

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Wednesday, July 14, 2004 at noon in the Village Office.

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Larry Fresinski; Trustees Lynn Leopold, Frank Moore and John O'Neill; Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer Ben Curtis; Superintendent of Public Works Dennis Reinhart; Laborer Jason Lansing; and Clerk, part-time Carol Willard.

Deputy Mayor Fresinski called the meeting to order at 12:22 P.M.

Trustee O'Neill spoke first about the narrow triangular wedge of land off Votapka Road which currently belongs to Edmund Votapka. O'Neill has an address for him and wondered if the Board was interested in contacting him for a quit claim deed. Reinhart stated the property could be of use to help with a driveway on St. Joseph Lane due to the size of culverts and drainage from the properties above it. Curtis stated a detention area in this location could solve the drainage issue for several properties. The potential benefits would be a retention pond for water control and also for the future. The Board wondered if Planning Board Chairman Ned Hickey knew Votapka and could speak directly with him. O'Neill stated this might also serve as Storm Water Phase II Management. Since O'Neill will not be present at the next meeting, he wanted it brought to the attention of the full Board as well as the Village attorney and engineers.

Next, Trustee O'Neill spoke on the issue of sidewalks in the Lansing Trails Subdivision. O'Neill stated there are two issues. First, painting a line along the roadway could create a sidewalk to separate pedestrian and traffic lines. This would narrow the roadways and provide a traffic calming measure and would be more economical for the builder as well as easier to maintain. O'Neill stated that new urbanists are recommending this. The drawback is that there would be no physical barrier provided between the traffic and pedestrians. Some Board members felt having a strip of grass between the sidewalk and roadway provided a better safety measure. The second issue was for the Board to consider the cost and effectiveness of a speed hump near the greenway crossing at a cost of about \$4000. O'Neill stated it is a legal and engineered means to accommodate traffic and speeds. Moore stated for traffic calming, obstruction might be needed, such as the roundabout on Plain St. installed by the City of Ithaca.

Trustee Leopold spoke of her concerns, which she has expressed to Reinhart, regarding the application of a herbicide near the guardrails. A resident who expressed concerns about this issue approached Leopold. Although the Village as a municipality, unlike private homeowners and contractors, is not required to provide notification, she feels the Village should take a pro-active approach. Leopold also noted that herbicides definitely could not be applied over waterways. It was noted that the Village Newsletter could have an article in the spring informing the residents of the use of herbicides and signs could be posted at the time of application. Fresinski stated he has seen pre-printed signs at K-Mart, which could be purchased. Another recommendation was for Reinhart to contact Chem Lawn to see where they get their signs. Reinhart stated the Village usually provides application twice a year and has used only 2.5 gallons of Round-Up in the past 7-10 years. The length of time to weed eat was also discussed as well as a natural application which is more costly and doesn't work as quickly but can kill weeds. Board members did not want to over-react to this but wanted to inform the public through the Newsletter and signage at the time of application.

Willard stated she has been working on the General Plan update, which is almost completed. The Codification document is currently in the hands of the attorney. Willard is also continuing to do fire inspections.

Lansing stated all is going well. The grass continues to grow and then gets mowed on a regular basis. Lansing and Equipment Operator Rick Beckwith have raked and disposed of all the garbage and cigarette butts at the Route 13 ramps. Leopold thanked him for taking on this project as it is never ending.

Curtis stated that there has been light commercial activity lately. The proposed building for Arleo, as well as two additional tenants, will probably be approved by the Planning Board at their next meeting. Curtis is also dealing with the County and the requirement/non-requirement of permits for projects on Brown Road. The East Hill Flying Club

holds a private lease, which would require a permit yet the County is exempt from obtaining a permit from the Village. There is a memo of understanding between the County and the Village although it is seldom utilized. Curtis is conferring with Attorney Dubow to protect the interests of the Village without having to go to court.

Curtis stated the Millcroft Subdivision is proceeding as owner Bob Miller has construction contracts for Phase 1 to begin in the fall.

Trustee Fresinski alerted everyone of critical errors, which can be found on computers for anyone with a Microsoft Windows operating system. All Village computers will be checked so the Village is not vulnerable. Fresinski stated 3rd party browsers have been recommended by some but these have also been found to have problems. Willard will update her computer as well as the computer of Clerk Dake.

Reinhart stated he and Lansing have cleared the brush in the creek by the footbridge on the greenway trail between Wakefield Drive and Coventry Walk. This required two truckloads be taken to the Town of Lansing. The dead wood and trees have also been removed from Lansing Trails. Reinhart stated that RC Wilson has made their first round through the Village to repair potholes and will be returning again on the 26th. Prior to their arrival, the 2 NYSEG gas crossings on N. Triphammer Road should be completed.

Reinhart stated that Roy Park was granted approval to place a gas line to his residence. The permit was to cross Cayuga Hills on the south side and angle to his property. UFPO was called and the lines were staked out. Instead, NYSEG made a field adjustment and placed the line down the north side of the road. The gas line now runs on top of the water line. NYSEG is agreeable to moving it but cannot do so this year. Reinhart wanted to alert the Board as this could cause problems down the road.

Reinhart stated the street sweeper is behind and will not be here this week but will get the gravel on the bridge at a later date.

Reinhart stated he and Lansing have been scraping the bus shelters and will paint them as they have not been painted in three years. Leopold was concerned about the vegetation near the bus shelter on Sheraton Drive as it provides a visibility hindrance. Reinhart stated this shelter is on private property but a private citizen could always write a letter to the owners of the property.

Finally, Reinhart stated that the vacuum cleaner currently owned by the Village recently blew up and another is needed. Research has shown that the Eureka Boss Smart is one of the top three recommended by Consumer Reports. It is sold by Sears. Willard will see if it is possible to set up a tax-exempt account there and to proceed with the purchase.

O'Neill asked about the contract repair of the greenways and Lansing Trails and Northwoods. Reinhart stated that Northwoods needs an oversized culvert and the Town of Lansing will be providing it for the Village. Regarding the erosion near 19 Janivar Drive, RC Wilson will be correcting the problem as part of their contract. RC Wilson will also be repairing the shoulders on the sides of Janivar Drive.

Moore asked about the maintenance of the trails. Reinhart stated the edges have been graded and seeded and it appears the vegetation is filling in on the sides of the greenway. This has also been confirmed by Lansing who mows there. Reinhart advised the Board to check out the greenway and see what they think.

Trustee Leopold introduced the following:

Motion - Adjournment

Trustee Leopold moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee O'Neill seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Deputy Mayor Larry Fresinski – Aye

Trustee Lynn Leopold – Aye

Trustee Frank

Moore – Aye

Trustee John O’Neill – Aye

The meeting adjourned at 1:32 P.M.

Carol J. Willard
Clerk, part-time