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(716) 736-3913

Editor: Bill Near

<https://www.ripleylibrary.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ripleyny/>

<http://www.ripley-ny.com/>

Fire Department Emergency Call 911

Ripley Hose Company #1

P.O. Box 342

12 South State Street

Ripley, NY 14775

716-736-2001

Jason Fisher, Fire Chief

716-736-2490

Ripley Hose Company #2

South Ripley Fire Hall

10268 NE-Sherman Road

Ripley, NY 14775

James Spacht, Deputy Fire Chief

716-269-4754

Police Department

Actual Emergency Call 911

Chautauqua County Sheriff's Dept.

Mayville, NY 14757

716-753-4231

RIPLEY TOWN HALL

14 North State Street

P.O. Box 352, Ripley, NY 14775

Ripley, NY 14775

Town Supervisor: Lauree Pless

ripleyts@fairpoint.net

Office: **716-413-8010 ext 6**

RIPLEY TOWN CLERK OFFICE

Ryleigh Enterline, Town Clerk

(716) 413-8010, ext 1

ripleytownclerk@ripleyny.gov

P.O. Box 2, Ripley, NY 14775

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

8:00 a.m. – Noon 1:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Saturday Mornings 9 a.m. – Noon

Closed Wednesdays

The Town Clerk's Office is also closed during various Holidays

RIPLEY TOWN COURT CLERK

Office: 716-413-8005

Fax: 716-413-8009

ripleytowncourt@nycourts.gov

Mon, Thurs, Fri 9am-3:30pm

Tues 9am-noon; Closed Wednesday

TOWN ASSESSOR

Nicole Gollhardt

Ripley, NY 14775

716-413-8010 ext 9

ripleyta@fairpoint.net

Tuesday 9:00am-1:00pm

A Message from your Town Supervisor, Lauree Pless

Updates from January 8, 2025 Board Meeting

Organizational Meeting Prior to the regular board meeting, the Town conducted the annual organizational meeting. During the meeting, the Town board members approved various required resolutions that specify the various operations, roles and responsibilities necessary to operate Town business. These resolutions included categories related to finances, annual appointments, personnel matters, general operations, and annual contracts.

Dog Shelter Updates The Town of Ripley is currently looking into seeking a collaborative grant with the Towns of Mina and Clymer in order to construct a facility to that would house stray animals as well as meet the New York State unfunded mandated for housing stray animals that is now required by all municipalities. In the meantime, Councilmembers Phil Chimera and Lee Swoap are working on constructing a temporary solution to house dogs and cats, in order to comply with the New York State mandate until something more permanent can be constructed. The mandate requires that shelters are sanitary, ensure proper nutrition and that all animals receive appropriate veterinary care. The state has set very strict guidelines about how dogs can be sheltered.

Earlier this month, town representatives met with a grant writer who informed them they would have a much better chance of receiving a grant if it was going to be a shared service among municipalities. Either way, we are going to apply for grant money, but if we can get the other municipalities to go in with us, we have a much better chance of getting it.

Although the Town of Ripley would be the lead agency, if a collaborative grant were to be awarded, the municipalities would build a shelter at a central location, which all of the municipalities could use.

Replacement of throw rugs In other business, Town Clerk Ryleigh Enterline told board members that she and Trista Brown have been in contact with the Cintas Company to discuss options about replacing the rugs at the entrance to the town building. The current rugs, according to Brown, are in very bad shape. This is something that will be further discussed and decided at a later date.

Annual Water and Sewer Rates The annual water and sewer rates were approved at this meeting. We are seeing a total increase 0.0085 per gallon. The public was also informed that the January Water/Sewer bill would include two additional weeks of billing for the month of January.

