

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Mettler reports that she has some good news to announce this evening. Last night at the Columbia County Board of Supervisors meeting, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a Resolution to hire a consultant to assist in the Federal Transportation Program Funding for the County Route 7A highway construction in the Town of Copake.

The purpose of the project is to rebuild County Route 7A through the Hamlet of Copake. The project will include new sidewalks. The County's portion of the project will be funded 80% by Federal Transportation Aid, 15% by NY aid and 5% by the County. The Town will install new streetlights and other amenities such as benches.

Someone told me that it was in the mid 1980's that Supervisor Butch Near announced that the County would rebuild the roads through the Hamlet of Copake. I can remember it being discussed at a Town Board meeting maybe 15 years ago. It was in 2018 when Supervisor Jeff Nayer advised us that the County had finally approved the project. Under his leadership a Citizen's Committee was formed to work with the County on this project. That committee, chaired by Bob Haight met with Dean Knox, Columbia County Director of Engineering and worked for some time before deciding that they could go no further without the professional advice of a consultant.

I am on the Public Works Committee and was happy to receive their support earlier this month. And I am delighted that as of last night, the hiring of a consulting firm Greenman-Pederson of Albany was approved by the Board of Supervisors. In the not too distant future the consultant will be meeting with our committee.

I am grateful to the Board of Supervisors for their support, and also Dean Knox, a native of Copake who has been supportive throughout this process.

One other issue, in March this Board adopted a plan to deal with the threat of Covid19. We closed the Town Hall and the Park and began to meet by Zoom. Later on this evening we will be adopting some modifications to the Plan. To put this in context I want to report that we have not had any new cases in Copake since the beginning August. As of this past Friday there were only three active cases in Columbia County with no hospitalizations and none in ICU. I tell you this not to suggest that this crisis is over, but to explain why we are taking some small steps to return to a cautious and new normal.

Thank you for your continued vigilance and patience.