

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Monday, August 19, 2019, in the Village Office.

PRESENT: Mayor Donald Hartill; Trustees, Ronny Hardaway and Patricia O'Rourke; Clerk/Treasurer, Jodi Dake; Attorney Bill Troy; Lansing Star Editor, Dan Veanor; Community Party Representative, Lynn Leopold and two other public.

Mayor Hartill called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:35 pm and opened the public comment period. Leopold stated that she was the observer for Community Party. Leopold stated that she was pulling out of Catherwood Road and was Courtney in a new white truck. She feels that our Village vehicles should be identified. With no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Hartill entertained a motion to close the public comment period.

Motion - To Close the Public Comment Period

Hardaway made a motion to close the public comment period. O'Rourke seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

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

Trustee Ronny Hardaway- Aye

The next item on the agenda was the approval of minutes from August 5, 2019. This could not be done because O'Rourke was not in attendance at that meeting. With Smith being out of town and O'Neill out sick, this will have to wait until the next meeting.

Bernd Blossey was present to update the Trustees on last year's deer hunt and recommendation for this year.

The following is the report previously emailed to the Trustees regarding last year's hunt:

Village of Lansing Deer Hunting Report

2018-19

Bernd Blossey

Background

2018 was the 12th year that the village has implemented deer reduction efforts using bow hunting, and the 4th where exclusively Deer Depredation Permits (DDP's or nuisance permits) were used. 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) eliminated the need for DMAP tags allowing each hunter to take 2 antlerless deer/day plus adding a 3-week late January season. While landowner participation in the deer management program of VOL continued to rise, deer harvest rates had declined after peaking in 2011 and 2012 despite continued efforts (Table 1). Starting with a pilot

program in winter 2014, the Village implemented an exclusive nuisance approach starting with the 2015 season and this approach has continued into the 2018-19 season.

2018-19 Deer harvest statistics:

During the past season, 9 hunters participated and 7 were successful in harvesting 34 deer during the approved shooting period that ended on 31 March 2019. The deer take is smaller than in previous seasons. Hunters made 91 trips for a total of approximately 276 volunteer hours (only hours in stand are counted), which is overall similar to previous season efforts. This equates to 8 hours of effort needed to harvest a deer. This is an increase of 2hrs from last season despite effective use of trail cameras to schedule their stand time. Nevertheless, there are certain locations where individuals were unable to take deer (Table 1).

Age and sex distribution:

The age and sex distribution in 2018/19 was slightly skewed in favor of bucks and adults but participants killed 10 adult does.

Adult does: 10
Does <1 year old: 5
Adult bucks: 12
Bucks <1 year old: 7

Table 1: Properties/groups of properties and deer harvest rates in VOL since 2007. (Only properties with stand use are listed. A – indicates that the property was not part of the portfolio in a particular year or season. The parentheses in the column summarizing deer harvest rates in 2014 represent deer taken during the DDP period over bait. For 2015 and later years numbers represent DDP exclusively.

Property	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014 (DDP)	2015	2016	2017	2018
Leopold	11	2	5	9	3	2	1	13(13)	0	1	0	0
Lempert/Novarr	-	-	7	7	4	8	4	4	-	0	4	7
Bieri/Adelson	-	-	21	6	22	10	13	17(12)	19	12	14	10
Street/Butler/Dennis	-	-	-	21	14	14	4	9(2)	6	2	0	1
Autumn Ridge	-	-	-	-	13	2	8	4	6	1	-	-
Park/Cayuga Heights Road	-	-	-	-	4	7	1	4	6	11	9	4
Route 13	-	-	-	-	5	2	5	4	1	3	2	3
Abrams	-	-	-	-	-	1	0	0	-	-	-	-
Bomax	-	-	-	-	-	6	3	2(1)	4	3	4	-
Spanswick/Travis	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	4(2)	-	-	-	-
Swearingen	-	-	-	-	-	3	0	0	-	-	-	-
Seacord	-	-	-	-	-	2	0	4(2)	1	-	0	-
Cornell Business Park	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	1	2	3
Dean	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	2	0
Craig	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-
Dart Drive	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	7	3	4	1
Bolton Point	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Schleelein	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-
Baker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	0	-	-
Miller lands									5	1	2	0
Coventry Walk									0	0	0	5
Brentwood Drive									2	4	-	-
Unaccounted for in qualtrix											4	0
Total	11	2	33	43	65	65	49	68	65	43	47	34