Continued on Page 2

About Town, page 2

February 2026

Ripley, New York

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Justice Vera L. Husted

P. O. Box 573

Ripley, NY 14775

Office: 716-413-8005

Fax: 716-413-8009

Clerk: 716-413-8010

courtclerk@ripley-ny.com

Hours: M, Th, F 9am-3:30pm

Tues 9am-noon

Closed Wednesday & holidays

Calendar Call held:

2nd Thursday of each month 2pm

BUILDING/ZONING CODE

OFFICER –Ken Shearer

P.O. Box 2, Ripley, NY 14775

716-413-8010 ext 5

Tues 3-6pm Fri 7a-12pm

RIPLEY TOWN BOARD Meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Town Building located in the Ripley Central School 14 North State Street.

RIPLEY PLANNING BOARD

Ray Dyer

Meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:30pm at the Town Offices located in the Ripley Central School on N State St
The Public is welcome to attend these meetings.

WATER/SEWER DEPT

Andrew Strine

10168 W. Lake Road, Ripley NY

ripleywater@outlook.com

Office: 716-413-8010 ext 7

Cell: 716-223-0740

HIGHWAY DEPT

Jason Jones, Highway Supt.

50 Ross Street

P.O. Box 506

Ripley, NY 14775

ripleyhs@fairpoint.net

Office: 716-413-8010 ext 8

Cell: 716-223-0130

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Gloria McCormick

716-269-9882

TOWN HISTORIAN

John "Doc" Hamels

C. 716-223-0112

Supervisor report, continued from Page 1

The March bills should be a little bit less than normal because of the additional amount included on the bill in January. However, please remember that your bill is based on actual usage. If you have any specific questions, please contact Water/Sewer Superintendent, Andrew Strine and he would be happy to go over the information with you.

Ripley Food Pantry Please remember that the food pantry is open on Tuesdays from 2:00PM-4:00PM and Saturdays from 10:00AM-12:00PM. If you are not sure if you qualify to receive food from the pantry, we encourage you to stop by and one of the volunteers can give you the income guidelines that the pantry follows.

Town Board Meetings Just a reminder that Town Board Meetings are held every second Thursday of the month beginning at 6:30PM.

February in the Town Clerk's Office

***February Dog License Renewals** will be out in the mail by February 1st

Announcements:

2026 Town and County Tax Bills were mailed on 1/6/26.

*IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOUR BILL, PLEASE CALL AND I WILL PRINT ONE OFF FOR YOU/EMAIL YOU A COPY

Tax Bills are due by 2/6/26 without penalty.

We can now accept Credit Card Payments for Tax Bills- there is a 3% convenience charge.

*I sincerely apologize for the confusion regarding the back of the 2026 Town/County Tax Bills. The printing company we use to print/mail the bills made an error and put the Town of Chautauqua's back on our bills. The Towns of Busti and Ellicott experienced the same error. You have or will receive another notice explaining the error with the correct back enclosed. This is just for informational purposes-you do not need to take any action.

*I am so very thankful and appreciative of all of you who have called or stopped in to ask who or where to pay and for all the kindness and understanding that our community has shown this office amid this situation.

*Contacting my office directly is the most efficient way to provide clarity on things like this and it gives us an opportunity to speak with you all. I believe that the opportunity to connect is important.

*Again, thank you all for reaching out and I hope you all are off to a great 2026.

About Town, page 3

February 2026

Ripley, New York

Ripley Town Clerk's Office 2026 Scheduled Closures:

January 1: New Year's Day

January 19: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 16: President's Day

April 3-4: Good Friday/Easter Weekend

May 22-25: Memorial Day Weekend

June 19: Juneteenth

July 3-4: Fourth of July Weekend

September 4-7: Labor Day Weekend

October 12: Columbus Day

November 26-28: Thanksgiving Weekend

December 24-26: Christmas Weekend

Ripley Mobile Food Pantry Coordinator, Debbie Dean

Text or call Debbie at (814)440-8490 to pre-register each month.

