

**Town Board Meeting**  
**July 21, 2016**  
**6:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Supervisor Lanning, Councilor Brace, Councilor Howard, \*Councilor Coville, Attorney Smith. Absent: Councilor Badami.

**Also Present:** Dana Pickering, Jeff VanBeveren, Jonathan Monfiletto (Skaneateles Journal), Jason Gabak (Skaneateles Press), Tanya Smolinsky, Lance Wardell, Ernest Hares, Kurt Reilley, Beth Battle, Courtney Alexander, Allan Wellington, Rob Howard, Sue Murphy, Bridgett Winkelman, Gene LaForte.

**Department Reports**

**Highway, Water, Transfer Station:** Allan Wellington reported that they were doing equipment and road repairs and cleaning up fallen trees. They rebuilt the shoulders on Giles, Weeks, Lacy and Heifer Roads. They further assisted the Town of Marcellus with construction of a new bridge. In the Water Department they finished flushing hydrants in District #2, flow tested a hydrant on Rt. 20 across from Coach Road, made several hydrant repairs and repaired a broken water main along Mottville Road. Allan attended a meeting with the engineers from Mirbeau and John Camp to relocate a town water main. At the Transfer Station they cleaned and reconfigured a wall in the garbage building. DeMarco Landscaping trucked away approximately half of the newly chipped mulch. They are advertising to replace a full time employee at the Transfer Station.

**Parks Department:** Onondaga County Health Department has inspected the PlayDay program two times and each time the program passed all requirements. She thanked the counselors for doing such a great job. PlayDay has been a great success and registration numbers are way up this year. The waterfront has been very busy this hot summer. Next month lifeguards will start returning to college and she hopes to keep the waterfront open as long as possible. The Boat Launch has been busy during the week and on weekends. NYSDEC is expected to visit there more often to keep an eye on it. She said that the Mandana parking lot is a concern as there is a camper parked there, and they have had calls from others who want to store their camper or boat there. She asked if someone, such as the constable, could contact the owner since it has been a hot summer and parking spaces are at a premium. She said that Antique Boat Show is next weekend, and between the boat launch coverage and waterfront they are ready for this event. The waterfront will be closed from 2:30 – 4:00 during the boat parade and open up after it's completed. The Methodist Church Antique Show went very well even during construction. She believes all were happy with the end results. She said that the Fishing Derby also went very well last weekend. There were over 50 participants. It was a great day and everyone had fun. Many thanks to our sponsors, conservation committee members, PlayDay and parks staff, and Janet Aaron, and Julie Stenger for all they did to make it such a huge success. Grace Chapel annual service and family picnic also had good weather and a great time. Construction did not seem to be in their way. The Symphoria concert is 7 p.m. July 28<sup>th</sup> at the Pavilion. She understands that people are encouraged to bring their own chairs or be charged for using theirs. The Farmers Market continues to do well on Thursdays. Saturdays are catching up. Sue will be on Bridge Street on Monday morning to promote the Skaneateles Farmers Market.

Gene LaForte reported that framing is completed at the Pavilion and electric and insulation is being added to the outside walls. He believes they are 45-47% done with the project. They are running about 11 days behind because of the delay in receiving materials. He said it is going along well.

**Budget:** Bridgett Winkelman reported that she billed water district #2 and filed the quarterly payroll reports. She will be distributing budget forms to departments for the 2017 budget.

**Fire Department:** Dana Pickering reported that they had three training sessions in July and five meetings. They approved the application of Nathan Squires as a Restricted Aged Member. Beginning July 16<sup>th</sup> summer weekend duty crew shifts have been reduced to four hours. Bill Lynn at Johnny Angel's donated two \$100 gift cards for the duty crews to have lunch or dinner while staffing the apparatus. This year the department did not receive a personal watercraft (PWC) for us on the lake from Sea-Doo due to a reduction in the program. The department is researching other grant opportunities.

