:00 to 7:15 PM for the public to share input about the proposal to add another local dog law to further specify procedures for the sanitary disposal of dog feces. For full text, see page 4 below.
- 3. Highway Department — (4-0 votes)**
 - Approved Highway Law § 284 agreement for the 2025 road paving plan to pave Old State Road, Lake Avenue, Balsam Avenue, Forest Avenue, and Lake View Avenue.
 - Approved \$3,094.00 contract with Fulton County Highway Department for 2025 mowing.

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4. Nick Stoner Municipal Golf Course — (4-0 vote)

- Approved 8/14/2025 as **Cy Durey Day** — with free 1925 greens fees — to celebrate the 100th anniversary of his land donation to build the Caroga Recreation Park & Golf Course, see the Museum's golf history site at https://www.carogamuseum.org/?page_id=5472

5. Lakes Management — (4-0 vote)

- Approved a budget amendment to acknowledge the following income and use to offset the overage of the agreed upon amount for the Lakes Management mailings:
Revenue: A2705 Gifts/Donations \$90.00 Fund: A1670.40 Central Printing/Mailing \$90.00
- Lakes Management Meeting: https://www.townofcaroga.com/lakes/lm_2025-05-20.pdf

6. General Business — (4-0 vote)

- Approved 4/09/2025 and 4/16/2025 meeting minutes and bills as presented for audit

May 28, 2025

This special meeting at Town Hall began at 12:10 PM and lasted 18 minutes. Supervisor Ralph Palcovic was not present, and Deputy Supervisor Barb DeLuca led the meeting.

Resolutions:

1. Eurasian Watermilfoil Harvester Boat —

- The Board voted 4-0 to authorize up to \$1,000.00 to repair damages to the Town's boat when it flipped upside down off the road during transport in 2024 by Caroga Lake Marina. Discussion noted issues with communication and no police accident report.
- They voted 4-0 to authorize a \$6,245.62 purchase of a boat motor from Reets Boatworks. Discussion noted that this was the low bid among 3 quotes. Mr. Hogan stated that he will do transportation to and from the repair location in Mayfield.

Announcements:

- * **6/24/2025 6:00AM—9:00PM:** Highway Superintendent Primary Election at Caroga Town Hall (Early Voting: 11-21 Broadway Gloversville 6/14 to 6/22 SSTTF 9:00AM—5:00PM, MW Noon—8:00PM)
- * **7/7 to 8/15/2025:** Summer Youth Program (<https://www.townofcaroga.com/notes/2025-summer-rec.pdf>)
- * **7/3/2025:** Symphonic Sparks with Eddie Barbash & Alex Moffat (<https://carogaarts.org/events>)
- * **7/12/2025:** Caroga Museum Artisan and Vendor Fair (<https://www.carogamuseum.org>)
- * **7/31/2025 7:00PM:** 100 Years on Top: The Kane Mountain Fire Tower Museum Reception
- * **8/14 to 8/17/2025:** Fire Tower Centennial Fest (https://www.carogamuseum.org/?page_id=4849)
- * **8/14/2025:** Nick Stoner Golf Course Cy Durey Day Centennial Celebration & No Greens Fees
- * **8/23 to 8/24/2025:** 4th Annual Mountain Bike Fest (<https://wheelervilletrails.com>)

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

<https://TownOfCaroga.com/calendar>

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Proposed LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2025

ABOLISHING THE ELECTIVE OFFICE OF TOWN SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS AND CREATING THE APPOINTIVE OFFICE OF TOWN SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS

Section 1 — Title

This Local Law shall be known and cited as Town of Caroga "Local Law No. 1 of 2025, Abolishing the Elective Office of Town Superintendent of Highways and Creating the Appointive Office of Town Superintendent of Highways in the Town of Caroga."

Section 2 — Legislative Intent and Purpose

By adoption of this Local Law, it is the intent and purpose of the Town Board of the Town of Caroga to abolish the elective office of Town Superintendent of Highways and to create the appointive office of Town Superintendent of Highways. Subject to the results of a mandatory referendum, it is the Town Board's intent to abolish the elective office of Town Superintendent effective as of December 31, 2027, and to create the appointive office of Town Superintendent of Highways effective as of January 1, 2028.