You must pre-register EVERY month, so that we know how many boxes of food to prepare. Food available from the Mobile Food Pantry varies month to month. Also check Ripley Community Mobile Food Pantry on Facebook for information.

2026 Dates
Feb 25
Mar 25
Apr 29
May 27
June 24



Jul 29
Aug 26
Sept 30
Oct 28
Nov 25
Dec To Be Determined

From the desk of the Ripley Town Historian

Doc Hamels

Each town and city in NYS is required to have an historian. I am very pleased to be just that! In my role I often assist folks to find some missing information about a relative or event. Over time I share information about the history of our town of Ripley dating back to around 1804. I have some old photos in the office archives that can be shared with you as well. Additionally, I can point you in some directions if you are looking up family histories or searching for a long lost relative. I assist but don't do genealogies. I have been assisting our local Veterans with the Hometown Heroes Banner program. If you have questions about this, please contact Dave Bower (716-736-5805 or cell 716-969-0080), or me at my office. My office is located in the Ripley Central School wing off the circle on State St. I'm generally in the office on Thursdays from 9-11 a.m.



If you are searching for information and would like my assistance, I would like to give you a suggestion. Gather all the information that you have: dates, addresses, family history, photos, newspaper clippings, birth/death/marriage certificates, etc. before contacting me. Each of these can be valuable information in discovering what you may be looking for! Also, for a fee, the Town Clerk's office has many marriage and death certificates that go back to the late 1800s. You can request a copy by filling out the proper forms there. Please note, that the county has many birth certificates but as a rule only beginning in 1881 forward.

Finding our roots can be extremely interesting but can take a lot of patience!

Attention Senior Citizens

62 years old and over. You are welcome to join the Ripley Senior Citizens. We meet at noon, the third Friday of each month, at the Ripley Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. The church is on the corner of East Side Hill Road and Route 76 (South State Street.)

For information and more details, call:

Stephanie Eimers 716-397-2814

Or

Lynette Warner 716-736-2153



Contact information for our representatives

Senator Chuck Schumer

322 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone (202) 224-6542

or

130 South Elmwood Ave, #606
Buffalo, NY 14202
Phone (716) 846-4111

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

478 Russell
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone (202) 224-4451

or

Larkin At Exchange
726 Exchange St, Suite 511
Buffalo, NY 14210
Phone (716) 854-9725

Congressman Nick Langworthy

422 Cannon House Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone (202) 225-3161

or

The Fenton Building
2-6 East Second Street
Room 208
Jamestown, NY 14701
Phone (716) 488-8111



1pm Thursday

@

Ripley United Methodist Church
84 West Main St, Ripley, NY

NOAH'S ARK Clothing Store



Open the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month from 10 am to Noon

CLOTHING FOR INFANTS TO ADULTS!
(most items are just 25 cents)

First Presbyterian Church
20 West Main Street
Ripley, NY 14775

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If you, or someone you know, is in need of help, contact the following numbers:

Chautauqua County Crisis Helpline

1-800-724-0461 (24-hours)

Victims of Domestic Violence & Rape Crisis Hotline

1-800-252-748 (24-hours)

Mobile Crisis Team

(support & services) 716-363-3684

Ripley United Methodist Church has a Prayer Box set up in front of the church at 84 W. Main Street, Ripley, NY. Inside there are slips to fill out with your prayer request. We will bring up all your requests in deep prayer. There is a place to mark if you want to hear from a Pastor.

Food Assistance Program

Open Tuesdays from 2 until 4p.m., and Saturdays, 10 until noon.

The Food Pantry is available if a person verbally attests that they fall into one of the following guidelines: Income falls within the guidelines and/or someone in the household participates in: SNAP, WIC, TANF, Unemployment, Disability, SSI, or Free/Reduced lunch program. Contact Phil Chimera via email at shaver58@roadrunner.com for more information.

Please note there are two different programs. Mobile Food Pantry (at the fire hall) has no income requirement. Emergency Food Assistance Program (in the school building) income guidelines are listed.