**Historian Report:** (See attached)

Along with the Historian' report, Kurt Reilley, President of the Veterans Memorial Committee, presented an update to the Town Board on the new Veterans Memorial being constructed at Shotwell Park for those who served their country from 1991 to present which entails about eight conflicts. He stated that the Committee was formed 30 years ago and he and Beth Battle have been on since the beginning recognizing our Town veterans. Other members of the Committee include Bob Green, Robert Hermann, Jr., Dan Bangs and Charlie Major. They currently have 55 names but know there are many more. The new memorial will be between the pool and the lake. The main center portion of the wall will measure 10 feet long by 4 feet high to the top of the cap. There will be wing side walls that will come out at an angle and will measure 3 feet high. The memorial was designed by Janice Miller, architect and it will not disturb the view of the lake. No Town or Village funds or service are being used for this project. The general contractor will be David Bean and the excavator will be Dan O'Hara. The walls will be made with concrete and faced with limestone.

Supervisor Lanning asked whether they still needed funding. Kurt said that they certainly would still receive donations.

The Town Board thanked Kurt and his committee for their dedication.

**SAVES:** Jeff VanBeveren gave the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter report stating that for April, May and June SAVES covered 239 calls, 54 more calls than in the first quarter. To date they have covered 477 calls. Of those call 197 were in Skaneateles, 21 in Spafford, 10 in Sennett and 11 mutual aid assists to other ambulances. During this quarter there were multiple traumatic injuries including three separate fatal vehicle crashes in a 10-day period. He noted the horrific boat accident where SAVES received feedback from trauma surgeons on the quality of care given by SAVES. They are busy doing CPR & AED Training and will be training the Town staff on the three new AED's that the Town recently purchased. SAVES members will be starting their re-certification training on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and will continue every Wednesday until early December. Jeff said that

violence on public safety continues to plague our country. Risks are becoming more apparent regardless of discipline. They are looking at more training and grant funding for protective equipment including ballistic vests. He also reported that they were on hand for the fishing derby and that 60 kids toured their facility from the Parks Playday program.

**Public Comments:** Rob Howard asked if the Article 78 on the Comprehensive Plan litigation did go to trial and the Town won, would the litigants have to reimburse the Town for legal fees.

Attorney Smith explained that the Town Board adopted the Comprehensive Plan in December 2015. The litigants filed an Article 78 against the Town stating that the Town did not perform SEQRA correctly and that the procedure to Declare a Negative Dec was incorrect. The Town engaged in negotiations with the litigants in an attempt to reach a settlement. A proposed settlement is being presented to the Town Board that states:

*That the Town Board will create a draft of the new Comprehensive Plan and a draft of the new zoning laws resulting from the new Comprehensive Plan. The drafts of the new Comprehensive Plan and the new zoning laws will be made available to the public for public review and comment at the same time. As required by law, public hearings will be scheduled and held so that the public can participate in the process of developing and implementing the new Comprehensive Plan and the new Zoning Laws.*

He said the Town Board will be considering this stipulation of discontinuance. If they agree then the lawsuit would be over. In an Article 78 there is no realistic opportunity for either side to get legal fees.

Lance Wardell from Victory Sports Medicine said in September of 2014 their legal representation at that time disputed the legality of the abandonment law stating that it was targeting their project and depriving them of due process and considered a taking of property rights. Lance questioned the Board's motive to go retroactive with this law and said they will pursue legal action if adopted.

Councilor Brace questioned how this law would be different as it just requires updating the status of the project with the Planning Board. Lance said there is no definition of "inactive" and it is left up to the Planning Board for interpretation. He said there are a lot of loopholes.

Attorney Smith said he arranged for Attorney Scott Molnar to be at the meeting so that the Town Board could seek his legal advice on this particular law. He said Bond Schoeneck and King has done legal work for Victory Sports Medicine and there could be a conflict.

