

TOWN OF ARIETTA
October 20, 2025
Town Board Regular Meeting
Piseco School Meeting Room

Supervisor Rhodes opened the meeting at 5:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Chris Rhodes-Supervisor-present
Doug Stobo-present
Christy Wilt-present
Jacqui Grier- present
Craig Small-Highway Superintendent-absent
Mel LaScola-Codes and Zoning-present
William Hotaling-Historian/Assessor- present

OTHERS PRESENT:

Marie Buanno
Jenny Smith
Steve Woerhle

Supervisor Rhodes asked for a motion to open the Public Hearing at 5:02 p.m. Local Law #2 Rescind Local Law #1 of 2024. Doug Stobo offered the motion and Christy Wilt seconded the motion. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

He then asked for a motion to accept the minutes for October 6th, and 7th as presented by the Town Clerk. Jacqui Grier made the motion to accept the minutes. Christy Wilt accepted the motion but would like to make sure the spelling of Allison Gaddy's name in the Minutes from October 6th was correct. Town Clerk Morehouse assured us that she will make sure it is correct.

TOWN OF ARIETTA
in
HAMILTON COUNTY, NY
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Agenda
October 20, 2025
5 pm at Piseco Common School
Town of Arietta

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call
- Open Public Hearing Local Law #2 Rescind Local Law # 1 of 2024
- Motion to approve minutes for October 6 & 7, 2025, meetings

- Resolutions
 - 25-10-47 Transfer of Funds
 - 25-10-48 Congressman Langworthy's Energy Choice Act
 - 25-10-49 RMP Perkins Clearing

- **Snowmobile Trails / Fuel at K09 – Grier**
- **Town Buildings / Grounds - Stobo**
- **Recreation / Website / Campsite - Wilt**
- **Lake / Dam / Cemetery - Rhodes**
- **Finance / Airport / Internal Management / Insurance - Rhodes**
- **Superintendent / Report – Small**
- **Codes and Zoning – Lascola**

- **Old Business**
 - Public Hearing to adopt 2026 Budget, November 3, 2025 (reminder)

Resolution Offered By: Christy Wilt

WHEREAS: affordable and reliable energy is essential to the health, safety, and economic prosperity of New York families, businesses, and communities; and

WHEREAS: natural gas remains a dependable, cost-effective, and clean-burning energy source used by millions of New Yorkers to heat their homes, cook their food, and power their businesses; and

WHEREAS: in 2019, New York State enacted the **Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA)**, which mandates aggressive emissions reductions and serves as the foundation for sweeping energy restrictions, including efforts to phase out natural gas; and

WHEREAS: building on the CLCPA, Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature in 2023 enacted provisions in the state budget banning natural gas and other fossil fuel hookups in most new residential and commercial buildings, effective 2026 for smaller buildings, and 2029 for larger buildings, thereby eliminating consumer choice and limiting access to affordable energy; and

WHEREAS: Governor Hochul has publicly supported these bans and related measures as part of her administration’s climate and energy agenda, despite widespread concerns that such mandates will increase costs, strain grid reliability, and restrict energy diversity; and

WHEREAS: these top-down policies undermine affordability, threaten reliability during peak demand, and strip away the freedom of consumers and businesses to choose the energy sources that best meet their needs; and

WHEREAS: Congressman Nick Langworthy of New York and Senator Jim Justice of West Virginia introduced the **Energy Choice Act (H.R. 3699, S. 1945)**, federal legislation that ensures state and local governments cannot restrict consumer access to natural gas and other affordable energy sources, thereby protecting freedom of choice for New Yorkers and all Americans; and

WHEREAS: the Energy Choice Act would safeguard households, small businesses, hospitals, farmers, and manufacturers from harmful government overreach and preserve access to an “all-of-the-above” energy strategy that strengthens reliability and affordability; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the Arietta Town Board strongly supports the Energy Choice Act as introduced by Congressman Langworthy (H.R. 3699) and Senator Justice

(S. 1945) and stands firmly opposed to New York State’s natural gas, fossil fuel and other affordable energy bans, the CLCPA-driven restrictions, and other state energy mandates that eliminate consumer choice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Arietta Town Board urges Congress to pass the Energy Choice Act to defend consumer choice, protect energy affordability, and preserve reliable access to natural gas, fossil fuel, and other affordable energy options for New Yorkers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that copies of this resolution be sent to Congressman Nick Langworthy, Senator Jim Justice, the New York Congressional delegation, Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, Governor Kathy Hochul, and leadership of the New York State Legislature.