Office of General Services
Food Distribution

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) Attestation of Eligibility

Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Annual Income	\$32,805	\$44,370	\$55,935	\$67,500	\$79,065	\$90,630	\$102,195	\$113,760

For each additional family member add \$11,565.

Board of Fire Commissioners of the Ripley Fire District

Please take notice that the regular meetings of the Board of Commissioners, Ripley Fire District will be held on the following dates, which are the 2nd Thursday of the month:

	April 9	July 9	October 8
February 12	May 14	August 13	November 12
March 12	June 11	September 10	December 10

These regular meetings will be held at 7:00 pm at Station #1, 11 South State St, Ripley, NY 14775, except the April and October meetings, which will be held at Station #2, 10268 NE-Sherman Road.

This notification is given pursuant to the provisions of section 104 of the public officer's law of the state of New York. The Budget hearing is on October 13, 2026 and the Commissioner Elections are on December 9, 2026.

By Order of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Ripley Fire District
Paula J. Testrake, Secretary

Bottle and Can Collection

The Library has a collection bin in the lobby for returnable cans and bottles. Don't throw out those water bottles and pop cans! Donate them to the library.

Please be sure all bottles and cans are empty before you place them in the bin.



Community Table

The Ripley Public Library welcomes community groups who would like to set up a table in our lobby to promote their business or group. Examples: VFW Poppy sales, Girl Scout cookie sales, as well as distribution of pamphlets or information about your group or activity. A representative for the table must be present for items to be displayed.

Reservations must be made. There is no cost, it's just our way of giving back to the community. 716-736-3913

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

TOWN OF RIPLEY MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS

Regular Monthly Town Board Meetings
are held at 6:30 p.m.
the 2nd Thursday of each month.

The Town Board meetings are also held through
a Zoom link.

Zoom link can be found on the Town of Ripley
Website

ripleyny.org

Local Worship

- ◆ **First Baptist Church**
716-736-3800
- ◆ **First Presbyterian Church**
716-736-3042
- ◆ **St. Dominic Roman Catholic Church**
716-326-2816
- ◆ **Stateline United Methodist Church**
814-833-1583
- ◆ **Still Waters Mennonite Church**
814-450-7251
- ◆ **United Methodist Church**
716-736-3090
- ◆ **Victory Family Church**
716-338-3199

Ripley Trash & Recycle Days

Located near the Highway Barn on Ross Street, open the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from 8am until noon. Recyclables may be dropped off on those days. Please enter via North State Street and Park Avenue or Ross Street.

Ripley bags may be purchased at the Town Building and at Coffee on Main.

Resources for Ripley News

Please check these **Facebook/Websites** for up-to-date information concerning Ripley and its residents:

Ripley Hose Company—www.ripleyfire.org

Ripley NY-Alive and Well-Administrator Ruth Blackman

Ripley Central Alumni (Ripley NY)-Administrators Mark Dickey & Connie Wright Middleton

It's Ripley's (Believe it or not) Community Page-Administrator Cindy Eddy

You may be from Ripley, NY if...no administrator listed

Ripley Community Mobile Food Pantry-Administrator Debbie Dean

Ripley NY Buds– Administrators Coralee Shearer and Stephanie Eimers

The Bookworm/About Town - <https://ripleylibrary.org/>

From the Desk of Post Command 2769**Dave Bower, Commander**

FEB. 1st NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY

FEB. 2nd GROUNDHOG DAY; LETS HOPE SPRING IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER.

FEB. 3rd FOUR CHAPLAINS DAY

FEB. 12th LINCON'S BIRTHDAY

FEB. 14th VALENTINE'S DAY. BE NICE TO YOUR SWEEHEART.

