

## *Volunteer Boards are Important to Pittsford*

*The gift of time is priceless.* With this said, I want to recognize the nearly 60 Pittsford residents who take time out of their busy lives to serve on one of Pittsford's Volunteer Boards. Each one of these men and women make a lasting, positive impact on the Town of Pittsford.

As Town Supervisor, I know firsthand the importance of these committed, passionate volunteers. These individuals – of all ages - make important recommendations on Town issues that are essential to good governance. Volunteers contribute greatly to the success of the Town, and it is through their efforts that Pittsford is one of the very best communities in New York.

There is a wide array of boards that individuals can volunteer to serve on. There are advisory boards like the Environmental Board and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board which meet once or twice a month and make recommendations to the Town Board on specific issues. There are also boards that are empowered to make decisions on behalf of Town residents like the Zoning Board, Planning Board and the Historic Preservation Commission. These boards operate independently of Town government to ensure that decisions are always resident driven.

The Town also has a long history of forming committees of residents to solicit input on current or changing issues. One example of this is the Pittsford Keeping It Green Committee which was dedicated to making our Town more environmentally friendly. An overwhelming fifty-five individuals volunteered for this committee which issued *green* suggestions to Town Board – some of which are being implemented now (i.e. energy audit).

One of our newest volunteer opportunities is the Town of Pittsford's Youth Court. The Youth Court provided a unique chance for both adults and teens to volunteer. The Youth Court Advisory Board, comprised of a wide array of people from the community, was asked to research the feasibility and benefits of having a Youth Court. Thereafter, the Youth Court was formed and is now fully functional with over 40 Pittsford teens serving as peer jurors.

Serving on a volunteer board or committee is an excellent way to be involved in our community. Members give valuable insight to the Town Board and have direct input on the direction of Town government. Vacancies on boards come up periodically; therefore, I am always looking for more civic-minded individuals to serve. Résumés are kept on file and are reviewed each time there is an opening.

For more information about all our volunteer opportunities, please visit the Town's website. If you are interested in volunteering please submit a résumé and a letter of interest to me either by e-mail ([bcarpenter@townofpittsford.org](mailto:bcarpenter@townofpittsford.org)) or mail – 11 S. Main Street, Pittsford, NY 14534.