

R'ILLE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 8

October, 2015

Special Town Board Minutes - August 17, 2015

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held a Special Meeting on the 17th day of August 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury and the roll was called with the following results:

PRESENT WERE: Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury, Councilman Robert Bolte, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilwoman Marion Cooke, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

ABSENT WAS: Councilman Gerald Wood

Also present was Erin Nevins of Nevins Insurance Agency and one interested citizen.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposed new Health Care Plan options. Erin Nevins made an extensive presentation on the new health care packages available. The Town's current provider, CDPHP, has made some changes to their policies which Mrs. Nevins explained in depth. She offered alternatives for the employee's plan and also for the retirees.

Supervisor Lounsbury asked the Board to review the materials which Mrs. Nevins provided and suggested that another meeting be scheduled for the purpose of assessing the possibilities which were presented and selecting a plan.

A meeting was scheduled for August 25, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

Motion carried: Ayes (4) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, and Cooke; Nays (0)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

Victoria H. Kraker
Town Clerk



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Public Hearing: Proposed Zoning Law Meeting Minutes - August 18, 2015

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held a Public Hearing on the 18th day of August 2015 at 7:00 in the evening at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Supervisor Lounsbury and the roll was called with the following results:

PRESENT WERE: Attorney Tom Fallati, Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury, Councilman Robert Bolte, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilman Gerald Wood, Councilwoman Marion Cooke, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

Also present were Planning Board Chairman Richard Amedure, Zoning Board of Appeals Chairman John Mormile, Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Mark Overbaugh, and seventeen interested citizens.

The purpose of the Public Hearing was to hear public comments on the proposed Zoning Law.

Supervisor Lounsbury turned the meeting over to Attorney Tom Fallati.

Attorney Fallati stated that this latest draft version of the Zoning Law is a result of a lot of time, effort, and input from various people in the Town. It represents a complete re-write of existing Zoning Law and although it retains some of the same structure, it integrates some other sections and puts them back into logical order as things get amended over time.

Attorney Fallati would like to embrace the Hearing in sections as follows: Articles 1 through 4 and Article 13 together; Articles 5 through 8 and Article 10 together; and finally Articles 9 through 11 together.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sedlmeir to open the Public Hearing at 7:07 PM; 2nd by Supervisor Lounsbury.

Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

JEANNETTE RICE

Mrs. Rice suggested that page 1, section 4 be clarified and that it would have been helpful if those laws were listed and posted on the Town's website.

On page 3, section 5, Mrs. Rice questioned if 'nonconforming heavy industry leases' was something that was added. Attorney Fallati stated that after review of the draft of the heavy industry law, there was a concern about enforceability and he felt that it purported to override existing leases.

Page 92, letter 'B': A Bed and Breakfasts is the type of business that people want in this Town and it fits well with the Comprehensive Plan. She would like to see the occupancy per room restored to the original 2.5 guests/room. Lowering the number of guests per room from 2.5 to 2 cuts the potential income for B&B owners by 20%.

Page 33 "Convenience Store" is a new category for the non-residential uses. The Comprehensive Plan would like to see such business located in the hamlet districts. This document proposes a Special Permit in all zones except for the Crystal Lake region. Mrs. Rice feels that it should only be by Special Permit in the hamlet zone. By allowing Convenience Stores in the other districts, it is contrary to the Comprehensive Plan and also to the definitions of each zone. She would like it changed so that a Convenience Store is non-residential use only in the hamlet district and only by Special Use Permit and 'X'd' in all the other zones.

Under "Definitions" on page 12, "Height of Telecommunications Tower or Structure", Mrs. Rice wished to share some information concerning this. The proposed Communications Tower, according to the builder, is 180 feet. According to current zoning and this definition, the tower is 192'.

(Continued on page 3)

Public Hearing: Proposed Zoning Law Meeting Minutes, August 18, 2015

(Continued from page 2)

cated at 177 feet, is the mounting base for a 15 foot antennae. According to this definition it would bring the proposed tower to 192 feet. Also, once any tower is constructed the owners can increase the height by 20 feet (or 10%) without obtaining further authority from the Town.

Mrs. Rice questioned what a 'gas substation' was under "Definitions" on page 9, "Essential Facilities". Discussion ensued until a satisfactory explanation was reached.

DWIGHT T. COOKE AND MICHAEL & LORI OVERMERE signed in to speak, but declined comment at this time.

BARRY KUHAR

Barry Kuhar was concerned with the use of outdoor furnaces being limited to certain months of the year as it was in the original Zoning Law. The Board as well as Planning Board Chairman, Richard Amedure and Code Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector Overbaugh have concurred that the use of outdoor furnaces was not included in this new draft at all.

Mr. Kuhar also inquired if the proposed Zoning Law was in line with the Comprehensive Plan. He noted that at Planning Board training it is taught that the Comprehensive Plan is the rule of the Town and Zoning must mirror that. Supervisor Lounsbury stated that everyone that worked on the Zoning Law tried very hard to keep the Comprehensive Plan in mind. Mr. Kuhar's concern was to head off any law suits.

RICHARD AMEDURE

Planning Board Chairman, Richard Amedure, wished to thank the Board, John Mormile, Mark Overbaugh, Jeannette Rice and the many people before that, for their hard work and dedication over the course of the past several years and for bringing this across the finish line.

ATTORNEY FALLATI

Attorney Fallati noted a typographical error on page 120, Section 11, subsection C.

He also reassured everyone that all highlighting and cross-referencing would be double checked.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood to close the Public Hearing at 7:25 PM; 2nd by Councilman Bolte.

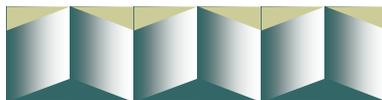
Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

Victoria H. Kraker
Town Clerk



Special Town Board Meeting Minutes - August 25, 2015

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held a Special Meeting on the 25th day of August 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury and the roll was called with the following results:

PRESENT WERE: Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury, Councilman Robert Bolte, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilman Gerald Wood, Councilwoman Marion Cooke, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

Also present was Erin Nevins of Nevins Insurance Agency, Recycling Coordinator, Jon Whitbeck and one interested citizen.