FEB. 15th SINKING OF THE U.S.S.MAINE (1898)

FEB. 16th PRESIDENTS' DAY; WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY (observed)

FEB. 18th ASH WEDNESDAY

FEB. 23rd IWO JIMA FLAG RAISE 1945

FEB. 27th BATTLE OF JAVA SEA (1942)

FEB. 28th END OF OPERATION DESERT STORM 1991



IF YOU WANT TO GET A HOME TOWN HERO BANNER YOU STILL HAVE TIME. AS ALWAYS, WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS FOR THE VFW. OUR NEXT MEETING IS ON FEB. 26 AT 10:30 am AT THE TOWN HALL.

Business Cards

Please consider placing your business card or a personal message in The Bookworm. It's an economical way to show your support for the Ripley Public Library! Businesses or individual supporters of the Ripley Library who donate \$5 per month will receive business card space in The Bookworm.

MINUTES OF THE TOWN BOARD MEETING

JANUARY 8, 2026

The regular meeting of the Town Board, Town of Ripley was called to order by Supervisor Pless at 6:30 p.m., in the Ripley Town Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance. The following were present:

Supervisor: Laura Pless
Council: Lee Swoap
 Jeffrey Lyon
 Phil Chimera
Town Clerk: Ryleigh Enterline

Guests: Janet Skinner, Gary Skinner, Tom Brown, Pat Brown, Andy Dickson (Ripley Hawk Watch), David Prenatt (Reporter)

Department Heads: Jason Jones (Highway Supt.), Andrew Strine (Water/Sewer Supt.), Nicole Gollhardt (Assessor/Deputy Clerk), Trista Brown (Parks), Ken Shearer (Code/Zoning Officer)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting dated December 11, 2025 were approved. Councilman Chimera moved and Councilman Lyon seconded. This was carried unanimously.

The minutes of the Year End Town Board Meeting dated December 30, 2025 were approved. **Councilman Chimera** moved and **Councilman Swoap** seconded. This was carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF ABSTRACTS

Warrant No. 1 in the amount of \$74,876.58 drawn on the General Acct. Was presented and audited by the Board Members.

Warrant No. 1 in the amount of \$74,898.57 drawn on the Highway Acct. Was presented and audited by the Board Members.

Warrant No. 1 in the amount of \$1,553.68 drawn on the St. Light Acct. Was presented and audited by the Board Members.

Warrant No. 1 in the amount of \$277.58 drawn on the Sewer Acct. Was presented and audited by the Board Members.

Warrant No. 1 in the amount of \$481.09 drawn on the Water Acct. Was presented and audited by the Board Members.

Warrant No. 1 in the amount of \$8,968.68 drawn on the Capital Acct. Was presented and audited by the Board Members.

Supervisor Pless made the following motion: that the Supervisor be directed to draw the checks to cover the warrant as allowed for vouchers numbered 1 through 33. This was seconded by **Councilman Swoap** and carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDANCE

*Update on meeting regarding Dog Shelter

*Cintas Proposal Discussion

*Andy Dickson – Ripley Hawk Watch Letter of Opposition to DewDrop Wind Project (Requested it be read into the minutes - see privilege of floor)

WATER/SEWER RATES

RESOLUTION #52-2026

TOWN OF RIPLEY

INCREASE WATER RATES

Councilman Swoap Offered the following Resolution:

That the Town of Ripley Water District #1, Water District #2, Water District #4 and Water District #5 Increase Water Rates from \$10.65 per 1000 gallons to \$10.70 per 1000 gallons. This shall take effect with water usage as of January 1, 2026.

This was seconded by **Councilman Chimera**.

ROLE CALL VOTE: Mr. Chimera YES, Mr. Janes ABSENT, Mr. Lyon YES, Mr. Swoap YES, Supervisor Pless YES. Carried

RESOLUTION #53-2026

TOWN OF RIPLEY

INCREASE SEWER RATES

Councilman Swoap offered the following Resolution:

That the Town of Ripley Sewer District #1, and Sewer District 2 Increase Sewer Rates from \$ 7.60 per 1000 gallons to \$8.40 per 1000 gallons. This shall take effect with usage as of January 1, 2026.

