

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Thursday, August 14, 2014, in the Village Office.

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Lynn Leopold; Trustees Patricia O'Rourke, John O'Neill, Gerry Monaghan; Code & Zoning Officer, Marty Moseley; Supt. of Public Works, John Courtney; Asst. Supt. of Public Works, Adam LaLonde; MEO, Nolan Hatfield; Fire Inspector, Brian Quadrozzi.

Deputy Mayor Leopold called the meeting to order at 12:07pm. Bernd Blossey was present to discuss our hunting program. Leopold stated that there are some issues to discuss before we begin our hunt. One is extending our program to include a nuisance permit. This will be something that needs to be discussed with the Mayor and Dubow present. The season starts October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Blossey previously sent the following report to the Board:

**Village of Lansing Deer Hunting Report for 2013/14 by Bernd Blossey**

**Background**

2013 was the 7<sup>th</sup> year that the village has implemented deer reduction efforts using bow hunting. Initially all village permits were DMAP permits (Deer Management Assistant Permits) in addition to permits individual hunters had in their possession. Since 2012/13 the establishment of a Deer Management Focus Area (DMFA) in much of Tompkins County by the DEC eliminated the need for DMAP tags allowing each hunter to take 2 antlerless deer/day. In addition a 3-week late January season for antlerless deer only was added for the DMFA. Landowner participation in the deer management program of VOL has risen since inception (Table 1) and so have deer harvest rates, except for the 2013/14 (Table 1)

**2013-14 Deer harvest statistics:**

During the past season 13 different hunters harvested 49 deer, a significant drop from the 65 deer harvested in the two previous seasons. Many more hunters participated making a 221 trips for a total of approximately 450 volunteer hours (only hours in stand are counted). This equates to about 10 hours needed to harvest a deer. This compares extremely favorable to the 50-80 hours hunters spend in the Cornell earn-a-buck program to harvest a deer (including the gun season). The reduced harvest rate was, in part, a function of poor and very cold weather in the January 2014 season limiting the number of trips our participants took (10).

**Table 1:** Properties/groups of properties and deer harvest rates in VOL since 2007. (Only properties with harvests are listed. A – indicates that the property was not part of the portfolio in a particular year.

Property	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Leopold	11	2	5	9	3	2	1
Lempert/Uphoff	-	-	7	7	4	8	4
Bieri/Adelson	-	-	21	6	22	10	13
Sreet/Butler/Dennis	-	-	-	21	14	14	4
Autumn Ridge	-	-	-	-	13	2	8
Park/Cayuga Heights Road	-	-	-	-	4	7	1
Route 13 (Playground)	-	-	-	-	5	2	5
Abrams	-	-	-	-	-	1	0

Bomax	-	-	-	-	-	6	3
Spanswick	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Swearingen	-	-	-	-	-	3	0
Seacord	-	-	-	-	-	2	0
<b>Total</b>	11	2	33	43	65	65	49

The harvest rate during the regular season (47) was identical to the 2012/13 season, but instead of 18 deer harvested in the DMFA season the previous year, only 2 were harvested in January 2014. The doe to buck ratio continues to be extremely favorable and we have seen a considerable drop in fawn harvests. Observation by participants and landowners also suggest that deer numbers are lower than in previous years before hunting began and we no longer see extremely large groups.

**Age and sex distribution:**

Adults: 41  
 Fawns: 8  
 Does: 37  
 Bucks: 12

**Time of harvest:**

Regular season (October to December 2013): 47  
 DMFA season (January 2013): 2

We have increased the number of participating properties in 2013/14 but several of these (for example Dean on East Shore Drive) were not hunted due to the poor January weather.

**Please note:**

1. The state has passed a change in the discharge distance, which will greatly facilitate our activities in the village. For bows the discharge distance was lowered to 150' (from 500'). For crossbows the discharge distance was lowered to 250' (should the village consider allowing use of crossbows).
2. Jay Boulanger has left Cornell to take up an Assistant Professor position at the University of North Dakota. We will discuss within the group of hunters how to distribute coordination activities at our organizational meeting in August (date TBD).
3. Using bait-and-shoot and nuisance permits, we were able to reduce the deer population on the Cornell campus by 45% within a single season.
4. The village of Cayuga Heights has completed their sterilization program greatly reducing the production of fawns. This will reduce the population pressure and dispersal of deer into VOL
5. The TCCOG has established a committee to review deer management county-wide and the committee will propose to pass a resolution to approach deer management region wide.