**Tanya Smolinsky – Art Project Update – Charlie Major Nature Trail:** Tanya Smolinsky updated the Town Board with a slide presentation on her curated art experience along the Charlie Major Nature Trail called SiteMatters.Info. She tentatively plans to have the project finalized on August 5, 2016. A sign will be placed at each end of the trail announcing Site Matters and

directing potential viewers to the Site Matters website. Markers will also be placed at each of the four sites with additional direction markers.

Allan Wellington suggested that the markers be far enough back from the trail in case heavy equipment needed to do work there. Tanya agreed to work with Allan.

Councilor Brace asked if the markers could be a combination of raised lettering and braille and questioned whether this would be a requirement. Attorney Smith said that the Codes Office should be consulted but he did not believe this would be an issue. Tanya said that the Camillus Canal path does not have raised signage. Councilor Brace said it can be supplemented later if necessary.

**Article 78:** Councilor Brace expressed concerns about the settlement since it ties zoning changes that haven't been identified yet with the amended comprehensive plan. She said that it should be clear that this is not a new comprehensive plan but an amendment to the adopted comprehensive plan. She said zoning was not part of the Article 78 and she doesn't agree that it would be better to amend the zoning simultaneously with the Comprehensive Plan.

Supervisor Lanning said that this is an opportunity to settle this lawsuit without going through the additional expense of going to trial.

Councilor Howard said that the settlement is going above and beyond what was presented in the Article 78. Zoning was not part of the Article 78. She believes it sets a poor precedent. She said that the Town has done due diligence in satisfying the Article 78. She said it feels like a strong arm twist.

Councilor Brace said that the town has expended a fair amount of money already and she believes that if this were to go to a Judge this could be resolved immediately and asked Attorney Smith his opinion.

Attorney Smith said that this would have to be discussed in Executive Session. The Board agreed to adjourn to Executive Session at the end of the meeting to obtain Attorney Advice on the Article 78.

**Introductory Local Law 2016-C – Amendment to the Abandonment Local Law:** Attorney Scott Molnar stepped in for Attorney Smith to represent the Town Board on Introductory Local Law 2016-C. Attorney Molnar stated that at the last meeting the Town Board held a public hearing on this proposed law. The amended law adds provisions that would effect and deem abandoned certain existing applications. The law has been referred to the Planning and Zoning Boards for their comment. The Planning Board reviewed it at their last meeting. The Planning Board will be sending a letter to the Town Board recommending defining the word "inactive". The Zoning Board will review the law at their next meeting on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. The recommendation from the Planning Board will define "inactive" by adding a sentence at the end of both of the sections that an application that remains inactive is one which there has had no written communication which includes electronic or written or appearance by an applicant before the board so that it could be recorded in the minutes. Any or all applicants would have an

opportunity to continue and make sure their application is not deemed inactive by following either electronic, written or in person communication. The Planning Board believes it would be beneficial to add this definition to the proposed law.

Attorney Molnar stated that prior to his assistance with this law, Attorney Smith prepared a short form EAF for SEQR which includes a proposed resolution. He recommends that the Town Board consider both and be prepared to discuss this at the next meeting. He recommended that the Town Board complete SEQR after the Planning and Zoning Boards have submitted their recommendations.

The Town Board agreed to have the proposed local law back on the agenda after recommendations are received and reviewed from the Planning and Zoning Boards.

#### *Resolution #16-171*

**Introductory Local Law 2016-D- Moratorium on Commercial Solar Use:** Councilor Brace asked if commercial solar use has been defined. Attorney Smith said that proposed local law will allow the Town Board to begin discussion on commercial solar by passing this moratorium local law. Commercial Solar use is being defined in such a way that it will not prevent individual homeowners the ability to install solar panels at their residence. The six month moratorium would put a hold on large solar farms so that regulations can be developed by the Town. Section 10 of the proposed law addresses what commercial solar use is. Attorney Smith said if the Town Board wants to advance this law, a public hearing could be scheduled for the next meeting. No SEQR is required as this is a Type II action. The proposed local law would have referred to the Planning and Zoning Boards and to SOCPA.