This was seconded by **Councilman Lyon**

ROLE CALL VOTE: Mr. Chimera YES, Mr. Janes ABSENT, Mr. Lyon YES, Mr. Swoap YES, Supervisor Pless YES. Carried

RESOLUTION #54-2026

TOWN OF RIPLEY

INCREASE WATER RATES FOR OUT OF DISTRICT USERS

Councilman Swoap offered the following Resolution:

That the Town of Ripley maintain Out of District Water users at \$26.00 per 1000 gallons. This shall take effect with usage as of January 1, 2026

This was seconded by **Councilman Chimera**.

ROLE CALL VOTE: Mr. Chimera YES, Mr. Janes ABSENT, Mr. Lyon YES, Mr. Swoap YES, Supervisor Pless YES. Carried

**RESOLUTION #55-2026
TOWN OF RIPLEY
INCREASE LATE FEE PENALTY FOR ALL WATER AND SEWER DISTRICTS**

Councilman Swoap offered the following Resolution:

In accordance with NY Town Law 198, The Town of Ripley Town Board approves to maintain the late fee penalty of 5% per bill on all bills past 30 days. The Town Board also approves a 5% annual fee on all unpaid bills to be applied prior to the re-levy process in November, not to exceed an annual 10% total fee. This shall take effect January 1, 2026.

This was seconded by **Councilman Swoap**.

ROLE CALL VOTE: Mr. Chimera YES, Mr. Janes ABSENT, Mr. Lyon YES, Mr. Swoap YES, Supervisor Pless YES. Carried

**RESOLUTION #56-2026
TOWN OF RIPLEY
CREATE WATER SPRINKLER RATE**

Councilman Swoap offered the following Resolution:

The Town of Ripley Town Board approves the creation of a water sprinkler rate at \$15.50 per 1,000 gallons. This shall take effect with usage as of Quarter one billing.

This was seconded by **Councilman Lyon**.

ROLE CALL VOTE: Mr. Chimera YES, Mr. Janes ABSENT, Mr. Lyon YES, Mr. Swoap YES, Supervisor Pless YES. Carried

MOTION TO APPROVE PURCHASE OF SIDEWALK TRACTOR

Upon the recommendation of **Highway Supt. Jones**, **Councilman Lyon** made the motion to purchase a John Deere 5075 EN Utility Tractor equipped with a flail mower, western impact, and plow for a total of \$87,233.84 Seconded by **Councilman Swoap** and carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

W/S REPORT: Presented by Councilman Swoap

HIGHWAY REPORT: Presented by Councilman Lyon

PLANNING BOARD REPORT: N/A

ASSESSOR REPORT: Presented by Councilman Lyon

CODE OFFICER REPORT: Presented by Councilman Swoap

PARKS REPORT: Presented by Supervisor Pless

TOWN CLERK REPORT: Presented by Town Clerk, Ryleigh Enterline.

DOG CONTROL OFFICER REPORT: N/A

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Guests who spoke during privilege of the floor:

Andy Dickson – Ripley Hawk Watch (Requested letter be included in minutes, see next page)

Ken Shearer (Code Officer) – Gravel Mine / Cell Tower Update

January 8, 2026

Town of Ripley
14 North State Street
Ripley, New York 14775

Re: Proposed Dew Drop wind farm development

Dear Town Council, Town Supervisor and residents of the Town of Ripley;

We are writing you to express strong opposition to the proposed Dewdrop Wind Farm proposed by Dewdrop Wind LLC and Bedrock Renewables. Such developments are known to have a detrimental effect of migratory birds and avian residents in their proximity.

