

Village of Lansing
Board of Trustees & Planning Board
Joint Meeting
January 28, 2014

The joint meeting of the Village of Lansing Planning Board and the Village of Lansing Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:37 P.M. by Planning Board Chairman Mario Tomei and Mayor Donald Hartill. Present at the meeting were Planning Board Chairman Mario Tomei; Planning Board Members, Maria Stycos, Lisa Schleelein, John Kanter, Alternate Deborah Dawson; Mayor Don Hartill; Trustees John O’Neill, Lynn Leopold, Patricia O’Rourke and Julie Baker; Also present were Village Attorney David Dubow; Code Enforcement Officer Marty Moseley; Clerk/Treasurer Jodi Dake

Tomei appointed Dawson in place of Dankert as a voting member for tonight’s meeting.

Public Comment Period

Mario Tomei opened the public comment period at 7:38pm. Dan Veanor suggested that the Village invest in a good sound system for the new Village Office. Marty suggested that this may be accomplished through the video screens that have been installed. Mayor Hartill stated that he agrees that the air handling system makes it difficult to hear in the conference room. We are very sensitive to sound and the air handlers are loud. Hartill plans to have the architect come down to witness the situation and get it sorted out. Once this is rectified it will be nice. There were no further comments.

Motion- To Close the Public Comment Period

Dawson moved to close the public hearing. Schleelein seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Chair Mario Tomei-Aye
Maria Stycos -Aye
Lisa Schleelein-Aye

Deborah Dawson-Aye
Jon Kanter-Aye

Mayor Hartill stated that the main item on the agenda was to discuss the proposed updates to the Comprehensive Plan (CP). Hartill thought it would be useful to have a round table discussion as to where we are, what we have discovered, and how much we have to do to complete this project. The process will involve going through the chapters in the CP and having each group report on its progress.

A little added history on “How did we get here...”

Back in April of 2012 the Trustees and Planning Board members were assigned sections of the Village of Lansing Comprehensive Plan to review and make recommendations for changes that reflect the current makeup of the Village. The last time the Comprehensive Plan was updated was in 2005 and the completion of the next scheduled update is targeted for 2015. Dubow stated, back in April of 2012, that State Law provides enabling

language for the creation of a Comprehensive Plan. Updating one's Plan is largely a community decision as to when it needs to be updated. It was stated that planning professionals suggest every ten years. Information from the 2010 census is being used to update the Plan along with studies and surveys that have been completed since that time. The following pages were assigned to each Trustee who teamed up with a Planning Board Member and community volunteers:

- Pages 1-20 Julie Baker, Jon Kanter, Yasamin Miller
- Pages 21-39 Don Hartill, Mario Tomei
- Pages 40-53 John O'Neill, Maria Stycos
- Pages 54-70 Lynn Leopold, Phil Dankert
- Pages 71-82 Patricia O'Rourke, Lisa Schleelein, Deborah Dawson

The original Comprehensive Plan word document was sent to each Trustee so that they could make suggested corrections, updates and track the changes. It is also available on the Village website www.vlansing.org under Village News, Reports, Village of Lansing Comprehensive Plan. Several groups provided suggested updates that were emailed to each board member of the two Boards, and hard copies were available at the meeting.

Comprehensive Plans have two objectives, one is to give you a snapshot of what your municipality looks like at this point in time with the data you have, and the other is to identify changes that may have occurred and establish updated goals and recommendations.

Chapters 1- Population and Economic Profile & Chapter 2-Resources

Julie Baker presented their assigned chapters. She explained that they have created a draft with bullets of high points of all the data. Baker did the data gathering and then had the additional data from the Study. There may be demographic information that might be pertinent to other chapters that they did not pull out, which information she can make available to others. This group spent most of its time on demographics since Chapter 2 is on focused on natural resources that don't change much. They will look into getting some better maps from Tompkins County. There isn't anything too surprising in the demographics. There has been slow but steady growth. Gaslight and Sevanna Park are now partially townhouses which would explain the decrease in the number of rental units in the Village. Hartill added that housing in the County is flat and didn't take the hit other parts of the country took. Hartill added that he also has Tompkins County emergency response information. They kept both Village and Town data in the charts. Julie is to add some information to clarify certain information relevant to the Village and the area of the Town outside the Village.

The Board members questioned why some of the information was even included in the Comprehensive Plan when it was first created. Tomei asked if any of the current Board members was here when the first Comprehensive Plan was done. Hartill and Stycos were on the Board. Tomei thought it would be useful if as we continue the update process we could give reasons as to why some of these issues were important back then. Dawson added that if it was the first Comprehensive Plan done, it may be that they weren't quite

sure what should or shouldn't be included. A lot of the data does seem necessary given the purpose of the Plan. The Plan is our view of the Village and will guide the Boards in making decisions.

Kanter feels it is good for the community to have a profile in front of it. Schleelein stated that some topics are very detailed and her group struggled with this because they feel the Plan is a guideline.

