

From the Supervisor:

One of the most rewarding parts of my position as Supervisor is to be able to recognize community members or employees for their achievements. For Town employees it is even more rewarding when you know employees are supporting each other and working as a team. Recently I had the honor of recognizing one of our employees, Karen Barkdull, Clerk to our Planning and Zoning Boards. Members of the Town staff, elected officials as well as outside professionals submitted letters in support of Karen being nominated for the 2021 New York Planning Federation Pomeroy Award for Zoning Achievement. This award is presented to an individual, municipality, or agency for consistent high-quality work and/or an outstanding contribution to zoning in New York State and Karen was chosen as this year's recipient. Karen has served the Town since 2007 and brings a tireless dedication to her job and our community by working with residents and design professionals to help them navigate the Town's zoning laws. She has also been instrumental in her contributions to the recent adoption of our updated Comprehensive Plan with corresponding Zoning. Karen was presented the award on June 2nd, and we all congratulate Karen for this well-deserved recognition.

I want to also recognize Joe Southern who served on the Town Planning Board from 2001 to April of this year. Joe also served as Vice Chair to this Board from 2009 until he became Chair in 2017. In addition, Joe served on various Town committees including the Affordable Housing Committee, the Mining Boundary Committee, the Open Space Committee and as our representative for our grant on a Geographic Information System. We thank Joe for over 20 years of service to our community and his work to keep projects within the zoning requirements of the Town.

In April of this year Don Kasper was appointed Chair of the Planning Board and Doug Hamlin Vice-Chair. Don has been on the Planning Board since 2007 and he brings his years of building experience to the Board. Doug has been on the Planning Board since 2016 and Doug brings his executive business experience to the Board. Together they provide the leadership necessary to work with very large and complicated projects. We appreciate their willingness to take on this important task.

Joe Southern's resignation created a vacancy on that Board. We were delighted to receive several interested Applicants. We highly respected all Applicants for their professionalism, impressive backgrounds and willingness to serve on what basically is a volunteer position. To say it was a hard decision for the Board is putting it mildly. It was painfully hard to decide who to pick among these excellent candidates. The candidate that we chose is Jonathan Holbein. Jonathan has worked for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation for more than 27 years. He is a licensed surveyor. Jonathan now finds he has the time to offer his service to the community and looks forward to serving on this Board. We welcome Jonathan and thank him for agreeing to serve on a very hard-working Board.

Before I leave the Planning Department, I have to further recognize Doug Hamlin. Doug is the author of a new book called "Spinning Forward". This is a book about Doug and what he faced on August 20, 1983, when at 23 he came down headfirst on a trampoline, breaking three bones in his neck and leaving him paralyzed from his mid-chest down. It is a story of courage and someone who achieved great things in his life despite this life changing event. Doug held a book signing at the Skaneateles Historical Society Creamery, located at 28 Hannum Street on Sunday, July 11th. All proceeds from purchases of his book were donated to the Skaneateles Historical Society.

Wishing everyone a safe a Happy Summer.

Janet Aaron