Councilor Coville made a motion to schedule a public hearing for 7:15 p.m. on August 4, 2016. Councilor Howard said she would like to wait until August 18<sup>th</sup> to schedule the public hearing so that comments from the Planning and Zoning Board could be received before the public hearing. The motion failed.

On a motion of Councilor Howard, seconded by Councilor Brace and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Board a public hearing was scheduled for 7:15 p.m. on August 18, 2016 to consider Introductory Local Law 2016-D.

#### *Resolution #16-172*

**Introductory Local Law 2016-E – Amending the Town Code Regarding Flood Damage Prevention:** Attorney Smith said that this law is required because of changes to the Flood Map by the Federal Government. The Town has taken the model law provided by the Federal Government and basically adopted it. The Town Board would have to designate a local administrator, which in most cases is the Codes Officer. The Town Board will also have to determine application fees. This will require a public hearing, referrals and SEQRA. After the Town Board passes it NYSDEC has to bless it.

On a motion of Councilor Brace, seconded by Councilor Howard and with unanimous affirmation of the Town Board a public hearing was scheduled for 7:15 p.m. on August 4, 2016 to consider Introductory Local Law 2016-E.

Councilor Brace said she would like the public to see what this all means and the updated map. Janet Aaron said that she could add that to the website. Councilor Brace also recommended a

short statement that will easily inform the public what this is all about. Brody said he would provide that to Janet to add to the website.

*Resolution #16-173*

**Data Cabling Austin Pavilion:** Gene Laforte said that it would be the best time to add this cabling while the walls are open. Bridgett Winkelman submitted information to the Town Board on the data cabling pricing after receiving a quote from the Town's IT support. The quote was \$1,914 for the cabling of each drop site and less than \$1,000 for the installation of a router switch and fire wall box. She has also received a quote from another vendor to meet the Town's procurement policy.

On a motion of Councilor Brace, seconded by Councilor Coville, and with unanimous affirmation of the Town Board, data cabling was authorized to be added to Austin Pavilion at a cost not to exceed \$4,000.

*Resolution #16-174*

**Waive 30 Day Liquor License Requirement:** On a motion of Councilor Coville, seconded by Councilor Howard and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board the 30-Day Liquor License Requirement for David DelloStritto DBA as the Red Rooster Pub in Skaneateles Falls was granted.

*Resolution #16-175*

**Escrow Agreement Gary Dower/Eleroin LLC:** Councilor Howard made a motion seconded by Councilor Coville and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board, Supervisor Lanning was authorized to sign an escrow agreement with Eleroin requiring a \$5,000 escrow payment for the expenses associated with the relocation of a Town water main.

**Fennell Street Parking Plan:** Supervisor Lanning said that the Town Board is still exploring adding plantings and trees to screen this area.

**Clerk to Assessor:** This decision was tabled until the last applicant could be interviewed.

*Resolution #16-176*

**Austin Park User Fees:** Sue Murphy said that there have been issues with commercial use of the tennis courts by those giving professional tennis lessons and residents having the ability to find a free court. There are no clear rules or fees that have been adopted regarding the use of the courts. To add to the issue, the school will begin using the courts in August.

Supervisor Lanning made a motion to approve private lessons on the three lower courts only when the school is not using those courts and to charge a fee of \$20 per hour per court.

Seconded by Councilor Coville.

Councilor Howard	No
Councilor Brace	Yes
Councilor Badami	Absent
Councilor Coville	Yes
Supervisor Lanning	Yes

Carried 3-0

*Resolution #16-177*

**Establish Eastern Gateway Committee:** On a motion of Councilor Coville, seconded by Councilor Howard and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board an Eastern Gateway Committee was authorized to be established.

Councilor Brace said she would like to see this committee make recommended zoning changes.

Councilor Howard asked that careful consideration be given that representatives added represent different aspects of the community.

*Resolution #16-178*

**Resignation of Beth – Planning Board:** On a motion of Councilor Coville, seconded by Councilor Howard and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the resignation of Beth Estes from the Planning Board effective immediately was accepted.

