

**Pittsford Neighbors – “From the Supervisor” column – November, 2020 issue
Submitted by Pittsford Town Supervisor Bill Smith**

Commitment to Public Engagement Continues with Town Board Live Streaming

The Town of Pittsford has a long tradition of and a deep commitment to public engagement. As times change and technology advances, opportunities to reach our residents expand. While we've been offering video of Town Board meetings, posted a day or so after each meeting, since early 2017, we've now taken it to the next step by streaming Town Board meetings live, in real time.

I've had our staff look into livestreaming the Board meetings over the years. Until recently, the cost of additional equipment, balanced against what, frankly, has been a lack of public demand, stopped us from doing it. However, earlier this year we learned that we had to replace our video camera. We found that the cost had come down, allowing us to get a camera capable of live broadcasting for no more than we'd have had to spend in any event. Our patience now lets us livestream meetings without having incurred unnecessary expense.

The **Town Board livestream feed** is accessible on any device – desktop, tablet, cell phone, smart-TV and the like. It provides real-time access to our Town Board meetings. Pittsford residents can offer comments on agenda items both before each meeting and live during each meeting. Video of the meetings, with closed-captioning, is available **on-demand** within 48 hours of each meeting.

Town Board meeting recordings can be viewed on **cable channel 1303** as well, via the “ERCN TV-12” broadcast. On channel 1303 the recordings are shown twice a day over the course of a week.

The Town Board meeting livestream link, the TV-12 broadcast viewing schedule, and information about how to access on-demand recordings, can be found at www.townofpittsford.org/home-channel12.

We have an American Sign Language interpreter available at every Pittsford Town Board meeting, to interpret for those who need this service. If you can't attend a Town Board meeting in person but are planning to watch the meeting's live stream, please let us know of your need for the interpreter by emailing comments@townofpittsford.org. Requests can be made in advance or can be emailed through the first ten minutes of the meeting.

Pittsford Town Board meetings are typically held the first and third Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm at Town Hall. Meeting dates can be found on our **web calendar** at www.townofpittsford.org/calendar. The meeting agenda is posted on the Town's **minutes and agendas page** at www.townofpittsford.org/home-minutes at least two days prior to the meeting. The link to the meeting livestream is always posted on page two of the agenda.

Accessing our Town Board meeting livestream is easy but please note: if you try to log in too early (before the meeting feed is live) you will see an error message. If that happens, refresh your screen just prior to or at 6:00pm when the board meeting starts and you will be able to view the meeting.

The COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated limited physical access to Town Board meetings. We're glad to make these meetings available in real time to those who couldn't otherwise attend.

And please remember: you don't have to wait for a Town Board meeting to bring a concern to the Town's attention. You can contact us at any time. I answer my own phone and welcome residents to my office at Town Hall. Reach me at 248-6220 or by email at bsmith@townofpittsford.org.