

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Caroga

Minutes of a Caroga Town Board emergency meeting called on Wednesday August 26th 2026, at 4:45 pm and held on August 27th 2026 at 5 pm at Town hall with the following board members in attendance by roll call.

Supervisor John Glenn – Here
Council Member Richard Sturgess - Here
Council Member Matthew Cooper – Here
Council Member Greta Frasier – Here
Council Member Kimberly Walker – Dailey – Here (AKA Council Member Walker)

In attendance were Roy Stock – Highway Superintendent, and approximately 34 members of the public.

Supervisor Glenn stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss a road closure to close or not to close, and a waiver for Trista Everest who is opening Adirondack Taproom. She noted she needed something signed by the board that it was cool with her opening the business.

RESOLUTION #2026-085 to Waive the 30-Day Advance notice to a local municipality or community board for Trista Everest of Adirondack Taproom was offered by Council Member Sturgess at an emergency meeting called on August 26th 2026 at 4:45 pm and held on August 27, 2026 at 5:00 pm.

WHEREAS, the clerk received notice on October 3, 2025 via Trista Everest(hand delivered) of Adirondack Taproom located at 2055 State Highway 10 Caroga Lake NY 12032 to have a Bar/Tavern with occasional live music, and

WHEREAS, Ms. Everest attended the meeting on August 27, 2026 and asked the board for a waiver of the 30-Day Advance notice to a local municipality or community board, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to approve waive the 30-Day Advance notice to a local municipality or community board for Trista Everest of Adirondack Taproom located at 2055 State Highway 10 in the Town of Caroga.

Seconded by Council Member Cooper

Discussion: Council Member Cooper noted that something would need to be drafted for that.

Adopted by a vote of five (5) Ayes: Glenn, Sturgess, Cooper, Walker-Dailey, Frasier

Supervisor Glenn opened the discussion on East Shore Road: It was asked why was it a problem to close it. There are many events there not only with the Caroga Arts Collective. Trunk or Treat is held there. The Fire Department participates. “Why all the sudden, safety is an issue on a little tiny strip of road, is a problem all of the sudden.”

Council Member Sturgess noted it was not all about safety. He noted the new law that came into effect January of 2026 and the Department of State (DOS) requiring mass gatherings permits. The board is still trying to work out everything with that.

Council Member Cooper explained there are three ways to close a road by a municipality: 1) For an Emergency, 2) a large-scale disaster or the County says to do it, 3) for Repairs. The town gives notice of the closure. Council Member Cooper stated for a large-scale event that happens with the Highway Superintendent, but the Town Board has the authority on that. The town has to have a document/a plan in place to authorize a large-scale event such as this and we don’t have that right now. The metric for large scale events right now is 1000 people. It is under the Department of State and went into effect in April.

A resident stated the board had time to look at it. Council Member Sturgess noted the event is in two days that is why the board is trying to figure it out. It was stated that the board had the plans for more than two days. Council Member Sturgess stated the board was here to try to close the road.

Council Member Walker noted there is not a board member up here that is against Sherman’s. She is 100% for Sherman’s. It is a good asset to Caroga Lake. She noted that the town has to pay for a worker to close the road. It has to be done by our highway department. It is not fair for the town taxpayers to pay for an employee to close the road for one event. (Yelling) Council Member Sturgess noted the event was on a Saturday and per the union it has to be overtime. The employee cannot be called in for 10 minutes. They have to be paid a minimum of four hours to close the road.

A member of the public reiterated that this event was known about by the board and now the issue of paying the employee is being added on.

A member of the public stated – pay for it.

Going forward it was stated that there will be more events on the weekend where we benefit from having these events here in many ways – financially, culturally. To have this going on two days before... you have closed the road before.

Norah Murphy stated she is the author of the letter you all received yesterday. She has spoken to council. She stated the reason this became an issue – she noted she appreciates the passion that these community members have shown on social media and by their appearance here. She thought we need to focus on for 9 years this has gone on. She stated she was familiar with the DOS rules being talked about and she is familiar with town law. She did not agree that those were the only three circumstances where a road can be closed. She noted the Town of Caroga does not have a law and a permitting process and parameters set for road closures. The reason this came up, and she was asked to write this letter is because after 8 years with the consent of

the town and hwy. department for all those years this was how that small section of road was closed for events. Council Member Cooper noted the red book (hwy. manual). He stated it wasn't a policy because policy is written. Ms. Murphy stated policy under legal terms is actually something that sets a precedent. "Your policy is your past practice for the last seven years." Council Member Cooper noted we have to put something in place. Ms. Murphy stated we are here because this practice that has been in place for 7 – 8 years that Caroga Art relied on, that the car show relied on, that community members are comfortable with and in support of was condoned by the highway department and including last year the town board was suddenly changed on Monday with no notice, just a statement by the supervisor to Caroga Arts.