While we maintained the number of properties to the portfolio of landowners allowing deer management activities, not all properties were used and deer were not taken off several properties (Table 1). We also had to abandon a number of sites due to the continued DEC issued set-back distances for bait piles from public roads (>150 feet), and we lost the Bomax location due to a housing development. In other locations, participants were discouraged by infrequent and wary deer (survivors are well educated by know). Particularly those participants relying on daytime activities without use of lights after sunset failed in large parts showing the importance of shooting after dark. Part of this is expected as deer numbers decline in VOL, but much deer movement occurred in the middle of the night. And despite the ability to be on stand around the clock, no participants ventured out past midnight, as anticipated. And even fewer went out in January and February due to lack of deer activity at shooting locations at convenient hours.

Nevertheless, participants saw 164 deer while on location representing 0.6 deer seen per hour of observation. The total deer seen is a small decline from the previous season, as is the number of deer seen per hour in stand. Most of the deer taken were in the first 2 months of the season, in part explained by more participant activity early and then reduced numbers. But deer

congregations were still obvious at stand location, sometimes up to >10 within a single picture suggesting a reduced but continued high deer population in VOL and the need to target deer smartly and potentially in new locations.

Time of harvest:

October: 9
November: 8
December: 6
January: 4
February: 1
March: 6

We continue to keep track of efforts using qualtrix reporting. We found that deer ran on average 53 yards before collapsing with the maximal distance at 160 yards.

In 2018-19 we had a loss rate of 6 deer or 15% after they were hit, mostly in dense brush (multiflora rose and honeysuckles). Use of a tracking dog may have contributed to this reduction in loss rates but we are still not recovering all of them. Some of them were likely not lethally hit. Most of the deer shot were kept by participants for self-consumption but some were donated to the Food Bank of the Southern Tier through the venison donation program. Unfortunately, John Gaines from Country Harvest, the approved processor, now no longer accepts deer after the regular season.

Outlook and recommendation for 2019

Despite difficulties, the deer harvest rate in VOL remains appreciably high despite few trips and deer taken after December. Many landowners report an improvement in growth of understory plants and flowers, but oak recruitment, judged by planting of seedlings at three locations (Rt13 playground site, and Leopold's) in the village is still greatly suppressed and further deer reductions are warranted. The deer program appears to move into the right direction, although very slowly. The aggressive efforts by Cayuga Heights, removing deer through darting followed by euthanasia may assist in herd reductions in VOL through prevention of immigration. The Town of Ithaca also began their own DDP program but had a late start in 2019 at a few select sites.

The challenges that remain are to increase or maintain participation by shooters. One important impediment remains the DPW site. Participants continue to notice herds of deer aggregations. The Bomax shooting location is permanently lost due to construction at the site, and efforts on the Miller properties were very low last season and not a single deer was reported taken. This leaves an important corner of VOL with little pressure or ability to take deer. I strongly urge the Board of Trustees to allow using the DPW site. Otherwise, I recommend that the same approach be followed as for the previous season but extending the operational period from September to end of March.

Blossey stated that this year there were fewer deer taken however, with the evidence from our trail cameras we know that they are still around especially in places we cannot access them. The Deer Committee met last week and had some proposed changes. At the noon Trustee meeting on August 15th the Board discussed the three proposed changes and there were concerns.

The first proposal was to allow for hunting on Village property behind the highway garage. This was not received well by Courtney however he said it was up to the Trustees to decide.

The second request was to allow the hunters to use crossbows. At the noon meeting Courtney had expressed that crossbows are lethal and doesn't want them used. Blossey explained that with the aging participants that there are land owners that have difficulty with pulling the bows back with bad shoulders. Hardaway stated that the primary concerns are the distance of a crossbow is much farther and the darts are much shorter therefore they could be easier to lose.

There was concerned that crossbows were dangerous because they are very close to the lethality of a rifle. Blossey stated that one needs to remember that we are not shooting them straight ahead while on the ground. We are shooting down from trees. It is true that a crossbow arrow goes a little further but shooting 20 feet down wards from a tree there is no increase distance only an increase in accuracy. Therefore, Blossey sees no danger of projectiles going long distances.

