

MINUTES OF GREENWAY COMMITTEE MEETING

July 20, 2016

Attended by: Ronny Hardaway, Chair
Phil Dankert, Member
Deborah Dawson, Secretary

Guests: John Courtney, Village of Lansing Superintendent of Public Works

Hardaway called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

Members present agreed that the Committee's field trip to the Dankert and Village Parks was helpful and productive. A field trip to the pocket park in the Shannon Park neighborhood was tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, August 3, at 4:00 pm. Hardaway will notify the members of the Committee.

Hardaway described his and Dawson's visit to the "natural" play areas at the Ithaca Children's Garden. Dankert voiced concerns about potential liability connected with the mud pit and wood building features of the play areas described at the June 29 meeting. He and Hardaway also mentioned the mosquito problem that would be created by a mud pit play feature.

Hardaway will ask John Courtney to save larger sections of trees that DPW clears from the Dart parcel for use as park features.

Dankert expressed reservations about the dog park suggested for the Dart parcel park – reservations that were shared by Hardaway and Dawson. A major concern is the presence on the Dart parcel of streams flowing into Cayuga Lake that could carry dog waste into the lake. Another concern is maintenance and clean-up. Dawson noted that the Cass Park dog park is monitored, cleaned, maintained, and funded by a private organization created for that purpose. At present, there is no such organization that would care for a dog park here in the Village of Lansing. Everyone agreed that, unless and until such an organization is formed and volunteers to care for a Village dog park, a dog park would not be feasible. It is a feature that might be added to the park at a later date.

Hardaway noted that many of the doggy(poop) bag dispensers along trails around the County are often empty. Moreover, when the Committee visited Dankert Park, the bag dispenser there was empty. The members agreed that, if doggy bags are to be offered along Village trails and in Village parks, they ought to remain stocked. Similarly, any amenity that is offered on Village trails and in Village parks ought to be available at all times.

John Courtney came in to review the Field Trip Results and “to do” list. It was agreed that Courtney will be an “ex officio” member of the Committee from now on, since his input on infrastructure, improvements, and maintenance issues will be crucial to the Committee’s work. Courtney will not be required to attend every meeting, but will be copied on all correspondence sent to and among the members. He will also communicate directly with Hardaway on Greenway issues.

Courtney addressed the Field Trip Results as follows:

- The playgrounds at Dankert and Village Parks have not been mulched in several years. Courtney has ordered mulch and DPW will spread it in the playgrounds when it arrives. The playground at Dankert Park will be mulched to the depth of the plastic playground surround.
- Courtney is reluctant to put “scuff” pads under the swings because he feels they don’t cushion as well as mulch and they are more abrasive. Hardaway agreed that we will try adding new mulch and see how it holds up. Dankert opined that the scuffing we saw was attributable to adults (who shouldn’t be “swinging”) using the swings.
- DPW has extra metal basketball nets on hand, and will install a new one at Dankert Park right away.
- Courtney plans to replace the existing plastic access ramp to the Dankert Park playground with blacktop. The existing ramp may be an integral part of the plastic playground surround, in which case it will have to be cut out.
- DPW will make repairs on all chain link fences at both Parks and the playing field backstop at Dankert Park as soon as they have some free time.
- DPW will repair the bent-up edges of the playing field benches as soon as possible.
- DPW will clean up the signs, benches, and kiosk at both Parks as soon as they have some free time. Courtney noted that the kiosk at Dankert Park was only intended to hold a copy of the park rules, and not newsletters and notices. He also suggested that park rules for Village Park should be posted on a weather-proof metal sign (since that park has no kiosk).
- DPW has plenty of doggy bags, and will restock the dispenser at Dankert Park right away. (Courtney explained that the dispensers are often emptied immediately after they’re filled, and that people probably just take bags for use elsewhere.) Courtney suggested that, rather than have a separate receptacle for doggy bags, they should just be thrown in with other trash, which is emptied quite regularly.
- Courtney informed the Committee that both Dankert and Village Park were plumbed for water fountains, but that the basins of fountains that were installed there in the past had been stolen. Hardaway volunteered to research the availability of fountains without “stealable” basins.

- Courtney explained that DPW will be installing sidewalks this summer/fall along the north side of Uptown Drive from Warren Road to the first curve, and then along the east side from the curve to Dankert Park. (Next year, DPW will install additional sidewalks will be installed along the west side - in front of Village Park - and around the second curve.) This design will keep pedestrians on the inside of the curves, where they are less likely to be hit by cars whose drivers lose control on the curves. Pedestrians can cross from one side of Uptown to the other via the crosswalk between Dankert and Village Parks, which is currently an “S” crosswalk. Dawson asked Courtney to consider making it an “LS” crosswalk.
- Since there will be a sidewalk along the full length of Uptown Road, it is unnecessary to try to get an easement to install a path along the power lines that run from Warren Road, along the southern edge of the Dankert Park soccer field, to Uptown Road.
- Courtney suggested adding a path that circles the soccer field, so that people who want to walk laps for distance could do so. He said that DPW could install such a path quickly and inexpensively.
- DPW will be installing stormwater pipes along the east side of Uptown Road between Dankert Park and Route 13. When these are buried, the ditch in front of Dankert Park will cease to be.
- Many of the repairs/suggestions relating to the Village Park playground will be deferred because the entire playground is at least 20 years old and no longer complies with applicable laws and regulations. The Committee will have to consider how and with what to replace the existing, non-compliant structures. Meanwhile, DPW will clear dead trees and/or limbs and stumps and remove/replace protruding spikes in the timbers surrounding the playground, as these present immediate safety hazards. DPW will also remove the spider-infested “tunnel.”
- Courtney agreed to look into the viability of adding topsoil to level the surface of the Village Park play areas.
- DPW will replace the bench when it obtains a ground-mounted replacement bench.
- The “path” between Village Park and the apartment complex to its west cannot be cleared and paved because it is not on Village property.

Courtney is still available to tour the Dart parcel sometime in August to determine which trees should be kept. Lynn Leopold had agreed to accompany him. Courtney suggested that input from Cornell botanist Keith Vanderhye would be a valuable addition. Hardaway will contact Leopold and Vanderhye and coordinate with Courtney to schedule this process.

Hardaway referred to Mayor Hartill’s comments at the most recent Trustees’ meeting, to the effect that the culvert under the entrance to Northwoods Road. He is concerned that this circumstance will further delay work on the Dart parcel park. Courtney acknowledged that, if and when Northwoods’ lender’s attorneys finally sign Northwoods Road over to the Village, the

culvert will have to be repaired immediately. He said it was likely that this would push access to the Dart parcel for preliminary work on the park back to spring 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 17, 2016
3:00 pm
Village Hall

Action Items: Hardaway to send notice of Shannon Park field trip
Hardaway to research “basinless” water fountains
Hardaway to schedule “tree review” with Leopold, Vanderhye, and
Courtney