Council Member Frasier stated that this wasn't decided on Monday. This has been an ongoing discussion. Ms. Murphy stated she has read all the minutes. No input from the community was sought. No process was followed to change the practice...

Council Member Sturgess noted that at the beginning of the season Kathy Manning came to the board with a list of closures for the road. At that time there was a discussion of the union issues. When the board finds out they are not doing something the right way it is their obligation to find a way to do it the right way. The Highway Superintendent can't close the road a worker has to do it. Ms. Murphy stated it was suggested by the town attorney that may or may not be proper. Mr. Stock noted the union can submit a grievance for \$5,000.00. Ms. Murphy stated but they have not. A discussion on the union contract ensues.

Council Member Sturgess noted that after the discussion when Mrs. Manning attended the meeting and the cost was revealed the board voted against closing the road for temporary events. The action of not closing the road was disputed as to if it was a resolution. It would have cost over \$10,000.00 for the season for X number of events. Ms. Murphy stated that the issue was raised in July and August. Supervisor Glenn reported that he was waiting to hear from the town attorney. Council Member Sturgess was of the opinion that the attorney was working on the solution.

Council Member Frasier stated the board was trying to find solutions while gathering information. A crosswalk was put in. It didn't stay stagnant. The board went ahead with a safety plan that they knew could be put in place. Council Member Sturgess wanted to see a parking plan. The response was this information was presented in 2023 to the Planning Board. Ms. Murphy stated the Planning Board has oversight over those approvals. Council Member Sturgess asked if it was for 1800 people? Yes, was the reply.

Ms. Murphy did not want to see this arguing back and forth. She wanted a resolution to continue as we are through the end of the year and work on the law.

Supervisor Glenn noted that is what the town attorney told him half an hour ago. In talking with Chris Langlois, it was noted that this issue has come up for the tenth time again. Supervisor Glenn is sick of fighting about this. The attorney is getting templates from other municipalities. Supervisor Glenn calls it the wild west and continues like that until the end of the year and then in 2027 the board will come out with a detailed local law. Ms. Murphy applauded that.

Council Member Walker reiterated here support for Shermans. She, however, did not want to see the taxpayers of Caroga pay to have the road shut down. (applause)

Kyle Price stated that almost every municipality across NYS have farmers markets and car shows and fairs that include road closures. It is done out of safety and caution for the community. He appreciates the crosswalk but at the same time it sets up a situation that could happen outside the crosswalk and the road can't be closed then somehow the town decides they are not liable. He would like to collaborate with the town.

A resident stated he has been here for 20 years watching this town go around in circles. Where was the town when Sherman's got donated. If you are for the road closure, make the decision.

Supervisor Glenn noted he was the one who said no. He forced this meeting to listen to "you" tonight.

An attendee noted we used to be a town that all worked together, what happened? Council Member Sturgess replied attorneys. When your name is out there as a board member and could potentially be sued for a decision, you make.... that is what gives you cold feet on everything.

Council Member Frasier noted it was not just the voices in this room. Everyone sitting at this table has been out talking to the taxpayers about this issue. They take it seriously. Safety is also their concern, but so is the fiscal side of this.

Ms. Murphy wanted to rewind to the solution.

Ms. Price suggested having the highway department close the road on Thursday before they leave for the day and reopen the road on Monday morning. Signs could be put up a week in advance for this very small portion. Supervisor Glenn noted there has to be a policy and procedure in place. Council Member Walker thought this was something the towns people should vote on. Multiple discussions take place – the meeting was gaveled down.

Council Member Sturgess asked for this weekend what is the plan to get people over to Trista – (Adirondack Taproom) to cross the highway if this section of road is closed? Mr. Price stated there was plenty of parking and noted the events going on at Vrooman's and the Lake View Store. The highway superintendent asked how crossing would take place on 29A. Volunteers helping was the response. He stated they talked to Department of Transportation also. There are also large signs. He noted they were here about closing the road for this event. It was stated that the car show will more than likely cancel unless the road can be closed for how they function. Mr. Price listed the six other events for the rest of the calendar year.