Hardaway stated that there was also a concern because the arrows are smaller and harder to find so they would be left on the ground for people to step on. Blossey stated that the arrows they use have lite knocks and are \$20 each so they find them. The chance of stepping on an arrow is equal for either bow type. The arrows they are using at night are lite therefore can be easily found. Blossey does not know of any safety issues ever reported. The Village of Cayuga Heights only allows crossbows. There is higher accuracy because you are looking thru a scope. Trumansburg and Cornell both allow bows and crossbows and these issues are not concerns at either of these places. You only have one shop with a cross bows. Bernd prefers a regular bow because he likes to reshoot.

Hartill asked if the State changed the required distance from buildings for crossbows. They have changed it to 250 feet away but it is only for if you are on the ground.

Hartill asked how many areas get disqualified unless landowners give permission. There are several that cannot participate because they don't have the strength to operate a regular bow with accuracy.

Hartill stated that at Thursday's meeting Courtney confirmed with Zavaski that they have not picked up any deer on the road this year. Leopold stated that there was one in front of her house but she is on a State highway and the State picks up those. A lot of deer that are hit by cars aren't killed instantly but wonder off to die away from the road. Blossey stated that was the high populations we use to see ten deer on a lawn and you don't see that anymore because they are engaging in more night active. When you put the trail cameras out you see the ten deer at night. The reasoning for this is the deer don't need to travel as much. State Farm Insurance reported 170 deer killed in Ithaca last year. If we don't do maintenance we would go back to the problems we had before. Forestry is improving but nowhere close to where it needs to be.

O'Rourke asked how much hunting area we are losing with Bomax no longer available and with the new 300 ft. setback from a public road. Blossey stated that this has eliminated the Cayuga Heights Road areas. We will be also be losing Millcroft if that is developed.

Blossey knows that storage of the food brought about a concern with rats. We no longer store bait by the highway garage. Genoa Farms will provide and store corn again this year. Janivar Drive residents don't appreciate us not hunting behind the garage because they have many deer. If we were allowed on the property behind the garage we could come in from the Triad building. O'Neill had previously spoken with Montessori School and Triad and they want the hunt in that area.

The third proposal was to repeat with slight modification. Operational period would be mid-September until March. October 1st is the first day hunting is allowed so the first two weeks would just be for baiting.

Hartill asked Attorney Troy if he had any concerns with Crossbow. Troy did not give that Cornell University and the Village of Cayuga Heights have not had any safety issues. Setback rules are State wide. It is better to have fewer people that know what they are doing than having more people hunting.

It was asked if there was a certification that took place before they could hunt. Blossey stated that all hunters must have a hunting license. In the Village we have had a core group of people that have been with us for 12 years. We don't let just anyone into the hunting program. If someone wants to join they are interviewed or we get recommendations. Hardaway asked if there was a maximum number of hunters allowed. Blossey stated that there was not but we don't advertise either. Troy feels that Hollywood has portrayed crossbow as killing machines.

Veanor asked if the Village Code would have to change if the Village decided to allow crossbows. Hartill stated that it would only need to change if we decided to use guns. Attorney Troy will review the Village Code to confirm that. Under State Law crossbows are the same as regular bows.

Leopold asked Blossey if there will be a preseason meeting. The plan is to have a meeting with the hunters and land owners that wish to attend in mid-September.

Troy asked if coyote are knocking down the deer population. Blossey stated that they are not but they do eat road kill. They will also take fawns.

Hartill stated that the Village wants to continue with the hunt but is reluctant to approve the use of crossbows before consulting the other two Trustees. The Trustees will discuss the use of crossbows and hunting behind the Village garage when all are here. Nothing will happen before Oct.

Blossey has prepared the DDP materials needed for submission to the NYSDEC which will need the mayor's signature. This includes the main application and the justification that should go along with it.

Resolution #6604- To Authorize the Mayor to Sign the NYSDEC Deer Damage Permit Application

Trustee O'Rourke made a motion to approve this resolution. Trustee Hardaway seconded the motion.