**Recommendations for changes in VOL deer management**

As detailed in previous reports, we have been able to harvest significant numbers of deer in VOL. However, while numbers are clearly down, and browse damage is reduced, the deer population in the village still clearly exceeds what could be deemed ecologically acceptable. The reduced discharge distance will enable use of properties and areas previously prohibited due to objections by adjacent landowners, but this will not solve all of our access problems. Deer also become quickly alert to hunter presence, particularly in areas consistently overused (Street/Butler/Dennis properties) and change their travel patterns. In addition, we continue to see that very few hunters harvest the majority of the deer. Therefore we propose that the board of trustees consider the following recommendations:

1. Open all village owned properties to hunting, including those behind the village offices and those adjacent to Dart Drive
2. Approach the owners of Sundown farms to allow nuisance hunting, if not regular hunting. The objections appeared to be related to the use of bows. If the owners would only allow use of guns, consider approving this for a period of time(s) before or after the regular hunting season using nuisance permits. We can assist by selecting a few individuals who are proficient and safe gun hunters among our bow hunters. The alternative would be to allow a contractor to come and shoot the deer, depending how the owners like to proceed. Sundown farms is the single largest refuge and production place for deer in the village.
3. Consider implementation of sole, or at least additional nuisance hunting using the extremely successful bait-and-shoot approach. According to discussions with Steve Joule, regional wildlife manager of the DEC, an early September period and a period after the late January season is preferred. This would involve only landowners who agree to this activity and we would select strategic properties spread through the village according to deer activity. Baiting would occur using corn or apples and shooting (bows only!) would occur in the late evening and after dark using supplemental lights (until 11PM as stipulated in DEC regulations). We would select a few of our current participants. This approach has been extremely effective in the Cornell program and should allow a considerable further drop in the VOL deer population.

The option of sole nuisance hunting would eliminate the use of regular hunting in the village, something the DEC may not like to see and it would require discussions, given that hunting has been part of deer management for a few years now, albeit not sufficiently effective. It also would be difficult to maintain hunter participation as this would be for antlerless deer only, or if bucks are targeted, antlers would need to be sawed off and delivered to the DEC.

Using nuisance hunting (bait-and-shoot, approach) is the quickest, easiest and most effective approach we can recommend. Maintaining hunter participation and effort has continued to be a problem as most individuals harvest a few deer and then resort to other activities – except for a few dedicated individuals. We are hesitant to increase recruitment of additional hunters; we instead like to pursue the nuisance route using the proficient individuals we already have among our participants.

Use of a September season would be impossible to implement for 2014 due to time constraints, but should be considered for fall 2015. An application should be considered for after the end of the DMFA season in January 2015 to run from 2/1/2015-3/31/2015 or even to 4/31/2015. The use of bait and evening and night activities would enable continued daytime use of all properties without inconveniencing landowners or recreational users. Activities would be spread out to prevent alerting deer and allow participants to structure their time over a longer season. We have successfully used trail camera's to pattern deer use of bait. This allows targeted approaches when deer are likely to be encountered at bait making hunters more efficient and preventing waste of time.

I will be available to further explain the nuisance approach and detail experiences in the Cornell program.

It was explained during the meeting that the big change for this year is that this is the first season that the State has changed the distance for discharging a bow from 500 feet to 150 feet from a dwelling. The discharge distance for crossbows is 250 feet. We do not currently allow cross bows. If this change is incorporated this will open up some more hunting opportunities.

Every year, permission is received in writing to hunt or retrieve deer off individual properties. Another proposal is to have this revised to permit existing landowner agreements and future agreements to be automatically renewed and continued year to year unless either the Board of Trustees or the affected Village property owner advises the other party in writing that the agreement in question shall be terminated. This would

eliminate a huge job of getting signatures every year. Bernd will draft an article for the Village's fall newsletter.

Bernd would also like to see the Village open up some or all of the Village properties for hunting. This would include behind the garage and between Dankert Park and Dr. Arleo's Office where there are many good opportunities for taking deer. Courtney was concerned about allowing hunting on our property that have trails through them. The exact areas where hunting may occur will be discussed. The Village property could be part of the regular season or the Village may want to have it be only part of a nuisance permit.

The Board hopes to get this information to Dubow to write a proposed local law to present at the August 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. If the Board agrees to the proposal, a public hearing can be set for September 15<sup>th</sup>.

O'Neill asked if a nuisance permit would replace the current hunting program. Blossey clarified that it would be in addition to the current hunting program. The Village has the option of just having a nuisance permit but the NYSDEC would probably not like that because for seven years the Village has had a successful hunting program. Blossey suggested that this year the Village open the nuisance hunting between the seasons or after the January season. It is an additional tool to get the bucks.

Courtney stated that Dart Drive is almost complete. They have grass growing along Dart Drive. The Village has been battling rain and erosion in the Bomax and Bolton Estate areas. Most areas have been fixed. The State is dealing with water issues on East Shore Drive. We are winding down with the bigger projects and are doing smaller projects such as park mowing, Round Up on various guardrails and sidewalks.

Monaghan stated that he sees there is a bill for all that weeding that was done on Becket Way but you can't even tell it was done because the weeds are all back. Bellisario did the garden work. Courtney stated that we bid that out. Courtney stated that next year he will take a different approach and try to bid it out.

Adam stated that Round-Up works the best in the rock area on Becket Way. If they wouldn't have been doing the big projects they would have done it themselves earlier in the year.