Supervisor Glenn asked if he anticipated needing the road closed for all six events. The response was "yes, given what those events entail."

Trista Everest offered to pay for the workers to close the road. Council Member Sturgess explained it was eight hours of overtime per event. Council Member Cooper thanked her.

Mr. Price stated if it was too much of an expense the town could permanently close the road and they CAC would pay the cost of four hundred thousand dollars. That was what they originally intended. It would save the town a lot of money in overtime.

Council Member Sturgess noted going back decades there has never been an accident. Multiple people are talking and gaveled down by the supervisor.

Ms. Everest again offered to pay for the road closure as long as there are no unexpected surprises or overtime fees, just the normal rate. She is having an open house that day.

Ms. Murphy understood that the proposal to compromise and get this moving was to allow the temporary road closure as it has been done through the end of the year and then work on a permanent process. She noted this was without a payment. Imposing a payment by throwing numbers around, and number of people via the union contract without any notice to the public – and go back to the compromise that the town waive the cost until the collaborative process to create the new law. Council Member Walker noted that the town still has to pay someone to close the road. It was noted that Mr. Manning closed the road. Mr. Stock stated he can't close the road even if he works for the town. Ms. Murphy stated that he did with the consent of the highway superintendent and it was not paid. She stated that the CAC was authorized by the board and highway superintendent to bring out the two wooden barriers - ten feet long left down there with a cone at each end. The Supervisor noted the town attorney stated the closure has to be done by the town. Ms. Murphy stated she would get something in writing from the town attorney as that was not her understanding. She didn't think the board was in a position to give the public the actual cost tonight. (yelling) Mr. Stock stated the rate was \$40.01 per hour times twelve. Mr. Stock had the union contract with him and offered to share the information with Ms. Murphy.

It was noted that the total cost to strip the town parking lot and create the crosswalk was \$1,500.00. Mr. Price noted that they did not ask for the crosswalk.

Council Member Sturgess asked the supervisor to call for a resolution.

RESOLUTION #2026-086 to close the road for these special events and the town will be reimbursed for any costs incurred offered by Supervisor Glenn at the emergency meeting held on August 27, 2026, at 5 pm.

WHEREAS, an emergency meeting was called to discuss the closure of a portion of East Shore Road, and

WHEREAS, the dates the road would be closed were August 29, September 5, 12, 19, October 31, 2026, and November 28, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to close the road for these special events and the town will be reimbursed for any costs incurred.

Mr. Stock stated if it snows the road can't be closed on November 28th.

Someone asked about the tourism committee. Council Member Frasier stated that this was being worked on for the next meeting. She noted she needs administrative rights to a Facebook page

that was created a long time ago. A former member did not have that information and stated no one has posted on the site all summer.

Mr. Stock stated the cost to close the road would be \$1,120.28.

The clerk was heard to say aren't we in the middle of a resolution.

In the past it was said that the highway superintendent shut the road down. Council Member Sturgess stated that in the past the CAC shut it down. A member of the public asked why it was an issue now. Council Member Walker stated because that was wrong. Council Member Sturgess stated finding out that it's wrong and to not correct it is not the right path either. Past practice holds more weight than.... and will hold up in court prior to a policy was the response.

Mr. Stock stated the cost to close the road would be \$1,120.28 for one person. Council Member Sturgess did not want that added as part of the resolution. He noted that doesn't include workers' compensation or disability. It is more than the hourly rate. It is more than that if they go over four hours.

RESOLUTION #2026-087 to close the road for these special events six in total was offered by Supervisor Glenn at the emergency meeting held on August 27, 2026, at 5 pm.

WHEREAS, an emergency meeting was called to discuss the closure of a portion of East Shore Road, and

WHEREAS, the dates the road would be closed were August 29, September 5, 12, 19, October 31, 2026, and November 28, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Caroga Town Board does hereby move to close the road for these special events.

Seconded by Council Member Sturgess

Discussion: Council Member Frasier asked if the highway superintendent had anything to say or add. Mr. Stock stated, trunk or treat we are usually there November 28th is the only one he was worried about. He wanted to figure out coming to an agreement for next year.

Adopted by a vote of five ayes: Glenn, Sturgess, Cooper, Walker, Frasier

At 5:40 pm Supervisor Glenn made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fraiser. All board members were in favor. Glenn, Sturgess, Cooper, Walker, Frasier.

Submitted by Caroga Town Clerk

Linda Gilbert, RMC, CMC