The purpose of the meeting was to continue discussions on the proposed new Health Care Plan options and to make a final selection.

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to purchase the CDPHP EPO 203 Gold Plan with a \$500 per individual/\$1000 per family deductible and with members being responsible for 50% of the deductible. The Town will allocate \$1000 per individual and \$2000 per family to be utilized for co-pays and the remaining 50% of the deductible. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bolte.

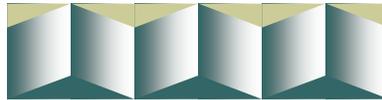
Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

Victoria H. Kraker
Town Clerk



Special Town Board Meeting Minutes - August 27, 2015

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held a Special Meeting on the 27th day of August 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury and the roll was called with the following results:

PRESENT WERE: Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury, Councilman Robert Bolte, Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir, Councilman Gerald Wood, Councilwoman Marion Cooke, Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

Also present was Erin Nevins of Nevins Insurance Agency, Doyle Shaver, Aaron Marsh, David Potter, Charles Welsch and one interested citizen.

The purpose of the meeting was to revisit the proposed new Health Care Plan options.

Supervisor Lounsbury turned the meeting over to Erin Nevins. Since the acceptance to purchase the CDPHP plan on August 25, 2015, Mrs. Nevins has learned that what was thought to be feasible, actually will not work. She stated that CDPHP's policy, which she described as ambiguous, does not allow employers to fund more than 50% of the deductible. However, after closer examination she found that an employer cannot fund anything in addition to that either. Therefore, the health care plan that was adopted on August 25th, will no longer suffice.

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to rescind the motion made on August 25, 2015 to purchase the CDPHP EPO 203 Gold Plan with a \$500 per individual/\$1000 per family deductible

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Town Board Work Meeting, Draft Minutes - August 11, 2015

(Continued from page 4)

and with members being responsible for 50% of the deductible; and having the Town allocate \$1000 per individual and \$2000 per family to be utilized for co-pays and the remaining 50% of the deductible. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

Further discussion ensued between the Board, Mrs. Nevins, and the four highway employees over the many plan options available and it was determined that a plan offered by MVP would best suit the needs of the highway crew and serves to be the closest match to the current CDPHP plan that will be expiring August 31st .

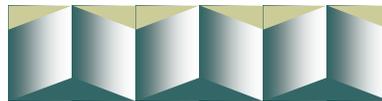
A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to subscribe to the MVP Bronze Level 2 plan, with the Town funding a \$5,000 per individual and \$10,000 per family deductible. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM; 2nd by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;
Victoria H. Kraker
Town Clerk



**RETIREMENT LIQUIDATION SALE!
ALL INVENTORY MUST GO!**

**INSTALLATION
AVAILABLE**

**BINDING
SERVICES**

PRICES THAT WOULD MAKE OTHER RETAILERS CRINGE

**CARPET ~ VINYL ~ ROLLS & REMNANTS
PADDING ~ TOOLS & SUPPLIES**

**CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT
ED'S CARPET SERVICE
2703 ROUTE 145 ~ PRESTON HOLLOW, NY 12469
518-239-4552**

Planning Board Public Hearing #2, Draft Minutes - September 3, 2015

Present: Rich Amedure, Walter Cook, Dorothea Cotter, Barry Kuhar, Travis Smigel, and Scott Kunkler.
Also Present: Steven Pflieger (planning board clerk), Mark Overbaugh (Code Enforcement Officer & Building Inspector), Bill Ryan (town counsel), Rich Rainbor (Pittsfield Communications), Steve Elsbree (Pyramid Network Services), Ralph Mariani (Albany County Sheriff's) and Jaqualine Murray (attorney for Pittsfield Communications and representing Albany County))

Rich Amedure, Chairperson, called meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

In the Matter of: Albany County Sheriff's - Special Use Permit – 172.-1-10.13

Motion to re-open the Public Hearing made by Travis Smigel, seconded by Dorothea Cotter, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

There were 87 people from the public attending the hearing.

Rich stated that there were letters read into the record, regarding the planned communications tower from Vick Leplant, John Mormile, Ann Wolfe, Joyce Schuld, Jeanette Rice, Diana Hinchcliff, Dave Boudish, Charles Burgess and Ed Cardi

John Mormile – Our townships emergency providers need to have adequate access to Town, County and eventually State wide emergency communications, and they currently do not. This places the welfare, safety and sometimes lives of the residence at risk. At the Aug 6 tower hearing, Insp. Mariani and his engineer reported that collected data and computer projections based upon that data, that Edwards Hill was the best location for an emergency communications tower. At that same hearing, some residence expressed their concerns about whether the tower would fit within the Towns comprehensive plans while others were worried about ruined views because of the towers proposed locations. What does the comprehensive plan say about emergency services? In the last paragraph of the vision statement, it states, ensure that high speed robust communications technology is available town wide for residence and especially for emergency services. Several goals in the plan repeated point to the need to support the safety for all residence, by improving health and emergency service and particularly for the need for emergency communications. One of the goals and its central object even aimed to minimize the cost passed on to the residence. In addressing the location for emergency cell towers, the recommendation states in part that cell tower locations should be based upon a G.A.S study of locations that provide coverage that meet both federal standards and local public safety and emergency needs for fire, ambulance, police and other emergency services. The proposed tower plan, I believe, promises to accomplish all of the above. Does the tower fit into our comprehensive plan? Of course it does, in fact the plans repeated emphasis on emergency communications, makes it in my mind a top priority. On Aug 22, we drove to the most significant view sheds in an attempt to see the balloon, that marked the tower location. We did see the balloon, but difficult to view with the naked eye. We did notice that some residence's views will be affected. After our balloon search ride, we realized 2 factors, 1 -relatively few of the apprx. 768 houses with in our township, or about 2 ½ or 4%, will have even a partial view of the tower. Our Rensselaerville Township has a population of 1,843 residence (2010 Census), which means about 96% of the residence will never see the tower from their homes. The other important factor is that the communications tower will significantly improve communications for our emergency providers and therefore improve the safety for 1,141 residence, in other words 62% of the towns residence, all of whom live in communication deficient areas, Medusa, Potter Hollow, Cookesburgh, Preston Hollow will directly benefit from this improved safety net. Appropriately it's the planning boards' responsibility to decide. Postponing this process any longer should not be an option. I support the construction of the emergency communications tower. No matter where you put it, someone else will be affected.

