

Ruth Groff
Town Board Member Report
June 2023

- **Ithaca Tompkins County Transportation Council (“ITCTC”) Planning Committee: May 2, 10:00am**
 - This meeting was cancelled. A joint meeting with Planning and Policy Committees is scheduled for June 20.
- **Conservation Advisory Council (“CAC”): June 1, 6:30pm**
 - There was a presentation on “How the Non-Pipes Alternatives Program relates to Lansing,” by Agnes Guillo, Community Educator, Cornell Cooperative Extension. The following is taken from the CAC minutes of that meeting – “Since 2015, there has been a moratorium on new natural gas service in the Lansing area due to a failure to secure approval of a new natural gas pipeline to the area. The NPA program was initiated to try and reduce demand for natural gas in the target area. A major part of the initiative is the potential for enhanced rebates on the installation of “heat pump” technology for homeowners now on natural gas service. Free home energy audits are available through Earth Sensitive Solutions to assess the feasibility of switching to geothermal or atmospheric heat pumps. The town is divided into three zones with different rebate options. The key factor is the energy audit as each home presents different challenges to utilize the rebate program. Questions on the program should be directed to Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins County (CCETC).”
 - The Open Space Index (“OSI”) rankings have been divided into three categories – low, medium, and high. Bergmann Associates are now ready to move forward with constructing the narrative around the map that has been developed for this OSI, and it is expected that a rough draft will be ready to present to the committee by early August. “A ‘story map’ will be developed following the draft of the narrative with a proposed availability timeframe of Sept/Oct. With draft products available, a public meeting will be scheduled to review the products and entertain comments on the acceptability of the OSI products. Timeframe for this will be late Oct/Nov.”
- **Capital Improvement Committee: June 7, 9:00am**
 - The committee reviewed and agreed upon the preliminary draft plan of capital projects over \$500k. The plan is to be presented to the Town Board at the June 21st meeting during a working session.
- **Highway Barn Meeting: June 6, 10am – Cancelled**
 - This meeting was cancelled, based on the fact that Bergmann had presented to the full Town Board at the May meeting.
- **Parks, Recreation, and Trails Committee: May 25, June 8, June 15, 2:00pm**
 - Patrick Tyrrell and Ruth Groff have weekly update meetings with Ellie Peterson, Intern from Cornell, regarding her work on potential plans for the Jonas Falls area. She has been looking at slope analysis, topography, and parcel boundaries, as a starting point.