

The Town of Canaan NY

Your town - Your news



A Note from Our Supervisor

Greetings All,

For our neighbors who migrated or hibernated for winter, we miss you and it's time to think about coming home! Most of the snow melted this week and the morning's flurries gave way to a welcome and bright sunshine, at least for a minute. Robins, bluebirds, and red-winged blackbirds are out and about and the first tender shoots are just visible in the garden. It's too early to say that spring has arrived but there are finally signs it can't be too far behind.

To catch up, the town has had a busy start to the year. Housekeeping issues such as the annual audit of cash accounts and the 2024 Annual Financial Report were completed. Other updates include:

The Short-Term Rental Law is moving its way through the review process. Work on the law began late summer / early fall of 2024. The board has now discussed the law at multiple meetings, listened to and incorporated public comment, held one Public Hearing and forwarded the law to the Columbia County Planning Department for consideration. The Town Board will hold a second Public Hearing on Monday, March 10th at 7PM. All residents are invited to attend in person or via Zoom. Copies of the draft law and the Zoom link are on the Town website.

Transfer Station Compliance Officer: Continuing concerns about non-resident use and misuse of the transfer station prompted the town to appoint Harry McMann as the new Compliance Officer for the transfer station. Harry will check permit stickers and loads to make

sure they are compliant with town and transfer station rules. Additional information and permit stickers are available from the town clerks. *Residents/property owners without stickers will not be able to access the transfer station.* Sparky, employed by the trucking company, will continue to be there as usual; his role has not changed.

Several American Rescue Plan (ARPA) fund projects were completed this quarter: The Town Hall Meeting Room was carpeted and painted, a video monitor was installed to improve access to remote meetings, training, and other video materials; new furniture and storage units were installed in the Clerks' offices which had been long overdue for both functional and storage upgrades. The Clerks' office walls will be repaired and painted the last week of March.

Additional ARPA projects underway: The Stoddard Field Park playground and courts will see several upgrades this spring. New children's playground equipment will be installed (weather permitting) in late March / early April; the tennis and basketball courts are scheduled to be resurfaced and painted this spring, and per many requests, the tennis court will be painted as a hybrid tennis / pickle ball court.

All of the above projects were funded by federal ARPA funds and did not require town funds.

Thanks to the extraordinary work of the town Climate Smart Task Force, the town completed several Clean Energy Communities (CEC) projects to qualify for \$110,000 in grant

funds for the town. The task force implemented suggestions from the town building energy audits (an earlier CEC project) and identified two projects that would qualify for the grant funds: heat pumps for the Town Hall and solar panels for the Highway Garage. See article below for more detail. **These projects will not require any town funds.**

A Strategic Plan Committee has been appointed to work with consultant Nan Stolzenburg of Community Planning and Environmental Associates on the update of the town's 2003 Strategic Plan. Committee members Mary Keegan, Kate Childs-Jones, Carrie Whiteman, Tom Platten, Paul Naamon, and alternate member Ashley Garrett will lead the effort to engage the community, gather and present data, and eventually formulate a draft plan for the town board and the community to consider. Be on the look-out for ways to engage in this process, and your community, including an upcoming Community Survey and community meetings.

The five year update of the Columbia County Hazard Mitigation Plan, required by FEMA and other agencies to qualify for emergency funding, is in the final stages of drafting. Representatives of the Town Board (Adams & Lifsec), Highway Department (Van Tassel) and local Emergency Management team (Falkner) identified local resources, potential hazards, issues, and concerns for the town chapter. The plan will go out for public comment in March or April. Notice of the public comment period will be sent via email to town residents.

Traffic Safety, road safety especially excessive speed and unsafe or

aggressive driving continue to be top of mind. The town board has requested speed reductions on SR 295 and SR 22, additional high-tech signage on SR 295 in the area of Vandenburg Road, and additional signage and deflectors on SR 22 at the B3 exit to discourage truck parking on SR 22. In the fall, town board members and the Highway Superintendent met with NYS engineers to review site conditions and answer questions regarding these requests. Answers are expected in the coming weeks and the plan is to address these items before the advent of summer traffic.

We have been unsuccessful with requests for speed reduction on CR 5 & 9; we will once again request assistance from local law enforcement to monitor and reduce speed on these roads.

In the interim, Highway Superintendent Van Tassel assisted with the installation of a new mirror to improve sight lines at the intersection of SR 295 and Vandenburg Road. He has also installed concrete blocks and new signage to prevent truck parking on Peaceful Valley Road. In the coming weeks, Superintendent Van Tassel will be closing Post Road to through traffic, eliminating the “short-cut” between CR 5 and SR 295 often taken to avoid the line of traffic at the CR 5 light. This should make it safer for local traffic, and residents, business patrons and church members who walk and park on that road.

