

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Thursday, July 11, 2019, in the Village Office.

PRESENT: Mayor Donald Hartill, Trustees Ronny Hardaway, John O'Neill, Patricia O'Rourke and Randy Smith; Code & Zoning Officer, Michael Scott; MEO, Nolan Hatfield; TG Miller Engineer, Dondi Harner.

Mayor Hartill called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 12:10pm.

Prior to the meeting being called to order, Trustee Smith initiated a discussion about alternative energy solutions for the Village. This discussion continued after the meeting was called to order. Trustee Smith is in contact with NYSEG and NYSERDA about the Energy Smart Communities program. There are several sources of money available to help pay for alternative/smart energy solutions, but Trustee Smith is not sure that money is available for the Village. Smith will keep in contact and let the Board know. Trustee Hardaway confirmed that there were grants available to residential customers with possible additional grants for residents within the current Lansing gas moratorium area.

This led to a discussion on the current NYSEG gas moratorium. Mayor Hartill was contacted by a Wall Street Journal reporter via email around the July 4th holiday for an interview, but he missed the email request and was not able to contribute to an article that ran this past Monday. Hartill will forward a link to the journal.

Mayor Hartill raised the progress on Graham Road West being dedicated to the Village. The Mall owners were contacted after Village Clerk Dake broached the subject during an exchange with the owners about paying Village taxes. The mall owners suggested that the Village accept Graham Road West all the way to BJ's. There seems to be a lot of positive progress regarding the Village taking ownership of the problematic road.

At this point, Dondi Harner, from TG Miller, presented preliminary engineering drawings of proposed easements and existing infrastructure (gas, water, stormwater) lines along and under Graham Road West. Electronic copies of the drawings were sent to Mayor Hartill, DPW Superintendent John Courtney, and Code & Zoning Officer, Scott. Mayor Hartill will forward electronic versions of the TG Miller drawings to the mall owners for consideration.

Code & Zoning Officer, Scott gave a status of Village Code & Zoning:

- The East Pointe Apartments project on Bomax Drive now has six buildings and a community building ready. Permit for the swimming pool is awaiting proper safety signage.
- IJ Construction's town homes on Nor Way: the first building has three CFOs and there are two additional CFOs in the works.
- There are two new residences planned, one on Millcroft Way.
- The Planning Board approved the Lansing Meadows special permit with numerous conditions that must be met.

- The Beer’s cluster division is in the site-planning phase. The development will have six acres in the northeast corner that will be forever wild. There will be eight lots to be sold for individual residences and 40 lots with a duplex on each lot. Square footage of each duplex will be approximately 1,200 sq. ft.
- 106 Burdick Hill special permit was extended for three years and Ken Beardsley, the new owner, was giving a one-year extension on the building permit.
- Brixmor proposed signage and façade changes to Cayuga Mall for two new tenants and for the Big Lots store space.
- New York State will be releasing new codes early next year including new, more-restrictive energy and conservation codes. NYS requires special training for accreditation of inspectors for these new energy and conservation codes, and Code & Zoning Officer Scott is interested in this training. He will keep the Trustees apprised of the status of the new codes and training requirements.
- Scott discussed the new 6-week extensions to Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) permits and associated regulations. He plans to contact local emergency responders about how to deal with potential fires within BESS installations. Mayor Hartill raised the topics of BESS fire hazards and the suspicion that BESS charging cycles are only half of the number advertised, which might raise the risk of battery fires.

Hatfield stated that he had been mowing a lot. He just re-sodded the Marian Hartill Park’s sports field after the Town of Lansing had leveled the field. Hopefully, it will rain today to set the sod.

There was a discussion about the summer help position, but attendees felt that it was too late in the summer to fill the position. Trustee O’Rourke wondered if we should start the search process earlier, and Mayor Hartill concurred. Trustee Hardaway mentioned that the Ithaca Youth Bureau’s Yes Employment Service might be helpful. Trustee O’Neill reminded attendees that DPW Superintendent Courtney did not have much faith in that group’s candidates. Trustee Hardaway will contact the YES director to see if they have suggestions on when and how to best advertise the Village Summer Help position.

Trustee Smith had no further topics beyond what he had already raised.

Trustee O’Neill distributed an article, “Adult-Use Cannabis in New York State: What to Watch.” Attendees discussed if and when the Village wanted to change its code to opt-out of future legalized cannabis use. No vote was taken, but attendees agreed that it was too early to act because NYS has not (and might not) pass legislation for legalized marijuana.

O’Neill also showed attendees the lighting plans for the East Pointe Apartments. The Village Lighting Commission has to evaluate and approve these plans. Tony Ingraffea has been appointed to replace Lisa Schleelein on the commission, and Trustee O’Neill recommended that Trustee Smith join the commission as a future replacement for O’Neill.

Mayor Hartill said that the Town/Village sewer project was being held up as easements are attained for the sewer line.

Trustee O'Rourke had no topics, but she recognized that work had started on the Lansing Meadows project. Mayor Hartill stated that negotiations were underway to deal with the movement of an existing sewer line on the property.

Trustee Hardaway gave a status update on several topics:

- The park benches are in the factory being assembled. The "Marian's Place" plaque design has been finalized (Hardaway distributed the design template), and it will be attached to one of the ordered benches.
- Hardaway distributed a print-out of the two park-sign designs. Trustees will have a future vote on which is the final design. Samples of sign materials, routing, colors and thicknesses were distributed to attendees.
- The Joint Youth Commission is looking at four programs renewal applications and proposed 2020 budgets. After more investigation, the JYC will vote on what programs are renewed and what the JYC will allow within the proposed budgets. The Village might be asked to approve a two-percent increase in our JYC budget line. Hardaway will keep the Trustees apprised.
- Hardaway stated that he would like to leave the Youth Services Board and Joint Youth Commission appointments. He wants to focus more on TCCOG. Trustee O'Rourke and Hardaway will be co-attendees for the Village, but O'Rourke wants to remain on TCCOG's Emergency Response Oversight Committee. Mayor Hartill recommended that he step away as a TCCOG attendee and allow O'Rourke and Hardaway be co-attendees. Hartill will also look into having Village attendance at future TCAT board meetings.
- Hardaway gave a short description of the YSB and JYC. Trustee O'Rourke suggested that the Village open up appointments to these two groups to the Planning Board members.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25pm.

Ronny Hardaway, Trustee