Planning Board Public Hearing #2, Draft Minutes (con't)- Sept 3, 2015

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Linda Mormile – She went around and canvassed the area, and found that most people thought the tower was needed. She feels that people's concerns were more of what they wanted, not what was needed.

Jeanette Rice – The zoning laws are not only to protect health, safety and the welfare of the people, but also to protect significant resources and I'd like to reiterate that I have not met anyone who hasn't thought we need better communications. She would also disagree that they are not exempt from local laws for communications towers. In her search she has found other people and places that are willing to be sights and she is a little disturbed that that location was chosen. She would like to know if there is a 35' right of way, required for an access driveway to the 50'X60' location? Pyramid network services attorney, Jackie Murray explained that because the classification under the NYS building code for this tower, its classified as an U occupancy and it does not need to meet the fire apparatus requirements for this driveway. Aside from that, back in 2003 NYS Dept. of State, Division of Code Enforcement, issued a technical bulletin, where in the help that the requirements of the building codes do not apply to free standing towers. What's the length of the proposed underground utility cable or conduit, is it about 2,000'? What's the exact amount of land being leased? It's 50'x60', plus the easement. She feels this whole thing has been sprung on the public, but thinks more time needs to be put into this, to protect the vista views and farm lands. She thinks everyone needs to work together, to come up with a better solution. She wants better investigations into better sites.

Dotty Verch – She is the chairman of the Planning Board in the Town of Westerlo, She announced that on the 31st of August the town of Westerlo Planning Board passed both applications on the towers. The first one is on Goodfellows Rd which is 150' high and the other one is on Rt. 32 that is 80' high, but needs to be raised another 60'. The towers need to talk to each other, so it's needed to install the tower on Edwards Hill Rd. People's lives depend upon it.

Diana Hinchcliff – She does feel that the tower is needed. The problem is the location. She wants to be sure that the proper environmental review and procedures are followed and that the public is given the most opportunity to participate in this process because if the public feels that they haven't been given that opportunity, regardless of how others feel about this, there is going to be a lot of unrest and possibility of a law suit, plus, maybe pit neighbor against neighbor. Part of the problem is that the public hasn't been given the data that the consulting engineers used to use the Edwards Hill sight and am asking if we can have that data. She feels the balloon test wasn't representative of the actual tower. She feels the balloon was very small. It could not be seen unless you were right on top of it. She thinks that the most efficient way to handle this tower project is to create a comity. There are certain people in this town with expertise that can be lent to this project. She feels that there will be a lot of unrest if that doesn't happen.

Dennis Wood – He feels that you couldn't see the balloon very well. Travis Hill area was the most affected by the balloon test. The biggest problem we have, and example that we can go by is Hurricane Irene. The Preston Hollow and Medusa areas were crippled with no communication. Communications, literally, had to be "carrier pigeon", back and forth from Voorheesville to the ambulance bay. They had a tractor trailer load of 24,000 cases of drinking water go missing for 4 days because of lack of communication. The county came up with a back-up plan of a text to page, but it won't work, since there is no cell signal.

Charles Burgess –There is a sentiment that people who want us to take a good hard look at the location somehow care more about our views than about our neighbors, that is definitely not the case. He hopes that we can do this project in a manner that is good for everyone. Last time he was here, he mentioned that there are a lot of hills in the area, with other options. He submitted maps, with other options. He feels that some more time should be taken to get the location right.

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Planning Board Public Hearing #2, Draft Minutes (con't)- Sept 3, 2015

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Janet Nelson – She is the current town historian. We definitely need a tower for the health and safety of everyone. In addition to that, we are talking about the whole Town of Rensselaerville. We have a lot of old historical buildings, if there response time from the fire company is slow we are going to lose those historical buildings. There are several places that are very important to this town as a whole. She thinks it's time to come together as a town and help protect the health, safety and welfare of everyone.

Larry Stricker – He made 3 points. He feels we should look at this very carefully, we are going to have to live with it for the rest of our lives. The Sheriff's office is responsible for proposing a location, but we are responsible for accepting it. Final point is that the Sheriff's dept. used 2 criteria for choosing the sight, one was whether the sight was affective from an engineering point of view and the other was cost affective. If more money was spent, maybe some other sight would be better or maybe they need to be creative.

Joyce Schuld – The grants name is a NYS Inoperability Plan, that's a plan that came about in 2012, they've had a lot of time to present this to Rensselaerville. To present it in August and try and push it through is wrong. She feels everything is being rushed. It was given to Albany in 2012 and doesn't know why it's being rushed through. She read the letter she had submitted to the planning board. According to page 55 of the homeland security grant proposal, recipients of federal funds must submit evidence of approved zoning ordinance and other locally required planning permits before you can begin construction on any communications tower. It is your responsibility to follow the law to perform your duties. This is being funded by cellular funds, not a FEMA grant. A number of people are looking diligently to identify different areas. Other land owners feel that they would like to be considered for the tower, because it would be like hitting the lottery.

