

**MINUTES OF GREENWAY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**October 19, 2016**

**Attended by:** Ronny Hardaway, Chair  
Phil Dankert, Member  
Lynn Leopold, Member  
Monica Moll, Member  
Larry Bieri, Potential Member  
Deborah Dawson, Secretary

Hardaway called the meeting to order at 2:58 pm.

Hardaway introduced Larry Bieri, who has expressed an interest in replacing Gerry Monaghan on the Committee.

Hardaway reported that he is working on getting two bids (in addition to the bid he received from Woodson) for the “Off the Grid” playground equipment for Village Park. Courtney has advised Hardaway that the equipment can be stored over the winter if necessary, so, if we can save money by buying it now, we can do so and just set it aside until it can be installed in the spring.

Hardaway reported that John Courtney and DPW staff have begun repairs on Northwood Road. Courtney estimates that, between finishing the sidewalks on Uptown Road and completing necessary repairs and upgrades on Northwood Road, DPW will be busy for the remainder of the fall construction season. Consequently, work probably will not begin on the Dart parcel park until spring 2017. That will give the Committee several months to start planning the park and investigating options, including the overall layout, the sports field, basketball court, picnic pavilion and tables, benches, and the playground. We should have some basic ideas about the layout by early spring, since Courtney and DPW staff will begin working on site preparation (tree cutting and grading) at that time.

Leopold has not had an opportunity to examine the trees at Village Park and on the Dart parcel with Courtney; she will try to get the job done before the Committee’s November meeting. Bieri offered to accompany her. The configuration of the Dart parcel park, and placement of the picnic and playground equipment, will depend on which trees are cleared and which are retained, so Leopold’s examination of the site is an essential first step to the Committee’s planning.

Moll suggested that we place the picnic pavilion and tables closer to the road, so that it would be easier for people to carry their food from their cars. The playground should be convenient to the

pavilion (so that people can keep an eye on their children), but it should be farther away from the road so that children cannot easily wander out near parked or moving cars.

The members agreed that it was unlikely that we could muster enough willing and able Village residents to construct a community built playground. Moll described a number of alternative options for playground equipment and construction, which she has learned about in the process of researching playground options for UCNS. Because of her relative expertise in this area, Moll was nominated to be the Committee's point person on playground equipment for the Dart parcel park, and she graciously agreed. Hardaway indicated that he would try to get a ballpark budget figure for her from the Board of Trustees.

Other issues for Committee consideration include the viability of drinking fountains and toilet facilities, and how best to deal with trash and dog feces. Dogs on leash will be allowed, and posted signs will direct dog owners to pick up after their pets. Bags will not be provided, based on previous discussions and input from Courtney. However, most dog owners who walk their pets on leash carry "doggy bags" with them. The Committee agreed that neither drinking alcohol nor smoking should be allowed in the park.

Hardaway will create an action list in the Committee's area of the Village website so members can add their ideas on an ongoing basis. He will advise members of the location of the list by email.

Hardaway offered to begin drafting the new Greenway Plan over the next few months. He said that he will post his draft periodically in the Committee's area of the Village website, so that members can offer suggestions, etc. He appended a proposed Table of Contents to the meeting agenda. Committee members comments/suggestions included the following:

- Bieri asked what happened to the Committee's original plan to connect Village trails with trail systems in the Towns of Ithaca and Lansing. Dankert indicated that that plan would be discussed in the "Trails" chapter. The Committee agreed that this would have to be a "stretch goal" for the moment, because: (1) there is still a lot of work needed to create a coherent trail system within the Village; (2) it would be some time before the Town of Lansing's trails would be finished out to the Town/Village boundaries, especially since the Town's Trails Committee has been disbanded; and (3) the majority of the Village's trails are north of Rte 13, which effectively blocks us from safely connecting our trails with the Town of Ithaca's trail system.
- Leopold suggested that our Plan should include provisions for controlling invasive species like tatarian honeysuckle, autumn olive, and multiflora roses. She stressed that these plants do not provide a reliable food source for local bird species, and displace

native plants. Hardaway agreed that this topic should be included in our maintenance plans.

The Committee agreed that the December meeting should be cancelled. A November meeting will be scheduled for the 16<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, November 16, 2016  
3:00 pm  
Village Hall

**Action Items:** Hardaway to obtain additional bids on “Off the Grid” equipment  
Leopold and Bieri to review trees at Village Park and on Dart parcel  
Hardaway to set up online action list for Dart parcel park  
Hardaway to begin drafting new Greenway Plan