The Town of Ripley has a very unique natural phenomenon that should be protected and which is threatened by the wind farm development. Each Spring thousands of migratory birds pass through Ripley. Lake Erie diverts birds on their northerly migration along its south shore. The steep ridge running parallel to Lake Erie on its southern shore (the Chautauqua Ridge) comes closest to Lake Erie in Ripley and concentrates the migration for easy observation.

It was two women in the 1980's who first identified this unique natural phenomena, Fran Rew and Lois Buck. They began observing and counting the raptor migration each Spring and began the Ripley Hawk Watch, as well as its affiliation with the Hawk Migration Association of North America ("HMA")

Since that time dedicated volunteers have staffed the Ripley Hawk Watch ("RHW") each Spring and reported the hawk migration figures to HMA. The Ripley Hawk Watch began uploading its count data in 2003 to the HMA website (www.hawkcount.org). We encourage you to view the Ripley data. The Ripley data along with data from numerous other Spring and Fall hawk watches is available for use and download for free. The citizen science that is conducted at the Ripley Hawk Watch and the many other watches around the western hemisphere is done in support of the scientific understanding of these amazing migratory animals, some of which winter as far away as South America and whose journey is an amazing spectacle to observe.

The RHW utilizes four sites located between the lake shore and the top of the steep escarpment, a straight line distance of about 2.8 miles.

In recent years RHW has begun documenting the other species migrating through Ripley. In 2025 some of these include Cackling Geese, Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Vesper Sparrows, Lapland Longspur, Sandhill Cranes, Northern Mockingbirds, White-eyed Vireos, numerous neotropical migrants including warblers, Baltimore Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Brown Thrashers, Martins, Swallows, and Bobolinks. On April 29, 2025 approximately 1,788 Blue Jays were counted in just under six hours.

At numerous times over the history of RHW, significant raptor takes place south of the ridge, as far south as Sherman, NY. Radar studies conducted as part of a previous wind farm development on the Chautauqua ridge documented 60 Golden Eagles passing over Sherman. Other first-hand observations have documented significant numbers of Broad-wing Hawks passing south of the ridge. While the data reported by RHW includes only birds migrating between the ridge and the lake shore, there is a significant number of migrating raptors which will come in direct contact with the Dewdrop location.

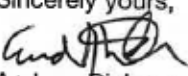
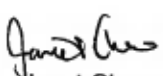
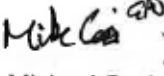
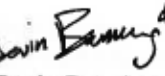





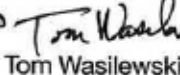
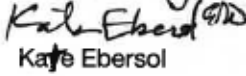


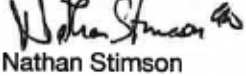

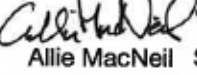
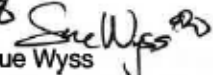
The number of birds migrating through Ripley each Spring is staggering and their migration route must be protected from interference by a wind farm. Our position is supported by the

HMA Wind Turbine Siting Position Statement which can be found at <https://www.hawkmigration.org/industrial-wind-turbine-siting-position/>. It states: "HMA strongly advises against wind power development in areas known to have concentrations of nesting, wintering, or migratory raptors. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), and other federal legislation require federal agencies to carefully consider and assess the possible adverse effects in their projects and permitting practices."

Please do not allow the Dewdrop Wind Farm and avoid the disturbance of this important flyway and unique natural phenomena and the likely mortality of local and migrating birds.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

 Andrew Dickson	 Janet Chew	 Michael Ceci	 Devin Banning	 Katelyn Davis
 Terry Mahoney	 Paul Baglia	 Keith Stock	 John Antonevich	 Tom Wasilewski
 Kate Ebersol	 Linda Barber	 Carol Hardenberg	 Nathan Stimson	
 Jess Clippinger	 Allie MacNeil	 Sue Wyss		

Councilman Swoap made the motion to adjourn to the meeting. Seconded by Councilman Chimera.

6:57 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Ryleigh Enterline, Town Clerk