Tom Dickens – Rensselaerville's Local #1 of 1999 Law states that no telecommunications tower shall be erected that affects visually sensitive areas, as has been plainly stated, this tower will affect many visually sensitive areas. I would ask the board to follow the law and reject this application, so that we can find a better sight. If the tower is erected, it becomes subject to FCC rules, which allow significant modifications, without seeking local board approval. The FCC allows these changes in order to fast track additional services. Allowing it to go 20' higher and 20' wider, as well as, installing, up to 4 different cell carriers. It would make it 210', which will make it very different than the 180' that they are proposing. The board is considering granting an exemption to the towns zoning laws because this a sole use emergency communications tower, as the applicants tower drawers show, its actually intended to host 2 cell companies. Then it becomes a mixed used tower. The tower in question will be part of a land mobile network, this is a voice only network and its less capable of handling the demands of first responders than the newer and robust system that was approved and funded by the United States Congress in 2012. This new network which is called FirstNet is "the first high speed, nationwide, wireless broad band network dedicated to public safety". You can go to FirstNet.gov for more information. The board has added his comments, that he handed in, to the record.

Gerald Wood – He drove around on Aug 22nd, to view the placement of the balloon and feels it will not obstruct people's views of the Catskill Mountains. He requested that the planning board approves the communications tower. We as EMS, Fire and Police would appreciate it.

Ann Wolf – She is here on behalf of the homeowners negatively impacted by the proposed cell tower and as a concerned citizen. They submitted, to the planning board, a letter signed by 40 residence requesting a full environment impact statement be done by the Albany County Sheriff's. Some of the undersigned pay higher taxes because of the view, while the Town of Rensselarvilles comprehensive plan insists that view sheds and character are top priority. She read the letter that they submitted to the board. She feels the SEQR is a type 1 action.

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Planning Board Public Hearing #2, Draft Minutes (con't)- Sept 3, 2015

(Continued from page #8)

Alberto Caputo – He feels that we have been given a fabulous view. He wanted to know if the board has dealt with Motorola, they don't care about our views, they are only concerned with making more money. He passed around and turned in pictures to the board, for the record. Do we know how much money they are making on this tower and who is making the deal.

Dave Bowdish – He read a letter that he had written to the Town Board, Zoning Board and to the concerned citizens of the Town of Rensselaerville. I am requesting that the above planning board members take into serious consideration past practice in current sections of town laws that pertain to the right decision regarding the immediate construction of the communications tower. In the current zoning laws, section 3, purpose of zoning laws to secure safety from fire and promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the public. Also, page 5, the comprehensive plan, to promote health, safety and general welfare of the people and consider the needs of the people. Finally, the main factor for recommending against hydro fracking was again health, safety and the general welfare of the people.

Joel Lounsbury – He feels that the only time you'll actually see the tower is if you're looking at it or for it, other than that you'll be looking by it.

Brenda Wood – How many hours and how much money has been spent? Ralph said that they have been working on this for years and that in the end it will cost close to \$23 million, Brenda explained that when the tower went up in Rensselaerville, it was done on a July 4th week, when people were on vacation and that just slipped through. Now they have cell phone coverage and all we are asking for is emergency service coverage.

Jane Hershey – She would hate to see for this tower to be delayed any further. As a health care professional, time is of the essence. Literally, every second counts. She feels that this well past time to have better communications. What kind of draw is it to bring people into this town, if there are no good communications.

John LaRocca – He felt that the balloon test was not representative of the actual tower. He could see it from his property and from his home. He is really uncomfortable with the fact that there is no respect among the people in this town. He has utmost respect for the emergency services. His wife help form the ambulance company and she served as president of it for nearly 20 years. His opinion, is that, this process, needs a little more time and that there are better locations. He doesn't feel this is good government and that this is being rushed through.

Pat Parker – She feels that these are the same arguments as 7 years ago. There is no cell service where she lives and when her 5 month pregnant daughter got in a car accident, she couldn't call anyone for help and when she finally got through to 911, they didn't even know where Rt. 358 was.

Justin Lounsbury – If you go up to Windham, there is nothing but towers and nobody complains about them. If you go hiking, hunting or anything else in the woods, you'll never get help, since there is no cell service.

Joel Lounsbury – He has heard all of these comments, but his big question is, if everyone feels they are trying to sneak it in, then how was the one on Pond Hill put in? He is willing to bet 75% of the people didn't know about the Pond Hill tower until it was already up. If you have to use binoculars to view it, then how is that really affecting you?

Bill Ryan (Town Attorney) – read into record a letter submitted by Jaqualine Murray and attorney for Pittsfield Communications and representing Albany County. The County is contemporaneously undertaking an analysis of whether its project is immune from local zoning regulations. Specifically, where one governmental agency, here the county, seeks to use lands within another governmental agency, the town. The

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Planning Board Public Hearing #2, Draft Minutes (con't)- Sept 3, 2015

(Continued from page #9)

former may apply a balancing of public interest test to determine whether it is immune from the zoning regulations of the latter. He cited several other cases where this has been applied. In the mean-time the county is taking into account any and all comments submitted by the public from the Aug. 6, 2015 public hearing and any comments received from the Sept. 03, 2015 public hearing. In addition, the county is inviting the town and the public to forward any written comments on this project to her office, no later than Sept. 18, 2015. Tonight there have been a lot of references to following the law, the cases that he cited, and he studied them, support the counties proposition. What he recommended was that they table the hearing until Oct 1, 2015, at which time we will review the Environmental Assessment Form.

Jaqualine Murray (attorney representing Albany County) – On behalf of the County, we thank the board for their input and also the public with their input and in the event the board wants to move forward, while they are determining their decision, that is perfectly fine and in the event that there is a determination, based on the balancing test, that the matter is immune from this towns regulation because it's so important for to the public good, then the county will serve as lead agency for SEQR purposes and the town will be an interested agency for SEQR purposes. In the event that the planning board comes up with a decision, that will be taken into consideration, in the spirit of governmental participation. The address for the Murray Law Firm is 10 Maxwell Dr., Suite 100, Clifton Park, NY 12065.