Community Day has been scheduled this year for June 14th, 2025. Organizers Carrie Whiteman and Elijah Falkner are seeking artists, food vendors, crafts persons, musicians, and volunteers to participate in this community event held at the Stoddard Field Park. Contact Carrie at carrie.whiteman@yahoo.com for more information or to sign

up!

Finally, a Broadband update. Just after the contracts were signed between Consolidated Communications (CCI) and USDA for the last mile buildout in Canaan and New Lebanon, CCI was sold. Soon after that the new administration took office and put a hold on USDA project funds. We persevered and contracts signed by the new owner were sent to USDA. We were advised this week by USDA the new contracts had been received and will be forwarded internally for funding approval. We are cautiously optimistic this project will be funded and move to engineering and construction late spring / early summer. I sincerely hope the next news will be that work has started.

Wishing each of you a happy spring. The Town Board members and I thank you for the opportunity to serve you and our community.

Brenda Adams

Town Supervisor





**Short Term Rental Public
Hearing**

**March 10th at 7PM
Canaan Town Hall
or via Zoom**

For more info, see canaannewyork.org





CANAAN REC
NOW HIRING

Swim Instructors

MUST BE FIRST AID, CPR, AND LIFEGUARD CERTIFIED.

***Water Safety Instructor Certification
Preferred***



SEND EMAIL OF INTEREST TO:
JSRUSTIN@HOTMAIL.COM





COMMUNITY GARDENING DAY

**Saturday May 17th 2025
10:00 AM**

At Canaan Town Park (Stoddard Field)
Rain date May 18th 10AM

Weeding garden beds, spreading mulch, and
doing other work to make our park beautiful!

Donuts provided!





Big Breakfast at the Fire House!

Don't miss the fantastic breakfast that the Canaan Fire Department is cooking up for us!

May 25th from 8am until Noon

2126 State Road 295

Canaan NY 12029

Dine in or take out!





*Get Alerts and Updates from Our Highway
Department on Facebook*

You can now check for road alerts and updates on our Canaan Highway Department on Facebook. Find and follow them at [Canaan, New York Highway Department](#).



Is There a Need?

In our desire to assist our neighbors and our town, we are considering initiating a respite center for local caregivers. Your responses to the following questions will greatly assist us in assessing the needs here in Canaan.

The strength of our community can be measured through our collaborations. We love our rural environs but they can create situations where we are isolated and out of touch with one another. Columbia County is the third oldest county in New York State. And, Canaan has the distinction of having the oldest residents in our county. For us to be able to age in place we need to look at ways we can support one another.

For example, often one partner struggles to support the other.

- Is there someone in your family or a family friend or neighbor who is the caregiving partner?
- If we establish a drop-in respite center open one or two days a week would that be helpful?
- Might you be interested in volunteering?

We would love to hear from you: redchurch@canaanucc.org



Important Dates in the Assessment Cycle

Tentative Assessment Roll: May 1st

The Assessor completes, certifies and files a roll containing proposed assessed values. A public notice of completion is filed. Notices are sent to property owners if there was a change in assessment. The tentative assessment roll can be viewed on the Town and County websites and in person at the town hall.

Grievance Day: June 3rd (Canaan only)

The board of Assessment review meets to hear complaints. This is also the last day property owners may file a formal grievance.

Final Assessment Roll: July 1st

This final roll contains the final assessments and changes from the Board of Assessment review.

For more information on any of the above, please visit the Assessors page of the Canaan website.

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Great News from Your Climate Smart Task Force!

We are excited to share that the Town of Canaan has been awarded a total of **\$110,000 in grants** from the New York State Energy Resource Development Authority (NYSERDA).

As noted in the December newsletter, the Climate Smart Task Force applied for this funding to purchase heat pumps for the Town Hall and solar panels for the Highway Garage. The team selected vendors through a competitive bidding process. The installations will begin in March or April and should be complete by June of this year.

The solar panels on the highway garage will generate electricity to power that building, with any excess power earning credits toward our electricity bills from other town buildings. The heat pumps in the town hall will provide heating and cooling throughout the building year-round, a major improvement over our old oil-fired boiler and limited air conditioning.

Overall, we expect multiple benefits to the town from these

installations including lower utility costs, reduced energy-related emissions, and improved comfort for everyone who works in or visits our buildings.

Thanks to the Climate Smart Task Force for this triple win!



Thank You to an Outstanding Canaan Volunteer

Longtime Canaan volunteer **David Pearce** has retired from the Board of Ethics, bringing to a close an extraordinary career of town and county service that spans over 30 years.

His Columbia County story began in 1962, when the New York City-based Pearce family bought ten acres in Canaan where they erected first a tent and then built an A-frame. Several years later, the family bought their neighbor's forty-acre property with its 4-bedroom 19th century house and barn.

In 1985, David was given the choice to relocate with his wife and three daughters to JC Penney's corporate headquarters in Texas or take early retirement. David not only chose early "retirement" but decided to move his family full-time to Canaan.