Seconded by Jacqui Grier and put to a vote, which resulted as follows:

AYES:	NOES:	ABSTAIN:	ABSENT:
Jacquelyn Grier x__	Jacquelyn Grier ___	Jacquelyn Grier _____	Jacquelyn Grier ___
Douglas Stobo x__	Douglas Stobo ___	Douglas Stobo _____	Douglas Stobo ___
Christy Wilt x__	Christy Wilt ___	Christy Wilt _____	Christy Wilt ___
Christian Rhodes x__	Christian Rhodes ___	Christian Rhodes _____	Christian Rhodes ___

<u>Laura Morehouse</u>	<u>10/20/2025</u>
Town Clerk	Date

At a regular meeting of the Arietta Town Board at the Piseco Common School, 1722 State Route 8, in the Town of Arietta, Hamilton County, New York, on:

October 20, 2025, at 5:00 pm

Resolution # 25-10-49

Subject: ASSERTING THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF DEC GETTING THE RECREATION MANAGEMENT PLAN (RMP) FOR THE SPECULATOR TREE FARM, PERKINS CLEARING, AND BURNHAM MOUNTAIN TRACTS DONE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Resolution Offered By: Christy Wilt

WHEREAS: it is not unique for Communities and local businesses to have to wait multiple years for the planning documents which guide recreation and use, but in the case of an Easement purchase which was finalized in 2005, the time is overdue for the People of the State of NY to be more fully afforded the recreation opportunities acquired, and

WHEREAS: DEC has now released a Draft RMP, holding both a Public Meeting and a Public Comment period, for a Draft Plan that has received far more praise than opposition, and

WHEREAS: this should be deemed a unique and powerful opportunity to both get the RMP finalized and implemented, and

WHEREAS: these types of consensus opportunities are not always the norm for the Adirondacks, but these lands are a unique case:

- The boundaries of the private lands impacted were approved and ratified by the People of the State of NY through a 1979 Constitutional Amendment which provides a win/win land exchange assuring the private land and state land boundaries were improved
- A 2005 Conservation Easement acquired from International Paper (subsequently the underlying Fee ownership was transferred to Lyme Timber) provided widely endorses environmental protection, recreation, and the assurance that the Forest Product Industry would continue to thrive on these lands
- This was broadly embraced as a win/win, but also a unique opportunity for unique recreational uses and management
- Existing uses such as:
 1. Snowmobiling
 2. Camping
 3. Access to Forest Preserve
- Newer opportunities such as (which have more recently materialized):
 1. Mountain Biking
 2. Gravel Road Biking
 3. Groomed Cross Country Ski Trails
 4. Hamlets to Huts and connecting Communities to the Forest Preserve and to each other, and

WHEREAS: the level of existing collaborative partnership between the Landowner, DEC and the involved municipalities is also unprecedented here:

- DEC/Lyme/municipalities constantly working to improve communication
- The County is aggressively working with Lyme and on behalf of the County and user groups to improve access. Improved access for all through roughly a million dollars in bridge work, all of which improves safety, efficiency, and everyone's experience
- The Town of Lake Pleasant working as a partner under contract with DEC, to improve road access, creating a real win/win (Better access for all – Lyme/a critical industry – Recreational users and local

residents). Road maintenance is great for users, Lyme, and is a critical investment in sustainability (ultimately maintenance is an investment which pays for itself)

- All the municipal leaders have worked to assist DEC in building consensus around these lands.
- All the municipalities involved, from the County to the Towns (Lake Pleasant, Wells, and Arietta) to the Village, all stand ready to partner on implementation. DEC constantly states the need for partners, and so this is both consensus planning, as well as highly implementable.
- This consensus-based leadership has only strengthened the commitment of user groups and recreational users to work on implementation. These partners are also standing at the ready, and so seizing the moment is critical.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Arietta Town Board hereby encourages DEC to bring this through to completion as soon as possible, in a manner which finalizes and strengthens the opportunities for Snowmobiling, Biking, Camping, Cross Country Skiing, Hamlets to Huts, and making these lands a community gateway to magnificent recreational opportunities, and a gateway to the Forest Preserve, and be it further

RESOLVED that Certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Governor Hochul, Senator Harckham, Assembly member Glick, Senator Walczyk, Assemblyman Smullen, DEC Commissioner Lefton, and APA Executive Director Barbara Rice.

Seconded by Doug Stobo and put to a vote, which resulted as follows:

AYES:	NOES:	ABSTAIN:	ABSENT:
Jacquelyn Grier x_____	Jacquelyn Grier _____	Jacquelyn Grier _____	Jacquelyn Grier _____
Douglas Stobo x_____	Douglas Stobo _____	Douglas Stobo _____	Douglas Stobo _____
Christy Wilt x_____	Christy Wilt _____	Christy Wilt _____	Christy Wilt _____
Christian Rhodes x_____	Christian Rhodes _____	Christian Rhodes _____	Christian Rhodes _____

Laura Morehouse

Town Clerk

10/20/2025

Date

COMMITTEES:

Snowmobile Trails/ Fuel at K09- Jacqui Grier had nothing new to report.