Dubow stated that the purpose of the Plan is to create an outline of what the Village wants to see itself as. This useful document, which focuses primarily on land use, should reflect on what the Village should be doing over the next 10 years. The authority for a Comprehensive Plan is from the land use and zoning provisions in the Village Law.

There has been a significant increase in people 55 years and over, which is something to be addressed. The Boards may want to look to see if the trend will continue and what the Village will want to target. This information will be used to determine how we want the Village to be developed.

Stycos feels the most important part is where we are going. As far as history, we definitely need to include the last census of 2010 and the 2000 census to compare it to. Kanter pointed out that the population comparison goes back to 1940. It doesn't have to be in the new document, but it will still be available.

Chapters 3-Housing & Chapter 4-Commercial and Business Centers

Hartill stated that he and Tomei have statistics now that they didn't have before. The tables in Chapters 3 and 4 will be updated, but there isn't much more than that for their section. They plan to add some things from the business polling that was done in December. Hartill stated that businesses liked having the Trustees come around to get their opinions. There were a few businesses that wanted bigger signage. A total of 77 businesses returned the survey.

Tomei stated that their chapters have statistics on housing and commercial uses. They are using the information they received from the 2010 census and Town of Lansing data they received from Kanter. There are 3 tasks they have. The first is to update the 2000 to 2010 census information. Secondly, they will look at the goals that are in there and try to eliminate the ones that are outdated. Thirdly, they will add new goals based on trends we start to see in the Village.

In the Commercial chapter the statistics have changed. There is currently 5% vacant land in the Village compared to 15% in 2000. The Thaler's property on Sheraton Dr. is the only vacant land in the CHT District. The Board has discussed breaking down the CLT District into two sections based upon new and more recent development and differences in the business areas. The CP can provide the rationale for this to work.

Dubow stated that it would be best for the CP to be somewhat uniform so as to create some consistency in this overall process.

Chapter 5-Transportation & Chapter 6-Community Facilities

John O'Neill and Maria Stycos have eliminated traffic volumes and updated census figures. Page numbers will need to be reassessed. Stycos stated that the Tompkins County figures are correct, but they need to go back and update the Village numbers. Regarding walking and biking, there was a little bit of history which they left as part of the CP and that they felt was still relevant. Updated new information was to be added. The North Triphammer Road Reconstruction was an important event so they didn't remove it. It was agreed to keep this section short. Everything from the beginning was planned so she thought it was an important land mark.

Mayor Hartill stated that he would like each small group to work to get their data updated, after which a smaller group would take this information to make the Comprehensive Plan uniform and consistent.

O'Neill feels that updating the Greenway Plan should be a goal. They will add any new bike paths that have been added since 2005. A map can be added that shows our trails instead of having a listing.

O'Neill stated that he received an email from John Courtney stating that he doesn't think that we should have water/sewer infrastructure maps included in the Comprehensive Plan because of security issues. The Board agreed not to publish the water/sewer infrastructure maps, but stated they still should be available to the staff. Details on the water infrastructure need to be updated. We have removed the Village ground tank at the airport and Oakcrest area, and added twin tanks at Burdick. Hartill stated that our water infrastructure is in good shape and there is currently no need for improvement. There are some sewer matters that may bear on land use and development.

Village owned green space pockets should be included on a map. It was asked if Courtney would do that for us. Moseley stated that we have the tax map that shows this. Moseley has been working with Tompkins County to get various updated maps from their GIS Department.

When talking about medical facilities it was questioned how much is necessary for Comprehensive Plan guidance. It was decided that a simple statement that there are a variety of medical services that adequately service the Village would be added.

Dubow stated that one of the questions that should be asked is: Do you want to change what may or may not be an issue? The Comprehensive Plan should guide us as to how to handle an issue for the next 10 years. Think about whether the Comprehensive Plan is accurate enough to use. The example he used was medical facilities: Do you want them located all over the Village or in a certain area? Should we change something? Should we look at long term provisions? Those are the types of issues that could be discussed.

Chapter 7-Goals and Recommendations

Leopold stated that there are a lot more goals to be added to the CP, but is unsure where to put the goals. It was decided that the goals will be located in each chapter and then have an executive summary at the beginning. The chapter devoted to goals will be deleted and the goals will be given to each chapter that relates to that topic.

As far as goals, Dankert and Leopold would like to add a couple of things under natural resources:

- Stormwater management should be added since it is now a requirement.
- Under transportation, we should encourage bike travel. This can be done by designated lanes on roads. They are marked on N Triphammer Rd. but not actually designated on other roads.
- Under community facilities it would be nice to mention principals of sustainability --- ways the Village can provide encouragement.
- Add a sustainability section.