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

Trustee Ronny Hardaway- Aye

Dake stated that she would not be able to attend the NYCOM Conference this year because she would be attending the Wrestling World Championships to watch her son. Hardaway and O'Rourke both stated that they would not be able to attend. It was suggested that the Board go ahead and authorize Trustee Smith to attend the conference. Dake will contact Smith and see if he can go and make all the arrangements if he can.

Resolution #6605- To Authorize Trustee Smith to Attend the NYCOM Conference in Saratoga Springs on September 16-19, 2019

Trustee Hardaway made a motion to approve this resolution. Trustee O'Rourke seconded the motion.

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

Trustee Ronny Hardaway- Aye

(It was later confirmed that Smith could not attend the conference this year but would like to attend next year.)

Zhou Yan of 6 Wedgewood Drive has requested that the late fees for July be waived. They had been in China for a few months and just returned. Since they have lived there they have never been late with a payment. He has already paid the bill in full and I told him I would ask the Board if they would consider waiving the fee one time.

Resolution #6606- To Waive the July Water Penalties in the Amount of \$15.92 and the Sewer Penalties in the Amount of \$11.97 on Account N3827

Trustee Hardaway made a motion to waive the July penalties. Trustee O'Rourke seconded the motion.

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

Trustee Ronny Hardaway- Aye

Mayor's Comments

There was a presentation by NYSEG wanting to increase the amount charged for electricity by 27% and increase the cost of natural gas by 7%. At this meeting our County Legislator Dawson expressed great concern with the current grid. The electric grid is long

in the tooth; very little maintenance has been done on the system and would be more heavily used as we go to heat pumps. Of the proposed increase, 30% was going to deforestation to keep trees from falling on the infrastructure. There was no proposal to go in and rebuilding infrastructure. Mayor Hartill stated that he will be emailing the public service commission expressing his concerns.

Hartill stated that solar & wind power have to go into a 3 phase power system. Most rural areas are single phase so it doesn't match their desires. The "wall plug" for New York is 30 gigawatts. 7% solar 5% wind is not enough. Water power accounts for 20% of NYS power. 15% comes from nuclear plants. 5 gigawatts of renewables only brings us to approximately 50% of our needs. We have a long ways to go. Hartill hopes that there will be a realization of how we will actually achieve. NYSERDA claim that we throw away 2/3 of our energy because we use heat to generate electricity and heat comes from burning natural gas and fuels. You do if you heat. The second law of thermodynamics was not understood.

Hartill stated that the Trustees needed to appoint Patricia O'Rourke as the Village of Lansing Delegate on the Tompkins County Council of Government (TCCOG) and Ronny Hardaway as Alternate Member on TCCOG since Hartill will be stepping down as the TCCOG representative. O'Rourke stated that she had spoken with Hardaway and she would like to have Hardaway as the delegate and she would remain the alternate member. She would, however, like to remain on the Emergency Committee.

Resolution #6607- To Appoint Ronny Hardaway as the Village of Lansing Delegate on the Tompkins County Council of Government (TCCOG) and Patricia O'Rourke as Alternate Member on TCCOG

Trustee O'Rourke moved this resolution Trustee Hardaway seconded the motion.
A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye
Trustee Ronny Hardaway –Aye

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

Dake informed the Board that the Bid Opening for Water System Materials for Northwood Road Water Main Extension is August 28th at 2pm. Dake asked if the Board wanted to hold a special meeting on August 29th to accept the lowest bid so that Courtney didn't have to wait until September 12th to get approval to order the material.

Resolution #6608- To Hold a Special Meeting on August 29, 2019 at noon to Review and Accept the Lowest Bid for Water System Materials for Northwood Road Water Main Extension

Trustee Hardaway moved this resolution Trustee O'Rourke seconded the motion.
A vote was taken:

Mayor Donald Hartill-Aye
Trustee Ronny Hardaway –Aye

Trustee Patricia O'Rourke-Aye

General Discussion

Hardaway informed the Board that he would be sending out a sheet that gives examples of park signage so the Board members could vote on what they would like to see for Village park signs. Hardaway also spoke with the company that is making our park benches. This is their busy season but they expect to ship the benches on September 16th.

Motion- To Adjourn

Hardaway moved to adjourn. O'Rourke seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

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

Trustee Ronny Hardaway- Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Jodi Dake
Clerk/Treasurer