

**MINUTES OF GREENWAY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**June 29, 2016**

**Attended by:** Ronny Hardaway, Chair  
Phil Dankert, Member  
Monica Moll, Member  
Gerry Monaghan  
Deborah Dawson, Secretary

**Guests:** Lee Bailey, Resident, Northwoods Apartments  
John Courtney, Village of Lansing Superintendent of Public Works  
Rusty Keeler, Principal, Earthplay Design

Hardaway called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

Hardaway welcomed Lee Bailey, who introduced Rusty Keeler of Earthplay Design, a local company that designs and builds “natural playgrounds” to provide play opportunities that “connect kids to nature.” Keeler is the author of two books on natural play spaces, and Earthplay has designed several natural play areas in our area, including the “Hands-On Nature Anarchy Zone” at Ithaca’s Children’s Garden. Currently, Earthplay is working on a one-mile-long nature play trail at Letchworth State Park. Earthplay’s installations incorporate natural landscape features, wood, trees, and plant “sculptures, as well as play equipment made from natural materials, that encourage children to interact creatively with the natural environment. Keeler showed the Committee images of “tree cookies,” wooden musical instruments, obstacle courses, swings hanging from trees, tree houses, fire, stone and tree circles, and willow sculptures that have been incorporated into Earthplay’s playgrounds and trails. The company can integrate its “natural” features with more traditional playground equipment, can accommodate “community build” projects, and has worked with budgets ranging from \$500 to \$2 million. The Committee thanked Bailey and Keeler for their interest and for Keeler’s presentation. Bailey and Keeler left.

Hardaway moved the meeting to a status report on pending action items:

- Since Dennis was not present, his continuing research on permeable paving will carry over to the next meeting.
- Hardaway reported that he had prepared an informational flyer about, and had made a presentation at, the public meeting on June 6. Hardaway’s report on the feedback provided by the public at that meeting is attached hereto.
- Leopold was not present. Her action item has been moved to August pursuant to John Courtney’s recommendation.

- Moll reported on her research into public grants for park construction. Although there are not a lot of grants available to municipalities, the New York State Department of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation does have a grant program that pays 50% of the costs of municipal park projects. Application for these grants must be made via the State's Consolidated Funding Application, and the application cycle closes each year on July 29. As a practical matter, the Committee will have to plan on filing during the grant cycle that closes July 29, 2017. Moll stressed that this particular grant program requires municipal applicants to submit a detailed budget and plan; to pay its 50% of project costs up front; and to wait for grant approval before beginning construction on the project for which grant funds are sought. So, for example, if the Village plans to apply for a grant for a playground and/or nature play trail to be part of the park, it must not begin construction on those features until after grant approval. Moll indicated that land acquisition costs and design fees may be reimbursed if they fall within a specific time period before grant approval.
- Monaghan's report on the Friends of Shannon Park meeting, and the group's recommendations for the pocket park in that neighborhood, are attached hereto. Monaghan is working closely with John Courtney to minimize costs and maintenance burdens associated with the proposed rehab of the pocket park. Monaghan suggested that the Committee consider uniform "split-rail" entrances to all of the Village's parks. He offered to develop a design for the entrances.

Since Dankert and Monaghan had to leave by 4 pm, Hardaway indicated that he would send any new action items to Committee members by email.

John Courtney attended the second half of the Committee's meeting. He suggested that the Village use uniform "state bid" features – like ground-mounted benches – in all of its parks, to facilitate quick and relatively inexpensive replacement of damaged features. Courtney also advised the Committee that there are state bid play structures available. Hardaway asked Courtney for DPW's optimal "window" to work on the Dart parcel. Courtney indicated that he would like to be able to work on grading, filling, silt-fencing, and trail grubbing in the August-October time period. He also stated that now, during our drought, would be a good time to cut down dead and diseased trees on the parcel. He opined that August would be the best time for Lynn Leopold to go through the property with him to determine what trees should be retained, because stressed trees would be easiest to identify at that time.