A motion was made to continue the public and table it until Oct. 1, 2015, made by Travis Smigel, second by Barry Kuhar, All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Discussion from the board followed about how to continue.

A motion to adjourn at 9:57 PM was made Dorothea Cotter, seconded by Walter Cook, all in favor, none opposed

Respectfully submitted,
Steven Pflieger, PB Clerk

Editors Note: *The content of these draft minutes are published as received. We do not have the right nor the authority to correct any errors with regard to spelling and grammar. The only changes made are formatting changes to fit our newsletter template.*



To make democracy work, we must be a nation of participants, not simply observers.
Louis D'Amour



Suffrage is the pivotal right.
Susan B. Anthony



Voting is a civic sacrament.
Theodore Hesburgh



Your every voter ... exercises a public trust.
Grover Cleveland



In selecting men for office, let principle be your guide. Regard not the particular sect or denomination of the candidate -- look to his character.
Noah Webster

*Election Day
November 3, 2015*



*Vote for
Experience*



*Vote for
Integrity*

It matters!



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Gerald "Chris" Heath

I am a life-long Albany County resident and have lived in Medusa for 21 years. My wife Brenda & I have been married for 26 years and have 3 children (Nicholas, Courtney, & Christopher) and 3 grandchildren (ages 5, 2, & 1).

I have served as chief and assistant chief of the Medusa Volunteer Fire Department for 15 years. In addition, I've previously held the positions of secretary and president.

I have 20 years of management experience working for Price Chopper and am now employed by the Albany County Sheriff's Office as a supervisor in telecommunications. My business experience included budgets, setting & meeting goals, interviewing & hiring, team building.

I seek the position of Town Council- man because I want to give back to the community. I have great concern about where our Town is headed. We need to actively pursue other revenue streams such as grants. We can't spend money we don't have. I have absolutely no personal or hidden agenda., & I'm not a career politician. I simply want to do what is best for the people I represent.

Please cast your ballot for Gerald "Chris" Heath on November 3.



Jeffry Pine

I've been a resident of the Town of Rensselaerville since 1978. I am married to Sherri Hillcoss Pine, a lifelong resident who can trace her roots in Rensselaerville back to the 1700s. I have two wonderful children, Jackie & John, both who make Rensselaerville their home.

My past service to the Town of Rensselaerville includes:

- ⇒ State Certified Assessor from 1998 to 2012
- ⇒ Chairman, Board of Assessors from 2010 to 2012
- ⇒ Building Inspector, Planning Board member, & Zoning Board of Appeals member

I am presently the Code Enforcement Officer for the Town of New Scotland, a position I've held for 17 years. My experience in this position makes me uniquely qualified to assess properties in a fair, uniform way.

My promises to the voters:

- ⇒ To prepare fair & unbiased assessments
- ⇒ To ensure open and transparent assessment information that is readily available to the public
- ⇒ To review all properties damaged by flooding 4 years ago to reflect true effects storm damage had on property values

Vote for experience on November 3!



Dwight "Taylor" Cooke

I grew up in the hamlet of Preston Hollow and attended Middleburgh Central School, graduating in 1985. I have lived in the Town of Rensselaerville for all but 2 years of my life. I currently reside in Medusa with my wife April and son Ryan. April & I have been married for 22 years.

I was actively involved in the youth baseball leagues for many years while my son was growing up.

I presently am self-employed in the construction business.

However, I recently retired from the Albany County Sheriff's Office after 25 years of service. I held the rank of lieutenant, and for many years dealt with inmate legal issues as well as disciplinary and hearing procedures that pertained to their being incarcerated.

I firmly believe that my hometown ties as well as my experience in law enforcement over the past 25 years will enable me to serve the Town of Rensselaerville as its next Town Justice.

Please cast your ballot for Dwight "Taylor" Cooke on November 3.

PAINTING PARTY

Saturday, October 17, 2015

3:00 pm

Rensselaerville Library

Painting Instruction Provided by
Roaming Paintress
Meghan Evans.

\$30 to Reserve your 11x14 canvas.

Payment is required at time of Reservation.

Limited Seating.

Snacks and Beverages will be available.

A Fundraiser Benefiting the Library.

Rensselaerville Library
PO Box 188
1459 County Route 351
Rensselaerville, NY 12147

518.797.3949
director@rensselaervillelibrary.org
www.RensselaervilleLibrary.org



Library News



Library Staff

Director - Kimberly Graff
director@rensselaervillelibrary.org

Assistant - Katie Caprio
library@rensselaervillelibrary.org

Pages

Madeline Ouellette
Emileigh Tanner
Leah Waldron

Library Board of Trustees

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Dale Dorner
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The Rensselaerville Library works to preserve a comfortable historical gathering place that is open, free and inviting to all of the residents of the 5 hamlets and environs. We strive to awaken and promote a life-long love of reading and learning by fostering personal connections and providing access to a stimulating variety of texts, technology and programming.

The Rensselaerville Library is a 501c3 non-profit organization and donations are tax deductible as allowed by

Upcoming Library Events

Poetry Tuesday evenings at 7pm on October 13 and 27. Come share your work, receive feedback and spend time working on your own project. The Poetry group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month downstairs in the Library. For questions please contact Tom Corrado at tjc123@midtel.net

Thursday, October 8th join the writing group at 7pm to share your work and receive feedback or just spend a few hours working on your own project. The group meets monthly on the second Thursday of the month downstairs in the Library.

Saturday, October 17th come learn to paint with Roaming Paintress Meghan Evans. \$30 to reserve your 11x14 canvas, snacks and beverages will be available (good will donation). This is a fundraiser for the Library. Spaces are limited so please pay when reserving your spot.

Are you ready for the arrival of Marty McFly and Doc Brown? The Library will be showing the movies Back to the Future on Friday, October 9 and Back to the Future II on Friday, October 23. Both movies will start at 6:30pm at the Library. October is the 30th anniversary of the arrival of Marty and Doc Brown in Back to the Future II.