The Board gave recognition to Beth Estes's dedication and service to the Town by serving on the Planning Board for 3 ½ years.

*Resolution #16-179*

**Authorize Advertising for Planning Board vacancy:** On a motion of Councilor Coville, seconded by Councilor Brace and with unanimous (4-0) authorization of the Town Board, the Town Clerk was authorized to advertise for the vacancy on the Planning Board to fill the unexpired term of Beth Estes.

**Septic Easements – Mill Road:** Ernie Hares of Mill Road explained that over 20 years ago Karl Miller gave property to the Town that abuts the Charlie Major Nature Trail and the properties on Mill Road. The Town gave the Mill Road homes easements to put new septic systems that Community Development funded because their systems were failing. Mr. Hares is trying to buy the property next to his and his attorney advised against buying it with the septic easement.

Attorney Smith said that if Mr. Hares was interested in buying the property with the easement that the Town would have an obligation not to gift the property but to declare it surplus and then determine a value.

When asked if other homes had sold over the years with the septic easement, Mr. Hares said yes.

Supervisor Lanning said that he did not want the expense to review this to fall on the taxpayers and recommended that Mr. Hares have his attorney send a proposal for the Town Board to consider.

*Resolution #16-180*

**Clift Park Seawall Repairs:** Supervisor Lanning reported that John Camp from C & S Engineers is recommending that the Town Board declare this project a Type II action under SEQRA and that they authorize C & S to initiate the advertising and bidding process for the repairs to Clift Park seawall and swim entrance.

On a motion of Councilor Coville, seconded by Councilor Brace and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the Town Board declared the seawall and swim entrance repairs as a Type II action under SEQRA.

On a motion of Councilor Howard, seconded by Councilor Howard and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board, C & S was authorized to initiate the advertising and bidding process for the repairs to Clift Park seawall and swim entrance.

*Resolution #16-181*

**Minutes:** Councilor Howard made a motion to accept the minutes of July 7, 2016 as presented. Seconded by Councilor Coville.

Councilor Howard	Yes
Councilor Brace	Abstain
Councilor Badami	Absent
Councilor Coville	Yes
Supervisor Lanning	Yes

**Announcements:**

- Time Warner Cable Update:* Supervisor Lanning said that the Town is still under the existing contract. They now have a new point person since Comcast took over Time Warner.
- Schedule Joint Meeting with Village and Town Planning Board:* Supervisor Lanning said that this has not been scheduled yet.
- Authorize Town Clerk to Issue Town Residents la 4-digit number for the Village Municipal Parking Lot:* Janet Aaron reported that she had been working with Shannon Harty, DMO with the Village regarding how the Village wanted the Town to issue the 4-digit code in order for Town residents to get two hours of free parking one time a day or 50% off of all day parking. The code would be issued to each resident and the Town Clerk’s Office would maintain a database of every resident who received the code. The Town Board agreed and authorized the Town Clerk to issue the 4-digit number as approved by the Village beginning August 1, 2016. Residents would be required to come in to Town Hall to receive their code.
- F.O.C.U.S. Greater Syracuse:* Supervisor Lanning said that applications are being accepted to the 2016 Class of Citizens Academy.
- Thank you Letter from Dede Washington – Methodist Church Antique Show:* Dede Washington requested that the letter be read that praised Sue Greenfield and Gene Laforte for all the difficult work they did to enable a hospitality room for their antique show. She said they turned an area that was under construction to a clean comfortable room. In addition they climbed ladders to add white sheets to cover the ceiling.
- SMTC:* Supervisor Lanning said that the proposed plan for the trail going south of the Charlie Major Nature Trail was reviewed and accepted.
- Notice of Transfer of Glenside Woolen Mills Dam:* Supervisor Lanning said that the town had been notified of the sale of Welch Allyn Jordan Road facility that includes the Glenside Woolen Mills Dam to 4619 Jordan Road LLC.

