

Community Foundation of Tompkins County
Listening Learning Partnerships
Caroline Town Hall
March 22, 2011
Meeting Notes

Caroline residents attending (5): Don Barber, Dominic Frongillo, Molly Adams, Lucy Gagliardo, and Cindy Smalt.

Foundation Representatives: George Ferrari, Linda Madeo

Issues:

State and Federal cuts in funding for programs, following County cut last year, and property tax cap, will impact staff to operate programs.

Need for food pantry has increased 40%, and they will need to fund-raise.

How to provide something for kids who lack transportation to Ithaca. They hope to keep Cooperative Extension programs for kids going; the town wouldn't be able to do it.

Note: Kids from both Ithaca and Dryden attend Caroline School, too.

Caroline Seniors group seems to have evaporated. They had hoped to have lots of activities for seniors, but that has not happened.

Demographics of the Town have changed –

- There are more single-parent homes.

- Young people are leaving.

- Housing stock has doubled, without ability to provide needed services.

- Average age of fire dept. volunteers has increased.

- Need for volunteerism.

- Increased need for food pantry.

- Decrease in fossil fuel ... leading to prolonged hikes in food and heating fuel prices.

- Food insecurity.

There is a challenge to build the ability of farmers –

- To increase local food production

- Increase CSAs

- How to develop leadership, apply for grants, etc.

- Help do energy conservation by people on their homes. They have some

HUD funds that could be used, but need help to develop a framework for administering it.

Note: Dryden has a revolving loan fund, which could be a useful example.

INHS and AFCU intend to create a \$1 million loan fund, which also could be of help.

Health issues – There used to be a WIC program in Caroline, but it is no longer there. The Health Dept. used to provide immunizations out there. There is a concern that a number of people are not getting proper health care. Some people make “too much” money to qualify for Medicaid, but don’t have enough to pay for health care.

Isolation – The rural poor are very isolated; county transportation would help. It would also allow kids to get engaged in the community. Once they leave grade school, they are going to Ithaca to school ... where is their life focused? Not in Caroline. Is it even in Ithaca?

Impacts of natural gas drilling.

Hi-speed Internet – definitely essential for businesses, but not available out there.