Section 3 — Authority

This Local Law is adopted pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law § 10(1)(ii)(a)(1), which grants to local governments the authority to enact local laws pertaining to, among other things, the mode of selection, qualifications, and term of office of local officers. By this Local Law, it is the Town Board's express intention to supersede any provision(s) of the Town Law of the State of New York to the contrary, including but not limited to Town Law § 20, Town Law § 23, Town Law § 24, and Public Officers Law § 3 as they relate to the mode of selection, qualifications, and term of the office of Town Superintendent of Highways.

Section 4 — Abolition of the Elective Office of Town Superintendent of Highways

The Town of Caroga hereby abolishes the elective office of Town Superintendent of Highways, effective as of December 31, 2027.

Section 5 — Creation of the Appointive Office of Town Superintendent of Highways

The Town of Caroga hereby creates the appointive office of Town Superintendent of Highways, effective as of January 1, 2028.

Section 6—Term of Office of Appointed Town Superintendent of Highways

The term of office of the appointed Town Superintendent of Highways shall be two (2) years.

Section 7 — Residency Requirement for Appointed Town Superintendent of Highways

The person appointed to and holding the appointive office of Town Superintendent of Highways need not be an elector or resident of the Town of Caroga, but must reside in Fulton County or an adjoining county within the State of New York.

Section 8—Savings Clause

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, word, section, or part of this Local Law shall be adjudged by any Court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional, illegal, or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, word, section, or part directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

Section 9—Mandatory Referendum

Pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law § 23, this local law is subject to a mandatory referendum.

Section 10—Effective Date

This Local Law shall not be effective until it is filed with the Secretary of State of the State of New York and after approval of a majority of electors voting thereon in accordance with the requirements of Municipal Home Rule Law § 23.

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Proposed LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF 2025

POOPER SCOPER LAW

Section 1 — Title

This Local Law shall be entitled: "Pooper Scooper Law of the Town of Caroga."

Section 2 — Authority

This law is authorized by the Municipal Home Rule Law of the State of New York.

Section 3 — Removal of feces required

Any person owning or in charge of any dog which soils, defiles, defecates on or commits any nuisance on any common thoroughfare, sidewalk, passageway, play area, park or any place where people congregate or walk or upon any private property, without the permission of the owner of said property, shall immediately remove all feces deposited by any such dog, in a sanitary manner.

Section 4 — Disposal

The feces removed from the aforementioned designated areas shall be disposed of by the person owning or in charge of any such dog in a sealed, nonabsorbent, leak proof container. In no event shall any feces be deposited in sewers or drains, whether storm or sanitary.

Section 5 — Presumption of Ownership

In case a dog is unattended, information secured by an enforcement officer from a license or tag secured to said dog shall present a rebuttal presumption that the owner identified by such license or tag is the owner or person in charge of said dog.

Section 6 — Enforcement

The Dog Control Officer of the Town of Caroga is hereby authorized and empowered to enforce this article. In addition thereto, the Town Board shall have the power to designate such other persons as it deems necessary to enforce this article.

Section 7 — Penalties for offenses

Any person violating this article shall, upon conviction, be subject to a fine of \$25 for each offense.

Section 8 — Effective Date

This local law shall take effect immediately upon its filing with the Secretary of State as provided in § 27 of the New York Municipal Home Rule.

For prior Local Laws see <https://www.townofcaroga.com/laws/>.

In addition to 2016-2012-2010 Town of Caroga **Dog Licensing and Control Law**, Local Law #1-2002 **Dog Regulation** addresses nuisance and roaming dogs, including Section 4(C)(v) "Defecating on the property of another" to establish a procedure and penalties:

- "[A]s a first step, [to] inform the Town's Dog Warden"; "or as a second step, that person observing the offending dog may file a signed complaint, under oath, with the Town Justice...[who] may summons the alleged owner"; or "if this summons is disregarded, the Justice may permit the filing of an information and issue a warrant for the arrest of the offending party";
- "Any person convicted of a violation of any of the provisions of this Local Law shall be guilty of an offense and shall be punished by a fine not to exceed fifty dollars (\$50.00) for a first offense. For a second or subsequent conviction such person shall be punished by a fine not to exceed one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00)."