Leopold stated that we need to take care of the dead trees along N. Triphammer. Courtney stated that they haven't had time to have trees trimmed. Leopold stated that we need to choose the correct species of tree to plant, something that doesn't have to be trimmed. Dave Fernandez of Cayuga Landscape is the best person in the area to ask. Courtney questioned why the trees were dead.

Quadrozzi is happy as to the results he is getting during inspections. People now know what to expect when they have an inspection and it makes the process go much faster.

Leopold stated that Dake had left her a list of items that need to be completed. Unfortunately, she is not here today because her grandmother is in the hospital. Leopold stated that the Board needs to do a budget transfer to cover the over expenditure of having Bellisario cleaning up our gardens under the contract that is meant for highway and emergency work. Dake has suggested that \$5,000 be transferred from A5110.14, Summer Laborer to A8510.4, Community Beautification.

Resolution #6089-To Do a Budget Transfer of \$5,000 from A5110.14, Transportation, Street Maintenance, Summer Laborer to A8510.4, Community Beautification, Contractual.

Trustee Monaghan moved the budget transfer. Trustee O'Neill seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Deputy Mayor Lynn Leopold-Aye	Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye
Trustee John O'Neill -Aye	Trustee Gerry Monaghan-Aye

Leopold stated that the next item that Dake would like the Board to discuss is the kind of sign they would like to have out front. Leopold stated that the new sign on the front of the building looks very crisp, very nice. The Board decided that they do not want to set a precedent by having a LED sign. The sign proposed by Cayuga Sign will have information panels that slide in and will be back lit.

Courtney worried about a scratched sign and the fact that there are utilities in the ground in that area. He doesn't want a new sign that will block visibility as you pull out of the driveway. Courtney talked to Dave Putnam, a TG Miller engineer, today and he doesn't know how you will get a post in the ground with all the utilities that are located in that area. Courtney thought that we had talked about putting a sign on the front of the building.

Monaghan asked if we should look into how to make a simpler sign. Moseley stated that we aren't proposing to move the sign, only adding another pole to support the weight. O'Neill stated that we should call UFPO to mark the utilities, that way we would know if we will have a problem installing another post.

Leopold thinks this design is very clean. She doesn't want lights that shine up. Leopold likes the idea of having small LED lighting around the original sign that shine on it with a halo effect. Courtney thinks that the area is light enough so that we don't need to light our Village Sign. Marty has the as-builts showing the utilities in that area. Moseley stated that the Planning Board is concerned with the current sign because it has the wrong time for their scheduled meetings. Courtney doesn't like Cayuga Sign. He tried to get them to do park signs for him but they didn't get back to him. He doesn't think he is very creative and that we should get ideas from other sign companies. The sign discussion was tabled.

Moseley stated that he got an update from Edger, the General Contractor on the Administrative Building Project, and they will be here next week. Edger's landscape/site

work will be done by the end of next week. Sidewalk replacement will be done by the end of September. Moseley spoke with Liz Prugh of Cayuga Landscape and they will start our landscape work at the end of September. Moseley has informed Edger that if their portion of the landscaping isn't complete before this it will be their responsibility to repair any of the Cayuga Landscaping work that they damage.

O'Neill was concerned with the utilities around the building and the plantings. Moseley stated that when Cayuga Landscape was coming up with our landscape plan they took into consideration where the utilities are.

Leopold stated that there are two change orders that need to be approved. Moseley stated that Change Order GC-017 for \$9,708 actually came in under the number previously proposed and Hartill negotiated Change Order GC-018.

Resolution#6090-To Accept the Following Two Change Orders to the Administrative Building Project:

GC-017-Add storm Modifications-\$9,708

GC-018-Add Cut Opening Behind Refrigerator and Infill Existing-\$930

Trustee Monaghan moved to accept the two change orders. Trustee O'Rourke seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Deputy Mayor Lynn Leopold-Aye

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

Trustee John O'Neill -Aye

Trustee Gerry Monaghan-Aye

Dairy One will be breaking ground soon. The Cayuga Medical center project is under way.

O'Rourke and Hatfield had nothing to report.

Deputy Mayor Leopold entertained a motion to approve the vouchers.

Resolution #6091- Abstract of Audited Vouchers

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 3 for the General Fund, in the amount of \$340,305.56 is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 3 for the Sewer Fund, in the amount of \$2,032.37, is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 3 for the Capital Projects Fund, in the amount of \$23,440.18, is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 3 for the Water Fund, in the amount of \$4,147.49, is hereby approved for payment.

Trustee O'Rourke moved that the foregoing Abstract of Audited Vouchers resolutions be adopted and Trustee Monaghan seconded the motion.

Deputy Mayor Lynn Leopold-Aye      Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye  
Trustee John O'Neill -Aye              Trustee Gerry Monaghan-Aye

Motion- To Adjourn

Trustee O'Neill moved for adjournment. Trustee O'Rourke seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Deputy Mayor Lynn Leopold-Aye      Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye  
Trustee John O'Neill -Aye              Trustee Gerry Monaghan-Aye

The meeting adjourned at 1:07 pm.

Jodi Dake  
Clerk/Treasurer