Chapter 8-Village Plan

Deborah Dawson stated that their group had a problem because their section didn't seem to have organization and focus. They submitted the following comments to the Boards:

The one thing that all three of them noticed in their review of the "old" Plan was that its specificity made it remarkably outdated. This was particularly the case where it referred to the "1993 Village of Lansing Greenway Plan" and the "Green Space Advisory Committee." Moreover, references to specific intersections and area connections, *e.g.*, on page 75 of the Plan, served only to emphasize that the Plan was either outdated or had not been implemented fully. Accordingly, they sought to avoid very specific recommendations in their updates except where immediately identifiable and/or localized problems require attention.

The broad statements of "Goals" and recommendations for implementing those Goals are, in any event, more consistent with the purpose of a Comprehensive Plan. As they understand it, the Comprehensive Plan should be an aspirational framework with reference to which the Board of Trustees, the Planning Board and the Board of Zoning Appeals can evaluate and reach decisions on the issues before them. It was explained that their "updates" are designed to provide such a framework.

Finally, the "Provision of Sewer" and "Capital Plan" sections of the Plan (pages 79 and 81) discuss factual issues with which none of their group was familiar. They felt that updating these sections of the Plan will require a level of technical expertise that the average Trustee, Planning Board member and/or citizen does not possess. Moreover, it seems unlikely that these are the only sections of the Plan that will require such expertise. Accordingly, they believe that the Comprehensive Plan review and update process should include procedures for

requesting and receiving factual information and technical assistance where it is needed.

The conclusion was that they ended up taking this chapter and reducing it into its elements. They wrote out goals and actions to achieve those goals. Much of this section referred to the Village's outdated Greenway Plan. Dawson suggested that a new greenway advisory committee be appointed to come up with a new plan. Review existing proposals. Encourage walking and biking.

Dawson inquired as to the extent to which we should work with TCAT to try and encourage the bus routes. Hartill stated that there is an organization ITCTC. Hartill is on the policy committee and Kanter is on the planning committee. Basically, the focus is how you spend State and Federal money on roads. The reconstruction of Cayuga Heights Bridge will go through that. North Triphammer Road Reconstruction went through that. The interaction with TCAT is not direct. TCAT gets funding through that source to purchase new buses. Hartill stated that it was hard to get a route to the airport and mall because they felt it would take away from downtown merchants. The bus service started with Cornell University and now they are looking into outlying routes. Ridership is increasing. Ithaca Share is another new program that share cars. There was an effort to distribute bike maps. Dart Drive now has bike path on one side. Oakcrest Road now provides walking and biking on both sides.

Dubow stated that the Village is working on a lighting plan. He also suggested that the Village may be resolving the public access issues regarding Kensington and Coventry Walk. Hartill stated that we are making excellent progress on this access issue.

The Comprehensive Plan talks about the idea of a Village Center. It was questioned whether this was still an issue. Hartill suggested that we get rid of that because it has resolved itself in another way. We now have a new fire station, senior housing is planned for across the street on Oakcrest Rd., we have a new administration building and garage, shopping, YMCA. It was suggested that we should mention that there will be a community room in the conference room area of the old office building and that there are 20 acres of green area along Coventry walk which will be a mirror image of Dankert Park.

It was suggested that the Greenway Committee be recreated to work with the Town. Hartill stated that we have added a lot of inventory to our greenway. There is a new path to Bolton Point. He feels one of our goals should be to get together with the railroad to try and get an agreement to allow people to walk across the tracks to Poison Ivy Point.

Leopold questioned once again whether there should be a separate section for goals or if each section should have its own goals. Leopold's group updated what they knew but suggested that others give them input. Instead of Chapter 8 being goals, maybe it should be an executive summary and moved to the front. Schleelein feels we have a structure issue here.

Leopold asked what the point of Chapter 8 was. She questioned how it fit into the Comprehensive Plan. It references the General Plan. It is almost like an appendix. Mayor Hartill stated that if it repeats what is already there then remove it. This section is way too specific. It was decided to delete Chapter 8. We need to stay general. Some information can go to other chapters. Leopold stated that they would send their information to each group that is already dealing with the topic so it can be incorporated into each chapter.

Tomei-NYS Department of State-what are the goals and recommendations on how to reach those goals? Organize their sections under the goals they are related to.

The Mayor felt this was a very useful exercise. The Boards were instructed to continue their efforts to complete their sections. We will then elect people to put the whole thing together. Hartill would like everyone's updates in one month.

Chairman Tomei entertained a motion for the Planning Board to adjourn their meeting. Moved by Stycos, second by Dawson. All Ayes. The Planning Board adjourned at 9:04 pm.

Mayor Hartill entertained a motion for the Board of Trustees to adjourn their meeting.

Motion- To Adjourn Trustees

Trustee Leopold moved for adjournment. Trustee Baker seconded the motion to adjourn. A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye
Trustee John O'Neill-Aye
Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

Trustee Julie Baker-Aye
Trustee Lynn Leopold-Aye

The Board of Trustees adjourned at 9:04 pm.