▪MAVES Inc., Request for Letter of Support: On a motion of Councilor Coville, seconded by Councilor Howard and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board, Supervisor Lanning was authorized to send a letter a support to MAVES to expand their services.

*Resolution #16-182*

**Budget Amendments:** On a motion of councilor Coville, seconded by Councilor Brace and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board, the following budget amendments were approved:

General Fund

\$340.00	Increase	014604.01.004.00	Records Mgmt. – C/E
\$340.00	Decrease	014601.01.001.00	Records Mgmt. – P/S

Costs for supplies – storage boxes

\$ 135.00	Increase	085101.01.001.00	Community Beautification – P/S
\$ 135.00	Decrease	085104.01.004.00	Community Beautification – C/E

Maintenance of trails – Town employees

*Resolution #16-183*

**Abstract:** On a motion of Councilor Coville, seconded by Councilor Howard and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board voucher #0913 to voucher #0997 were approved from the following funds:

General Fund:	\$39,349.88	Part Town:	\$ 2,870.99
Highway:	\$ 4,677.20	Highway Part Town:	\$41,198.29
Lighting:	\$ 889.11	Water:	\$ 3,646.08
Sewer 6:	\$ 29.55	T & A:	\$ 3,704.14

Total: \$96,365.24

**Public Comment:** Jeff VanBeveren, Director of SAVES spoke of the financial support needed by SAVES. He said they appreciate the funding the Town has provided for many years but they are struggling and their reserve funds are being reduced each year as expenses exceed income. They have had dialogue with three different Town Board administrations over the years regarding forming a tax improvement district so that everyone pays a small amount to support having an ambulance in the community. He said just in June they billed \$64,000 wrote off \$34,000 and collected \$30,000. He said that Jordan ambulance and Marcellus ambulance both receive funding from tax improvement districts. He said SAVES has been supporting the community for 50 years.

Councilor Brace said that one of the key components for the Town Board was for SAVES to open up their financial books for the Town to review. Jeff VanBeveren said that would not be a problem.

Jeff said in the past their request hasn't made it too far. They are looking for the Town Board support. The SAVES Board is very serious and wants to move the dialogue forward. Most of the calls are within the Town of Skaneateles so this is the first place they would like to establish a tax improvement district instead of the Town writing a check each year.

Bridgett Winkelman said that the Town is subject to the State's tax cap. By doing the special taxing district it would adversely affect the tax cap. Jeff VanBeveren agreed that the last time SAVES discussed this with the Town Board that was the information they were told, but also stated the Town attorney at that time said that he was not well versed on this. Jeff believes that this needs to get out to the entire Town Board and the community. Supervisor Lanning said that he believes there is a process and that it should be opened up for discussion. In the meantime we should get a firm understanding of the requirements and the process to follow. There are tremendous penalties for exceeding the tax cap and advantages to staying within it.

Councilor Brace complimented SAVES on their handling the recent boating accident. Jeff said that they are very fortunate to have their medical director, Dr. David Landsburg in town and on site, in fact riding in the ambulance with the young girl. He praised all support services for doing a terrific job.

*Resolution #16-184*

**Executive Session:** On a motion of Councilor Coville, seconded by Councilor Howard and with unanimous (4-0) affirmation of the Town Board the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 8:33 p.m. to discuss litigation.

\*Councilor Coville left the meeting.

**Open Meeting:** Councilor Brace made a motion to return to the open meeting at 9:00 p.m. Seconded by Councilor Howard.

Councilor Howard	Yes
Councilor Brace	Yes
Councilor Badami	Absent
Councilor Coville	Absent
Supervisor Lanning	Yes

Carried 3-0

*Resolution #16-185*

**Settlement of Article 78 – Comprehensive Plan:** On a motion of Councilor Brace the Town Board resolved that:

- 1. The Town Board will create a draft of the new Comprehensive Plan and a draft of the new zoning laws resulting from the new Comprehensive Plan. The drafts of the new Comprehensive Plan and the new zoning laws will be made available to the public for the public review and comment at the same time. As required by law, public hearings will be scheduled and held so that the public can participate in the process of developing and implementing the new Comprehensive Plan and the new Zoning Laws.*

2. *The Town Board authorizes the Town Attorney to execute a stipulation of discontinuance terminating the Petition with prejudice.*

Seconded by Supervisor Lanning.

