

MINUTES OF GREENWAY COMMITTEE MEETING
March 30, 2016

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

Guests: Katrina Binkewicz, Town of Lansing Councilperson

Hardaway called the meeting to order at 3:07 pm.

No members of the public were in attendance.

Hardaway welcomed Katrina Binkewicz, a member of the Lansing Town Board. Binkewicz has been active in the Town's trails initiative, and has an open invitation to attend the Committee's meetings whenever she can.

The members reported on their action items:

- Gillott spoke with the owner of the Millcroft properties ("Mr. Miller"). The Millcroft II property has been on the market for over a year. Miller is willing to attend the Committee's April meeting to discuss trails/paths/easements in the Millcroft I development. Gillott will invite Mr. Miller to attend the next Committee meeting on April 27.
- Dankert spoke with architect Tom Schickel, who recommended three landscape architects as contact persons for park design: Rick Manning (designer of Ithaca's Waterfront Trail); Paula Horrigan (Cornell); and Peter Trowbridge. Schickel told Dankert that the Committee should have a fairly definite set of ideas for the new park before contacting architects and park planners.
- Monaghan provided photos of the YMCA's "trail" maps. He and Binkewicz noted that all of the Y's "trails" involve running on fairly busy roads and streets, because the Village simply does not have a comprehensive "off street" trail system. Creating and identifying such a system is a goal of the Committee.
- Dawson reported on a meeting that she and Hardaway attended with Ed LaVigne, Mike Long, and members of the Town trails initiative on March 7.
 - One of the main topics at the meeting was the possibility of connecting the Town trails with the Village trails and streets by creating a low-maintenance crushed stone trail along the east side of N.Triphammer Road

from Burdick Hill Road to the end of the Village sidewalk, just north of Craft Road. This could be funded with a grant from the Regional Economic Development Council. The annual grant cycle requires that Consolidated Fund Applications be submitted in July/August; the Committee could aim to submit a CFA in 2017, which would allow time for the Village to obtain the necessary easements. The REDC requires that grants be administered by a municipality or a 501(c)(3) organization; the grant could be administered by the Village or by the Village and the Town jointly.

- The Town's planner, Mike Long, advised that "free" park planning services by Cornell students could be obtained through the University's DesignConnect program for a one-time fee of \$400. He stated that the Committee should develop definite design parameters before contacting this program. He also suggested contacting Peter Trowbridge, who heads up Cornell's landscape design program.

Dankert suggested that the Committee explore the possibility of obtaining grant funding from "Parks and Trails New York." He will provide that organization's contact information directly to Hardaway.

Hardaway "unveiled" the Committee's new BIG MAP! The members used it to discuss placement of a trail connecting Burdick Hill Road to the end of the Village sidewalk. Hardaway plans to get the map laminated so that it will be more useful.

Hardaway steered the discussion to the Village's parks. A major priority of the Committee should be the new park to be constructed on the Dart parcel, since the Mayor wants to start work on the park this summer. The Mayor proposes to leave a lot of space on the site untouched and "wild." Leopold stated that the woods on the site are in very poor condition, and should be cleared. However, she noted that as much as half of the site is swampy; the swampy areas can be left alone and comprise natural areas or "wild space."

Some of the members' suggestions for the new park included a playground, playing fields, and trails. Dawson suggested a "community build" playground like the one in Myers Park. Play by Design, a local company, provided the plans and materials for the Myers playground. Binkewicz said that another local company, Parkitects, run by Steve and Dianne Lauzon, also provides plans and materials for community built playgrounds. In addition to community volunteers, the Committee should also explore options for community donations to the park fund. The members debated which, if any, types of playing fields the new park might include. The consensus seemed to be that, since Dankert Park already has a soccer field, a softball field would be a valuable component of the new park. There was some disagreement about the desirability of

playing fields, due to the maintenance costs associated with them. Hardaway noted that the Committee should seek input from John Courtney's department to determine maintenance requirements and costs. Dankert noted that the basketball court is the most heavily used installation in Dankert Park, which indicates that the new park should include a basketball court. Finally, it was agreed that the Committee should try to survey the neighborhood residents to see what they want included in their park.

The members agreed that Dankert/Village Park must be updated. Monaghan will visit these parks and make a preliminary assessment of what they need by way of new equipment and repairs.

Monaghan also proposed that the Committee assess the pocket park in the Shannon Park neighborhood to determine what improvements could/should be made so that the park would be usable for all Village residents. He will use the Friends of Shannon Park listserv to solicit volunteers to clean up the park and other open spaces and paths in the neighborhood. Committee members will participate.

Monaghan also expressed concern about lighting and safety on the path between the Ithaca Mall and Shannon Park, but it was agreed that those issues should be addressed by the Village Board of Trustees.

The Committee's primary goals are:

- planning the new park and upgrading the existing parks;
- upgrading the Village trail system;
- connecting the Village and Town trail systems; and
- developing a plan for maintaining landscaping on Village properties.

Since summer will soon be here, and the Mayor is eager to start on the new park, the Committee's first priority will be park planning and repairs.

It was agreed that Committee members will conduct a "field trip" to the Dart park parcel on Tuesday, April 5, at 4:30 pm, and then move on to the Shannon Park pocket park. Binkewicz and Jody Duke will join the trip.

Committee members will also participate in yard work around the Village Hall from 3:00-4:30 pm on Wednesday, April 14, with students from Learning Web.

Hardaway adjourned the meeting at 4:25 pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 27
3:00 pm
Village Hall

Action items: Dankert to provide contact info for Parks and Trails New York
Gillott to invite Miller to next meeting
Hardaway to get BIG MAP laminated
Mohaghan to assess needs at Dankert/Village Park
All members: “field trip” 4:30 pm April 5
All members: yard work at Village Hall 3:00 pm April 13