The Library Board of Trustees Meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 19 at 7pm. All Board meetings are held at the Library and are open to the public. The Library Board of Trustees and Staff would like to thank Mark Lewis for his service and welcome Linda Styer to the Board.

Want to go fishing but don't have a pole? Use your Library card to borrow one for a week. Hooks and Bobbers provided. Anyone 16 and over needs a fishing license. The program is made possible with assistance from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

The Library has a Museum Pass to the Clark. The pass is good for one adult admission to the Clark. Check it out with your Library card.

Watch the calendar for Halloween events!

Save the Date for the Annual Greenery Sale at the Library. Saturday, December 5, 9-2pm. Wreaths, trees, sprays and local vendors. Please contact the Library if you are interested in being a vendor.

Library News

The Rensselaerville Library
1459 County Route 351
Rensselaerville, NY 12147
(518) 797-3949

director@rensselaervillelibrary.org

Cleaning Position Available

The Library is seeking a person to perform general cleaning duties on a weekly basis in the Library during Library hours. This part-time position entails light lifting and being able to negotiate stairs within our historic building. Cleaning supplies/equipment will be provided by the Library.

The Library has three floors, two bathrooms, carpeting and hardwood floors and plenty of books to dust.

This part-time position is two hours per week at a rate of \$12/hour.

Interested applicants please submit your letter of interest and references to the Library. Please contact Kim if you would like to take a tour of the building prior to submitting a letter.

Letters can be sent to: Kim Graff
Rensselaerville Library
PO Box 188
Rensselaerville, NY 12147
or
dropped off at the Library

*Library Hours: Closed Sunday and Monday
Tuesday: 10am – Noon & 4– 9pm
Wednesday: 10am – Noon & 4– 9pm
Thursday: 4– 9pm
Friday: 4– 9pm
Saturday: 9– 1pm*

Move Breathe Relax

YOGA: Tue. & Thu. 9-10:15 am
PILATES: Wed. 5:45-6:15 pm & Sat. 9-10 am

Classes Open to All at Conkling Hall in Rensselaerville

Sarah Nelson Weiss, CYT
savitrisarah@gmail.com, 518-239-6825

Fees: Wed Pilates—\$7.00
All Others—\$12.00

Library News

Middleburgh Library

Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	Knitting Circle	7:00 pm
Oct 2, 9, 1, 23, 30	Haunted History Tours: The Dr. Best House & Medical Museum	9-10:30pm
Oct 6, 13, 20, 27	Drop-In Story Time	10:45am
Oct 6, 13, 20, 27	Mahjong Mania	1:00 pm
Oct 6, 13, 20, 27	Insight Meditation	5:15pm
Oct 7, 14, 21, 28	Chair Yoga (CR)	9:00 am
Oct 7, 14, 21, 28	Discovery Wednesday	11:00am
Oct 7, 14, 21, 28	Wednesday Matinee	1:00pm
Oct 7, 21	Kundalini Yoga	5:00 pm
Oct 8	Not-So-Quiet Concert	7:00pm
Oct 15	Save Energy! Save Dollars!	7:00pm
Oct 16	Dinner and a Movie	5:15pm
Oct 19, 26	Taking the Mystery Out of Writing	6-8:00pm
Oct 20	Book Discussion: All the Light We Cannot See	7:00pm
Oct 21	Time Between: The Hauntings of Cherry Valley, New York	7:00pm
Oct 24	2nd Annual Zombie Run	10:00am

For information about any of the events listed above, please click on the link below. It will take you to the Middleburgh Library events calendar where you will find descriptions of these events.

<http://engagedpatrons.org/EventsCalendar.cfm?SiteID=8616&thisMonth=10&thisYear=2015>

Contact information: 323 Main Street, PO Box 670, Middleburgh, NY 12122
(518) 827-5142

www.middleburghlibrary.info

*Hours: Monday 1:30 - 8:30
Tuesday 10:00 - 5:00 & 6:30 - 8:30
Wednesday 10:00 - 4:00
Thursday 10:00 - 4:00 & 6:30 - 8:30
Friday & Sunday - closed
Saturday 9:00 - 2:00*



Library News

Greenville Library

Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28

Greenville Quilters

1:00-3:00pm

Meet in small community room All welcome.
No experience necessary, will teach.

Oct 8, 22

Oct 8 (at 6:45pm)

Greene County Camera Club (Basement level)

Competition night that includes beginners and advanced members.
Please join us and see how it works.

Oct 22 (at 7:00pm)

We provide help in photography,
Photoshop, critiquing, and using digital cameras.

Contact Information:

Greenville Public Library
11177 Route 32
PO Box 8 Greenville, NY 12083

Phone: 518-966-8205

Email: greenvillelibrary@outlook.com

Hours: Monday & Wednesday: 9:00am - 5:00pm

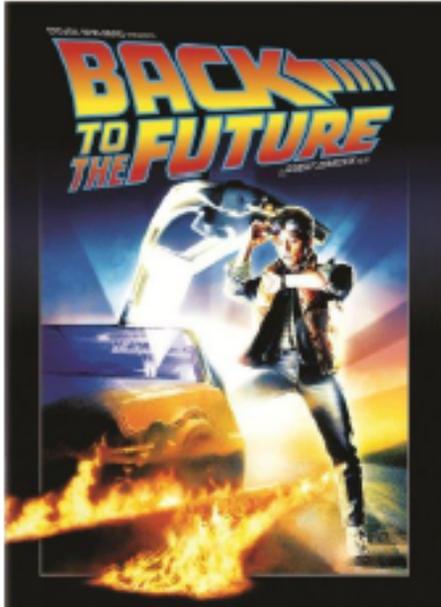
Tuesday & Thursday: 9:00am - 6:00pm

Friday: 12:00pm - 5:00pm

Saturday: 9:00am - 1:00pm

Sunday: Closed





Are You Ready for Marty McFly & Doc Brown's Arrival on October 21, 2015?