Councilor Howard	Yes
Councilor Brace	Yes
Councilor Badami	Absent
Councilor Coville	Absent
Supervisor Lanning	Yes

Carried 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet L. Aaron  
Town Clerk

## Bygone Days

Beth Batlle, Town Historian

In the past the house wife, as part of the ritual called “spring cleaning” would remove the carpet from the living room floor, carry it outside and flung it over the clothes line. Members of the family were then required to take turns beating the poor carpet with an instrument of torture that would look somewhat like an tennis racket made of iron until every last speck of dust was extracted.

Thank goodness for vacuum cleaners today. In the mid 1940's vacuum cleaners were manufactured right here in Skaneateles. Robert Flannigan, a former executive of the Electrolux Company, organized the Flannigan Industries Inc. Based in the former Keikheifer Container Corp. in Willow Glen, they manufactured the Liberator vacuum cleaner which had been designed by Mr. Flannigan himself. The business closed s after Mr. Flannigan's death in March of 1947.

In the past, in the winter time, brave men, with their scrappers and saws, would venture out onto the frozen Skaneateles Lake. First they would clear off the snow, then cut the ice into huge blocks. These blocks would be floated through channels to the shore where they were stacked inside the several wooden ice houses located there. Saw dust was spread between the blocks to act as insulators.

Then, in warmer weather, men like George Evans would load up their horse-drawn ice wagon and deliver the ice throughout the Village. If a house wife needed ice, she would put a sign in the front window. George would then stop, chip off a block, dig into it with his ice tongs, swing it over his shoulder and carry it to her ice box. Ice boxes were just that, insulated boxes and they required this ice to keep perishable items cold. The disadvantage to this system was that, as the ice melted, the resulting water collected in a pan underneath the box. This pan had to be emptied at the end of the day or, during the night, it would overflow into a big puddle on the kitchen floor. Thank goodness for the modern electric refrigerator.

At one time root beer soda used to be made at home. The housewife might stop in at Doyle's A & P store at 42 East Genesee Street and hand her grocery list to the clerk behind the counter. In those days, he would collect all the items on her list ( including root beer extract in a bottle, yeast, and sugar, all needed for the making of the beverage.) If an item was out of reach high up on a shelf, he would use a long stick with a grabber on the end to obtain the item. She paid in cash and head home.

Sometime later, bottles would be washed and dried,while other family members would mix all the ingredients together in a large tub and add the necessary water. The mixture would be funneled into the bottles and capped by hand. The bottles were then put to rest while the flavor of the mixture matured. However, at some time, it always seemed to be during the middle of the night while everyone was asleep, one bottle would build up pressure and blow its cap, spewing the sugary mixture like Old Faithful in Yosemite Park. Thank goodness for commercial sodas today.

After the energetic workout with the carpet beater, and refreshed by an icy cold drink of root beer, the time was right for a ride with that cute girl down the street. A friend would arrive in his a two-seated Ford roadster with his girl in the seat beside him. Where do you sit? No problem. He would just hop out and pull down the rumble seat in the back, where a trunk might be today. This was not the rumble gangs make on city street, but was a door on the back that was hinged on the bottom and pulled out from the top to reveal an upholstered, tight fitting seat for two thin people, often the called the mother-in-law seat.

As the driver passed the Smith's Ford garage at 22 Jordan Street, he might honk the horn and wave. At this point the cute girl in back might put on a head scarf to keep her hair from blowing around in the wind. However, as these cars did not run at a high speed, she didn't have to worry much.

Thank goodness for the modern world we live in today.