

**From:** Deborah Dawson <ithacadeborah@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 28, 2015 9:11 PM  
**To:** Ronny Hardaway; 'Gerry Monaghan'; 'John Dennis'; 'Philip Dankert';  
thegillotts@twcny.rr.com  
**Cc:** Lynn Leopold; Village of Lansing Clerk/Treasurer  
**Subject:** Greenway Committee "Meeting" 10/28/15

Dear Greenway Committee Members:

Since there were only three members present at tonight's meeting, and since those three members have had a fairly eventful month and were not exactly prepared for our agenda, we decided to have an info-sharing and brainstorming session in lieu of an actual meeting. That being the case, I'm sending everyone an information-sharing email in lieu of minutes!

Administrative details that you all should know are:

- Even though we are not subject to the Open Meetings Law, Ronny has arranged to put notices of our meetings up on the Village website, so interested citizens can attend if they wish.
- Since we are not subject to the Open Meetings Law, we can and should use email to exchange ideas and get things done between meetings. This practice will make us more efficient and keep our meetings down to a reasonable number and duration.
- We will use MS Word's "track changes" when we work on documents via email.
- Ronny will be setting up a file sharing space for our Committee on the Village website so that we can make useful resources and contacts we find available to everyone on the Committee.
- Lynn Leopold would like to be on our Committee, but she cannot make it on the last Wednesday of the month. Ronny will be polling Committee members to see what other times we all might be available so that Lynn can join us. We'll still be looking for a Wednesday or Thursday night, just NOT the last Wednesday.
- As we go through the holiday period, we may just schedule meetings when we can, since so many of us will be busy or out of town.
- Stay tuned for emails from Ronny so that we can schedule our next meeting when everyone can attend.

I want to share some Greenway Committee "history" I gleaned from reviewing the box full of documents that Jodi gave us from the Village's files. It appears that the Greenway Committee grew out of a now-defunct Village "Conservation Advisory Committee" and its interest in a local bicycle and trails initiative. The Greenway Committee was formed and received a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts. With that seed money and substantial technical assistance from the Tompkins County Planning Department, the Committee spent the better part of 2 years developing the existing Greenway Plan. The Committee stayed active for several years after the Plan was adopted in 1994, and was largely responsible for implementation of the short-range recommendations in the Plan. The Committee appeared to be ready to update the Plan in 2006-7, but that never happened, and there's no documentation as to why.

As you all know, the owners of the Sundowns property contacted Marty Moseley earlier this month to express their desire that the property NOT be affected of the Greenway Plan. Also, John Gillott pointed out that the Miller Property (off Craft Road) has been partially developed and posted since the

original Greenway Plan was adopted. It appears that the existing Plan may have recommended trails and green spaces on properties (like Sundowns and the Miller Property) without the express consent of the owners. That is not the methodology that we want to follow. We will be developing a realistic trail plan, and we will approach property owners with proposals before we draft a new Plan. We should be prepared with specific ideas about where we would want trails, and what legal means we would use (e.g., revocable easements) to acquire trail access. We should be prepared to address the property owners' concerns about liability, AND their "what's in it for me?" questions. John Dennis noted that a conservation easement would reduce tax assessments on affected properties, which would certainly be a benefit to the property owners. Another possible "benefit" is that trail easements could count towards the 6% set aside required under the Village's current subdivision law. This is an area that the Committee will have to research as we go forward.

Finally, John Dennis advised the Committee that the Yen Property (26 acres west of BJ's between Oakcrest Rd and Shannon Park) is on the market, and that the Butler Property (west of the Yen Property) might be going on the market in the next couple of years. Both and/or either of these properties would be a great location for a park. One question that arose is, is there a Village fund for green space? (I suspect that, if there is such a fund, a major portion of it was used to acquire the Dart Property. Jodi, is there a fund? If so, how much is there?)