Town Buildings/ Grounds- Doug Stobo remarked how great the Lower Highway Garage looked with the changes. Supervisor Rhodes suggested that Doug get some quotes on painting the soffits and ends of the building. This would be done in the Spring. Doug will look into who would be able to do this job.

Recreation/ Website/ Campsite- Christy Wilt reported that she added the Planning Board and Zoning Board Minutes to the website.

Finance/ Airport/ Internal Management/ Insurance- Chris Rhodes reported that he had met with the town Insurance representative regarding the increase of the appraisal of the building and equipment.

Highway Superintendent / Report - Craig Small was absent from meeting.

Codes and Zoning- Mel LaScola reported there was a discussion during the Planning Board Meeting on signs and their distance from the road. He reported that there are two variances coming up in November.

Old Business- Supervisor Rhodes reminded the board that there will be a Public Hearing to adopt the budget on November 3rd, at 5:00 P.M.

New Business- Christy Wilt explained that the Town needs to sign a letter of intent to become a Pro-Housing Community. Doing this will make us eligible for grants, this letter will go to the Commissioner and CEO of NYS Homes and Community Renewal.

At this time the Supervisor asked for a motion to allow him to sign the letter of intent. Doug Stobo offered the motion, and Jacqui Grier seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Rhodes asked for a motion to accept the bill as presented. Christy Wilt offered the motion, and Jacqui Grier seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

Supervisor Rhodes asked Town Clerk Morehouse to explain to the board about the latest changes in the Agriculture and Markets laws. The Legislature approved a New Law for Companion Animals. The extreme changes would make this Town responsible for making any changes in the way lost dogs would be housed and taken care of. There will be a meeting in late December or early January with the Agriculture and Markets Representatives to explain what will need to be changed.

At 5:20 p.m. Supervisor Rhodes closed the Public Hearing on Local Law#2.

Resolution 25-20-46 Local Law#2 Rescind Local Law #1 of 2024 was read by the Town Clerk.

TOWN OF ARIETTA

At a regular meeting of the Arietta Town Board at the Piseco Common School at 1722 State Route 8 in the Town of Arietta, Hamilton County, New York on:

October 20, 2025, at 5:00pm

Resolution # 25-10-46

Subject: **Local Law No. 2 of the Year 2025 “A Local Law Rescinding Local Law No. 1 of the Year 2024 “Short-Term Rental Regulations”**

Resolution Offered By: Jacqui Grier

WHEREAS: Local Law NO. 2 of the year **2025** “A Local Law Rescinding Local Law No. 1 of the Year 2024 “Short-Term Rental Regulations”, and

WHEREAS: the intention of this local law is to rescind Local Law No. 1 of 2024 because as of January 1, 2026, Hamilton County will take over registration and monitoring of all short-term rental units located within its borders, and

WHEREAS: this Local Law is adopted pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law of the State of New York, and

WHEREAS: Local Law No. 1 of 2024, Adopted by the Town Board on August 19, 2024, and entitled Local Law No. 1 of the year 2024 “Short-Term Rental Regulations” is hereby repealed in its entirety, and

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED: the Town of Arietta, Town Board after a Public Hearing held on October 20, 2025 will hereby approve and accept Local Law No. 2 of the year 2025 “ A Local Law Rescinding Local Law No. 1 of the Year 2024” Short-Term Rental Regulations” and this local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State of New York.

Seconded by Christy Wilt and put to a vote, which resulted as follows:

AYES:	NOES:	ABSTAIN	ABSENT:
Jacquelyn Grier x _____	Jacquelyn Grier _____	Jacquelyn Grier _____	Jacquelyn Grier _____
Douglas Stobo x _____	Douglas Stobo _____	Douglas Stobo _____	Douglas Stobo _____
Christy Wilt x _____	Christy Wilt _____	Christy Wilt _____	Christy Wilt _____
Cristian Rhodes x _____	Christian Rhodes _____	Christian Rhodes _____	Christian Rhodes _____

<u>Laura Morehouse</u>	<u>10/20/2025</u>
Town Clerk	Date

The next meeting will be on November 3, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. There will be a Public Hearing on that night to adopt the Budget for 2026.

Supervisor Rhodes asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jacqui Grier offered the motion, and Doug Stobo seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Laura Morehouse, Town Clerk