And so began decades of dedication between David and his late wife, Ann. While Ann served as Canaan's Tax Collector, Town Historian, and as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, David served on the town's Board of Assessment Review and was appointed Canaan's Assessor. He subsequently served as an interim Town Justice.

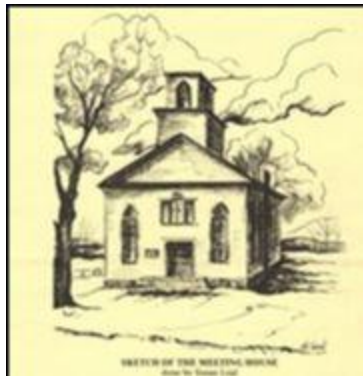
He also spent 25 years as a Hearing Officer for the 3rd Judicial District encompassing Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Schoharie, Sullivan, and Ulster counties, reviewing challenges to property assessments and making determinations based on the facts of the individual case. Between 1998 and 2014 David worked part time for the Columbia Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) and also served as a co-president of the Mount Lebanon Shaker Village. For five years David chaired the board of Columbia County Housing Resources and was a member of the board of Columbia Memorial Hospital's second-hand store. In addition, he served at St. Peter's Presbyterian Church in Spencertown as both a trustee and member of the session.

Last, but certainly not least, for the past 15 years David has been a member of the Canaan Board of Ethics, which is tasked with responding to possible conflicts of interest - both factual and perceived. Asked about the work of the Board, David stated that few situations have required reviews by the Board – perhaps, 2-3 cases

over the past five years, the majority deemed unfounded conflicts of interest. David observed that there is “*strong self-awareness among town staff and volunteers about their positions and how the town should work*”.

As evidenced in the above breadth and depth of volunteer and paid activities, David has contributed so much to Canaan, and to the wider community. Upon David’s retirement from the Board of Ethics, his last town position, we thank him for his long service and wish him well as he moves on to other endeavors.

By Suzanne Michael



Volunteer Opportunities with the Canaan Historical Society

Seeking Volunteer Treasurer

The Canaan Historical Society, an all-volunteer program, is seeking a treasurer for a three-year term to be elected in August at the annual meeting. Must be a full-time Canaan resident. Responsible for preparing the budget, paying bills and vouchers, and for monthly

reporting of income and expenses against the budget. Templates and systems are in place for reporting. Commitment monthly six to seven hours. Request full job description by email: CanaanHistoricalSociety@gmail.com

Seeking Working Board Members

The all-volunteer Canaan Historical Society is seeking board members interested in working on membership, special events, and program. Please send a brief resume and your area of interest to CanaanHistoricalSociety@gmail.com.

Mark your calendars

Canaan Historical Society's **DECLARATION DAY** is schedule for Saturday June 21st.



Early Canaan Pioneers

Have you ever wondered about how some of our landmarks in town got their names?

Here is the history of one such local name.

Major Martin Beebe (abt. 1738 – May 18 1783)

Martin Beebe was born in 1738 and he was one of the ten children of John and Ruth Pratt Beebe of Colchester, Connecticut.

Martin Beebe married Dorcas Judson born February 5, 1737) on July 27th 1757 in Woodbury, Connecticut.

Although there is no recorded date for the Beebe's move to New York State, they did settle in New Concord in 1764.

It is recorded, however, that Dorcas Judson Beebe walked a mile on a New Concord Road to give birth to her first child:

Anne Beebe Parke (1762-1842)

Rhoda Beebe Doty (1764-1842)

David Beebe

Martin Beebe, Junior ((1767 -1826)

Russell Beebe (1768-1868)

Daniel Beebe (1770-1823)

Mary Beebe (1772-1867)

Sarah Silva Beebe Lovejoy

Tryphena Beebe (1776-1860)

Laura Beebe (1778-)

Martin was the first clerk of King's District and was town supervisor in 1774 and 1775. He was supervisor again in 1781 and 1782. In 1774 Martin was a member of the 17th Militia under the Command of

William Bradford Whiting and was at the two Battles of Saratoga (Freeman's Farm and Bemis Heights) where he was at the surrender of Burgoyne. The King's District records list him in Albany County as a yeoman.

Martin Beebe died on May 18th 1783 in Canaan, New York. Martin Beebe's tombstone inscription: *In Memory of Martin Beebe who died the 18th of May 1783 in the 77th year of his age*". Martin Beebe is buried in the Dewitt Brown Cemetery in the Town of Canaan, King's District, New York.

Dorcas Judson Beebe died on August 25th 1809 at the age of 74 years and she is buried in the Dewitt Brown Cemetery in the Town of Canaan, New York.

And now you know!



Editorial services on the Town of Canaan New York Newsletter provided by L. Spencer Humphrey and Donna Mattoon.

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