Hardaway, Dawson, and Courtney discussed the delay in access to the Dart parcel caused by dilatory lawyering on the part of Northwoods' lender's attorneys. All expressed concern and frustration about the loss of time and progress occasioned by the delay in papering the dedication of Northwoods Road to the Village. Hardaway indicated that he would discuss the problem with Mayor Hartill. Moll reported that she had spoken with Northwoods' management, and that they

were very excited about the new park (as they should be, since it will make the Northwoods property more attractive and valuable). Moll also noted that, if the Village used the road for heavy equipment access to the Dart parcel, it might increase road maintenance costs and provide incentive to move along with the paperwork.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

**Next meeting:**           Wednesday, July 20, 2016  
                                  3:00 pm  
                                  Village Hall

**Action Items:**           Dennis to continue research on permeable paving  
                                  Monaghan to provide Shannon Park planning information:  
  Research cost and suppliers of park improvements for budget  
  planning:  
  § Split fence  
  § Benches and their slab foundations  
  § Culvert replacement via DPW  
                                  Develop model for split-rail park entrances

## BOT Public Meeting on Dart-Parcel Park – Public Feedback

About a dozen citizens attended the public meeting.

Will the trails connect to the current trail system?

- The trail will connect to the other Village trail. We may have to use some road shoulder areas to accomplish this.

Lee Bailey discussed “Last Child in the Woods”. Too many children are inside with electronics and they don’t understand their connection to nature. This helps the children to play and learn in nature.

- Lee coordinated with Rusty Keeler of Earth Play Design to have Rusty speak with us today.

Concerns about getting across Warren Road and a safe walkway along Northwoods Drive.

- Briefly discussed the plans to widen Northwood Drive once the Village assumes ownership and alternative walkways to access the new park.

Dog owners would like a dog park in the plan.

- Discussed concerns about keeping a dog park clean and the environmental issues associated with dog waste.
- Another concern is that there are never any waste-disposal bags at the dog bag station at Dankert Park. The Board will check with the DPW on this.
- Norman explained that he goes to the dog parks at Treman Park and they are pretty much self-policing. Compost bags can be provided for dog waste.
- A citizen mentioned that it takes a lot of volunteer effort to maintain a dog park.
- I plan to take a tour of the Treman dog park and will contact the managers of the park for input and guidance.
- It was also suggested that there be water for the dogs.

Concerns were raised that the Village leave as many trees as possible in the park and to keep the park as natural as possible.

- I said that the Village will identify the trees that need to come down for park and path safety.
- A stand of young ash trees will be removed for the multi-purpose sports area.
- Much of the park’s trees and natural growth will be undisturbed

A question was raised about the timeline is for the park.

- I said that this year we hope to get the infrastructure in for these facilities.
- An obstacle is the Village’s ownership and use of Northwood Drive
- We are looking into the possibility of having a “community build” playground.

I circulated a sign-up form for attendees so they would receive email notifications with status updates about the park.

## June 13th first meeting of the friends of Shannon Park -

In attendance: Jim Quest, Leslie Quest, Gale Halpern, Sachin Gupta Margaret Steinacher, Marcie Robinson, Viola Monaghan, Gerry Monaghan.

- \* Everyone was in agreement that the boulevard entrance to the Shannon Park neighborhood has become an eyesore. The trees have outgrown the space and the gravel bed is unsightly.
- Shannon Park - Keep the large open area as a multi use space so it can be used for bocce ball to frisbee to soccer.
- \* Tame clean up front of Shannon Park, tame the bushes, take out dead trees, add split rail fence along woods to define 2 entryways to the park.
- \* Hang sign identifying it as Shannon Park from fence.
- \* 2 to 4 benches could be up in the main part of the park along the tree lines. Is this something FOSP could take on as a project?
- \* Could we repair the one bench that is near the pond?
- \* It would be nice to have a picnic table or 2?
- It has been determined that most of the path does lie within the Park.
- Repair erosion around culvert.
- \* Questions were raised about whether the silting of the pond was affecting drainage problems in properties above & below the park.

Mentioned but unlikely at this time

- \* Gazebo, basketball hoop, patio & grill were mentioned. As was an attractive perimeter fence. There has been subsequent interest in a play structure which I have explained is not within the scope of what could be done until after the new park.

Mall Path part of Shannon Park

- Low level lighting
- Communicate with Mall regarding their responsibility to maintain their portion of the path safely and attractively. Remind them of their responsibility to be good neighbors.
- Recognize reality that Mall visitors regularly use the path as a place to party and to conduct illegal activities in a dark place.
- Concerns were raised about the path being a place where motorcycles cut through at night.