Back to the Future

October 9, 2015 at 6:30pm

Rated PG, Length 1:56

From the Academy Award-winning filmmakers Steven Spielberg and Robert Zemeckis comes *Back to the Future* - the original, groundbreaking adventure that sparked one of the most successful trilogies ever. When teenager Marty McFly (Michael J. Fox) is blasted to 1955 in the DeLorean time machine created by the eccentric Doc Brown (Christopher Lloyd), he finds himself mixed up in a time-shattering chain reaction that could vaporize his future -

and leave him trapped in the past. Powered by innovative special effects, unforgettable songs and non-stop action, *Back to the Future* is an unrivaled adventure that stands the test of time!

Back to the Future Part II

October 23, 2015 at 6:30pm

Rated PG, Length 1:48

Getting back was only the beginning as the most spectacular time-travel adventure ever continues in *Back to the Future Part II* - the sequel that proves that lightning can strike twice! Picking up precisely where they left off, Marty and Doc (Michael J. Fox and Christopher Lloyd) launch themselves to the year 2015 to fine-tune the future and inadvertently disrupt the space time continuum. Now, their only chance to fix the present is by going back



to 1955 all over again before it is too late. From the Academy Award-winning filmmakers Steven Spielberg and Robert Zemeckis, *Back to the Future Part II* proves true excitement is timeless.

Rensselaerville Library
 1459 County Route 351
 Rensselaerville, NY 12147
 518.797.3949
www.RensselaervilleLibrary.org

In My Opinion.....

Editor's Note: The following letter appeared in the September 4, 2015, issue of the Greenville Pioneer. It is reprinted here with the author's permission.

To the editor:

Ever hear the saying, "The country is going to hell in a hand basket?" Well, the bottom of the basket just fell out.

There was an informational meeting recently at the Rensselaerville Town Building to inform concerned citizens about the intended placement of an emergency communication tower.

I won't bore you with all the technical stuff, just my surprise (not really) as to the response of some of our town neighbors. Put bluntly, they are more concerned with their view than the safety of their neighbors.

Hard to Fathom? You had to be there. When people put their wants of a beautiful view over their neighbors, or even their own, health and safety, there is a major problem.

So, based on the my concerns for the health, safety, and general welfare of all of the citizens of the Town of Rensselaerville, I am submitting the following request to the Rensselaerville Town Board, Zoning Board, and Planning Board, and also to the concerned residents of this town:

I am requesting that the above board members take into serious consideration past practice and current sections of Town Law that pertains to the right decision regarding the immediate construction of the required signal tower.

Please refer to the current Zoning Laws; Section 3 Purpose of Zoning Laws ... secure safety from fire ... to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the public. And;

The Comprehensive Plan; page 5 ... critical tool to promote health, safety, and general welfare of the people ... and to consider the needs of the people.

And;

In the final recommendation of the Hydro-Fracking Committee, sent to the Town Board for their consideration, the main factor for recommending against Hydro-Fracking was/is, "the health, safety, and general welfare of the public."

Thank you for your consideration and adherence to the town laws.

Respectfully,
Dave Bowdish
Medusa, NY

Editor's Note: The following letter appeared in the September 18, 2015, issue of the Greenville Pioneer. It is reprinted here with the author's permission.

To the editor:

The article in the September 4 issue describing Westerlo residents' rejection of a \$2.75 million bond to renovate and construct town buildings ("Voters Shoot Down Bond For New Highway Garage") prompted me to write. Taxpayers would have had to pay an addition \$99 per year in addition to their regular annual taxes to repay the bond. A resident organized a petition drive to put the proposed bond before the public and it was voted down. This is what happens when a local government does not allow its residents to participate in crafting decisions that will significantly affect them.

(Continued on page 20)

In My Opinion....

(Continued from page 19)

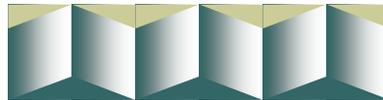
The Town of Rensselaerville Planning Board is considering an application to construct a 180-foot tower to improve public safety communications and also offer a location on which commercial communication service providers could install their equipment. No one who has come to the public hearings disputes the need for a new tower. The issue is where to put it.

The proposed site is opposed by some whose views of the Catskill Mountains and the surrounding hills and countryside would be affected and favored by others who feel there is an urgent need for better emergency communications.

Several members of the community and I have asked the planning board to form a committee of residents with relevant expertise to work with the board, the project sponsor, Albany County, and the engineering consultant for the builder to review their data, which has not been made public, and identify and evaluate alternate sites that may be satisfactory to a majority of residents and still accomplish the county's goal of creating a viable communications network. The committee's work could be done quickly and efficiently. The planning board has refused to entertain this request.

Often, a municipality considers the public part of the problem. It's time local governments view the public as participants in finding a solution.

Sincerely,
Diana M. Hinchcliff
Rensselaerville, NY



Senior Citizens Info

The Town offers car service Mon-Fri by appointment only. Contact Town Hall at 239-4225 or 797-3798 for doctor appointments. The Senior bus also goes shopping on Thursday either to Cobleskill or Catskill. Call Ruth & Tom Snyder (239-4376) the day before about riding the bus if you are interested.

The Town of Rensselaerville Senior Citizens meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month at Medusa Fire House at noon. Anyone 55 years of age and older can join. **Dues are \$8.00 a year due in June.** We collect \$1.00 a month at the meeting for coffee, milk, etc. Please bring a covered dish to share. We eat promptly at noon and the meeting commences afterward. We have a picnic in August; in November, we have a Thanksgiving dinner at a local restaurant; and in December we have a Christmas dinner also. We have bus trips in the summer and fall. For further information, call Tom Snyder, President, at 239-4376.

