

MINUTES OF GREENWAY COMMITTEE MEETING
November 18, 2015

Attended by: Ronny Hardaway, Chair
Phil Dankert, Member
John Gillott, Member
Lynn Leopold, Member
Gerry Monaghan, Member
Deborah Dawson, Secretary

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

No members of the public were in attendance.

Before the members resumed their review of the existing Greenway Plan (“Old Plan”), they agreed that the Committee ought to simply start over “from scratch” to draft a new Greenway Plan (“New Plan”). The primary reason for this conclusion is that Village infrastructure has undergone substantial changes and additions since the Old Plan was adopted.

Dankert and Leopold stated that the Old Plan was drafted with a State grant and with a great deal of guidance and assistance from the Tompkins County Planning Department; Leopold and Monaghan noted that the Planning Department was still available to help with the New Plan.

Dawson asked the members to complete the Committee’s analysis of the Old Plan.

Design and Construction Guidelines: The members agreed that the degree of specificity with which the Old Plan described construction materials and methods for paths, etc., was unnecessary, since the Village had since acquired a wealth of experience in constructing public paths and park spaces and had developed construction standards for such purposes. The Committee concluded that the New Plan could simply recommend that upgrades and new construction comply with existing technical and safety standards. Leopold and Monaghan added that compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act should also be recommended, and everyone agreed that ADA compliance and universal access will be goals under the New Plan.

The members agreed that the cost data included in this section of the Old Plan should be retained and updated in the New Plan.

Implementation Guide: The members agreed that this section of the Old Plan should be retained, but thoroughly updated. This process will likely require review by, and substantial input from, the Village Attorney. All members agreed that a thorough and updated discussion of

liability and maintenance obligations will be needed, and should be a useful “selling point” in negotiating with landowners.

Dawson noted that the Village has approximately \$980,000 set aside for green space and parks; Leopold suggested that monies from that fund might be used for the purchase of development rights (“PDR”) from large landowners. (The PDR tool is a relatively new one that was not discussed in the Old Plan. We will need a legal analysis in order to include it in the New Plan.) Dankert and Leopold stated that they would not support the use of eminent domain to acquire land for paths, parks, and open spaces, and everyone agreed that it should not be included in the New Plan. Finally, the members agreed that the Committee should explore alternative sources of funding, including contributions from Village residents and businesses, for the development of public green spaces, especially parks.

The members offered some general observations on drafting the New Plan, including the following:

- The “village center” concept discussed in the Old Plan is moot. However, the New Plan may include recommendations for greenway-related use of the new “Village Campus” on N.Triphammer Road.
- Recommendations for planning, funding, and developing the new park on the Dart parcel recently acquired by the Village will be an urgent priority, since Mayor Hartill wants to start clearing space for that park next spring.
- Monaghan asked the members to consider whether the Committee’s process should focus on connectivity or “hubs.” The Old Plan identified ways to connect various destinations in the Village, and this Committee had initially thought that was a desirable place to start its work. Monaghan suggested that the Committee first identify and evaluate the green and open “hubs” that the Village already has, and then develop a greenway plan based on linking those hubs and other destinations in the Village.
- Monaghan further suggested that the Village could use interested groups of residents to support and maintain “hubs” (and related paths and greenways) in their immediate neighborhoods, *e.g.*, in Shannon Park and Lansing Trails. He opined that a “Friends of Shannon Park” group would provide enthusiastic support for any recommendations relating to the neighborhood’s parks and trails.

The Committee identified the following recreational and green space “hubs” in the Village:

- the Beck Development Exaction;
- the trails and green spaces in the Business and Technology Park;
- Dankert Park;
- the Dart parcel;
- the proposed green space in the Lansing Meadows PDA;
- the pocket park(s) in the Lansing Trails neighborhood;

- the trail through the medical campus southeast of Route 13 and Warren Road;
- the proposed park and trails in the Millcroft development;
- Poison Ivy Point;
- the trails in Sapsucker Woods;
- the pocket park in the Shannon Park neighborhood;
- the green space in the Twin Glens neighborhood; and
- Village Park.

The Committee will have to evaluate these hubs to determine whether they are accessible and useful as public green spaces (*e.g.*, the Beck Development Exaction is a steep ravine; access to Poison Ivy Point is blocked by the railroad; and the green space in the Twin Glens neighborhood is privately owned). Hardaway will assign hubs to individual Committee members for evaluation. Dankert will evaluate Dankert and Village Parks; Gillott will evaluate the Lansing Trails and Millcroft trails and parks; and Monaghan will evaluate Shannon Park’s pocket park and adjacent trails. Once that evaluation is complete, the Committee will assess the existing and potential trail and sidewalk connections between the usable green space hubs, between Village neighborhoods and shopping areas, and between Village hubs and destinations and trail systems in the Towns of Dryden, Lansing, and Ithaca, and the Village of Cayuga Heights. The members agreed that the New Plan will recommend two trail systems, one on either side of Route 13, since the Committee does not want to propose a plan that would encourage people to try to cross Route 13 on foot.

On a motion by Gillot, seconded by Monaghan, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm.

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

Action items: Hardaway to set up a Committee “page” on Village website
Hardaway to assign “hubs” to members for evaluation
Members to develop proposed “Goals” for New Plan