

**Minutes
Town of Oneonta
Town Board
Legislative Committee
Monday, March 2, 2026
4:30 PM**

Present for the Legislative Committee Meeting:

Legislative Committee Chair- Teresa DeSantis, Town Supervisor Will Rivera
Town Council Members Present: Patricia Riddell Kent, Joe Camarata, Brett Holleran
Members of the Public: Dave Koehn, Dave Beisler, Paul Beisler, Gary Enck

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The Town of Oneonta Town Board- Legislative Committee- Regular Meeting opened at 4:35 PM.

-Work on making all Town Laws available on the Town's Website/ E-Code:

Progress is ongoing. Committee Chair Teresa DeSantis stated that she completed posting to the Town's E-Code the Local Laws from the years 1998-2005 and 2023-2025. Now there is a complete set of laws from 1998-2025 available online.

To view the Local Laws:

The link to the Town's E-Code is currently in the center of the top menubar of the Town's website, or can be accessed from any web browser by typing in "Town of Oneonta E-Code." Once in the E-Code, go to the "Public Documents" section. The local laws are under "Legislation", and are organized by year.

Teresa notes that there is still work to do labeling all the existing local laws that have already been uploaded to clearly identify them. Within the next month, she hopes to start scanning the older laws in paper format from boxes in the Town's Archives.

- Working with County Planning on getting the Zoning Map updated:

It is noted that our Zoning map online and in the office is out of date. Teresa paid a visit to Otsego County Planning recently, and they are working on a project to map zoning in the whole County. They welcomed our interest in updating our zoning map, and said they will assist. Teresa will keep in touch with County Planning to facilitate the process.

-Work on locating, organizing, and updating the Town's Policies and Procedures:

-Town Model Ethics Code:

Town Bookkeeper Nicole Camarata has assembled the existing Town's Policies and Procedures into a binder in her office. For this month, we will be looking at the recommended "Town Model Ethics Code". The Town's Ethics Board met in January for the first time in many years, and reviewed the model document from the NYS- OSC. The document was put into a formatted version by the Town Clerk. This document was sent to Town Board members for their review about a week ago. It is recommended that Town Board Members look at this document over the coming month of March, and have it on the Agenda for the April Town Board Meeting.

On the proposed Legislation below:

- Proposed Local Law: Create New Chapter 65 to Town Code- "Professional Consultation Fees":

The proposed law was reviewed. It was recommended that the language be changed to have the Town Board review and make the decision on when the Professional Consultation Fees were invoked.

- Proposed Local Law: "A Local Law Affecting a Temporary Moratorium on the Development, Construction, and Operation of Data Centers within the Town of Oneonta":

There was much discussion on this topic. Some wanted to go to a ban, skipping the moratorium. Town Board Member Joe Camarata wanted a moratorium on cryptocurrency mining to be included. We will ask the Town's Attorneys for their input.

- NYSEG Resolution- regarding recent and proposed rate increases:

It was noted that Will Rivera had reached out to the Town's Attorneys for input on the above, and we were awaiting feedback.

On citizen's requests for proposed legislation below:

-Elizabeth Cramer and Nicholas Weir- Request for a Zoning Map Amendment- PDD/R to RA-40 for 4377 State Highway 7, TM # 299.21-1-1.13

It was noted that Will Rivera had reached out to the Town's Attorneys for input on the above, and we were awaiting feedback.

- Request from the Oneonta Veterans for a Local Law re: State Law (Senate Bill 2025-S1183)- "An act to amend the real property tax law, in relation to establishing a real property tax exemption for veterans who have a one hundred percent service connected disability":

Town Supervisor Will Rivera believed that a State law on the above was just passed, making it mandatory in all Towns.

- Request from Habitat for Humanity for a Local Law: re: State Law on "Fair Taxation", recently

passed by the Governor, for low to moderate income families that partner with a housing non-profit that uses State subsidies- Town has choice of "opting in":

Committee members and the Town Board members in the audience noted that we need more information on the above, as to how many properties would be impacted, and the impact on the Town as a whole. Town Board member Joe Camarata suggested putting it in front of the public, in the form of a referendum.

- David Koehn- request for a revision of the Town's Watershed Overlay District Law:

Committee members asked that a request be made to the Town's Attorneys to review the Town's Watershed Overlay District, with recommendations on revising the list of prohibited uses in the watershed. There was discussion among the Committee and Town Board members present, about using more precise language in the Watershed Overlay District as to the permitted and prohibited uses.

- From Former City of Oneonta Council Member Rothbart:

- Submitted a letter on 2-11-26 titled "Concerns about City of Oneonta Logging in 2026".

- Concerned about logging by the City of Oneonta in the Town's Watershed Overlay District:

A discussion followed. Town Supervisor Will Rivera stated that he had recently been in contact with the local DEC officer about this issue, asking them to look into it.

On these questions from the public:

Question: What is the procedure to get an item on the agenda of a Town Board Meeting?:

A discussion followed. It was noted by the Town Supervisor that the agenda cutoff date is the Friday before the Town Board Meeting. No further detail was discussed. Note the Town Supervisor has control over what goes on the Town Board Agenda.

Town Board Member Joe Camarata recommended that the Agendas and Minutes be placed on the Town website in a location that is easily accessible, and more visible to the public. Note that right now the Town Board materials are located on the Town Board page of the website, towards the bottom of the page, in a very subtle font, somewhat hard to spot. It is agreed that the links to these materials should be more prominently displayed.

Question: What is the Town's Policy for the records filing and retention of documents received in any of the Board Meetings: Town Board, Planning Board, or Zoning Board of Appeals?:

A discussion followed. It was decided to ask the Town Clerk, who is the Records Management Officer for the Town, if the Town has adopted any of the recommended records retention schedules from NYS Archives. Teresa will follow up with Ryan.

Short Term Rental Task Force:

The Short Term Rental Task Force Committee is underway, led by Chair Patricia Riddell Kent. The committee has had its second meeting. It is looking for citizens of the Town who wish to serve on the Committee. An application to serve can be found on the Town's website on the home page. The cutoff for applications for those who wish to serve on the committee is March 15th.

Legislative Committee Minutes Presented:

- February 2nd, 2026 Legislative Committee Minutes

Communications/Privilege of the Floor:

Note: Next Meeting: Monday, April 6, 2026, 4:30 pm.

The Town of Oneonta Legislative Committee meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM.

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Respectfully Submitted- Teresa DeSantis Town of Oneonta- Legislative Committee Chair,  
Town Council Member