Please note that we are in desperate need of drivers for the bus and the car. Please call Ann Vogel at 797-3376 if you're interested in volunteering as a driver for our senior citizens.

Additional Important Phone Numbers:

- Department of Aging 447-7179
- HEAP: 447-2551

POST OFFICE INFORMATION

<http://www.usps.com>



MEDUSA POST OFFICE: Phone 518-239-4826
(19 COUNTY ROUTE 351 MEDUSA, NY 12120)

Retail Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00am - 12:00pm; Sat 7:30am - 11:15am

Last Collection Hours: Mon-Fri 4:15pm; Sat 11:15am

Lobby Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00am - 5:00pm; Sat 8:00am - 11:30am



PRESTON HOLLOW POST OFFICE: Phone 518-239-6111
(2930 ROUTE 145 PRESTON HOLLOW, NY 12469)

Retail Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am - 10:30am; 3:00pm - 5:00pm

Sat 9:00am - 12:00pm



RENSSELAERVILLE POST OFFICE: Phone 518-797-3231
(26 COUNTY ROUTE 353 RENSSELAERVILLE, NY 12147)

Retail Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00am - 12:00pm

Sat 8:00am - 11:00am

AUTUMN
is a second spring
when every
LEAF
becomes a
Flower.

On The Calendar

Oct 1	7:00 pm	Town Board Special Meeting “for the purpose of presenting the Tentative Budget and to address any other matters that come before the Board.”	Town Hall
Oct 1	7:30 pm	Planning Board Meeting “A motion was made to continue the public and table it until Oct. 1, 2015, made by Travis Smigel, second by Barry Kuhar, All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.”	Town Hall
Oct 3	9 am-3 pm	“New” Fall Rummage Sales	Medusa Church
Oct 17	8 am-noon	The Church Hall will be <u>full of good items</u> including Fall, Halloween, and Thanksgiving.	
Oct 6	7:00 pm	Town Board Work Meeting	Town Hall
Oct 8	7:00 pm	Town Board Regular Monthly Meeting	Town Hall
Oct 13	12 noon	Rensselaerville Senior’s Club meeting	Medusa Firehouse
Oct 17	7 am-11 am	Medusa Volunteer Fire Dept. breakfast Free will offering	Medusa Firehouse
Nov 19		Senior’s Club Trip: The Beeches Dinner Theatre Lunch & Show: “The Hap-hap-happiest Season” More information to come	
Oct 17	8am-2 pm	“New” Fall Rummage Sales Hall will be full of good items including fall, Halloween, and Thanksgiving	Medusa Church
Nov 19		Senior’s Club trip to The Beeches Dinner Theatre Lunch and Show: “Christmas: The Hap-hap-happiest Season”. More information to come in the future.	



Contact Information for Elected Officials & Department Heads

Position	Name	Email Address
Town Supervisor	Valerie Lounsbury	vlounsbury@rensselaerville.com townsupervisor@rensselaerville.com
Town Councilwoman	Marion Cooke	mcooke@rensselaerville.com
Town Councilman	Robert Bolte	rbolte@rensselaerville.com
Town Councilwoman	Margaret Sedlmeir	msedlmeir@rensselaerville.com
Town Councilman	Gerald Wood	gwood@rensselaerville.com
Town Justices	Gregory Bischoff Ronald Bates	
Supervisor's Clerk	Sarah Hunt	shunt@rensselaerville.com
Town Clerk	Victoria Kraker	townclerk@rensselaerville.com
Highway Superintendent	Randy Bates	rbates@rensselaerville.com
Assessors	Donna Kropp Richard Tollner Kathryn Wank	assessors@rensselaerville.com
Building Inspector/ Code Enforcement Officer	Mark Overbaugh	codeenforcement@rensselaerville.com
Planning Board	Richard Amedure	
Zoning Board of Appeals	John Mormile	
Board of Ethics		ethicsboard@rensselaerville.com
Dog Control Officer	Cheryl Baitsholts	Phone: 797-5201
Town Hall		Phone: 239-4225; 797-3798 Fax: 239-6339



Dear Neighbors,

Please join us on October 24, 2015 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the consecration of Trinity Episcopal Church which occurred on October 24, 1815.

On that date The Right Reverend John Henry Hobart, Bishop of the Diocese of New York consecrated the building which is still in use today and is the oldest Episcopal Church in Albany County outside the city of Albany.



The day will be filled with activities starting at noon to 3:00pm at the town park across from the church and will include a farmer's market and activities for children.

Choral Evensong will be offered at 4:00pm including prayers sung by Village Voices with scripture readings by members of the congregation.

Following the Evensong, a gala reception will be held on the church grounds where refreshments will be served. Peg Breen, President of the New York Landmarks Conservancy will present a citation to honor the anniversary. Michael Devonshire, AIA will be the featured speaker.

This promises to be a fun filled day of celebration, we hope you can join us.

Most sincerely+

Donald Britton and Richard Tollner, Wardens

Vestry Members: Sarah Gifford, Donna Kropp, Nora Logan, William Logan

Treasurers: Phil Pearson, Susan Britton

Recording Secretary: Jeannette Rice

Trinity Episcopal Church, 10 Trinity Lane, Rensselaerville, NY 12147



The Back Page

Contributors:

Ed Dermody
Kimberly Graff
William Moore
Jeffry Pine
Jeannette Rice
Sarah Nelson Weiss

Editors:

Nancy Class
Marie Dermody
Georgette Koenig

From the Editors:

As always, we ask that you make a copy or two of this newsletter to share with friends and neighbors who may not have Internet access. Our readership continues to grow, but we invite others to sign on by sending their email address to rvillenewsletter@gmail.com. We look forward to getting your feedback.



To unsubscribe: Send an email to rvillenewsletter@gmail.com with the word "Unsubscribe" on the subject line. We'd be sorry to see you go, but we will honor your wishes immediately.



A community newsletter **BY** the community **FOR** the community