

Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Thursday, September 14, 2023, held at the Village of Lansing 2405 N. Triphammer Road.

PRESENT: Mayor Ronny Hardaway; Trustees Susan Ainslie, Wolfgang Bullmer, Carolynn Greenwald, Drew Riedl; Code/Zoning Officer, Mike Scott; Supt. of Public Works, John Courtney.

Roll Call: Susan Ainslie, Wolfgang Bullmer, Drew Riedl, Carolyn Greenwald, Ronny Hardaway

Zoom: Bernd Blossey

Mayor Hardaway called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 12:02pm. Hardaway explained that Courtney has an emergency he has to get to, so they started with him.

Courtney stated that the sewer project is coming along. He is unsure of what the completion date will be. Boring through the rock continues to be an issue. They have completed 7 of 20 borings. They patched the blacktop in on East Shore Drive. Courtney is very pleased with the contractor. Courtney will create a schedule for the public and Hardaway will put it on the village web page.

Courtney stated that they are gearing up to start lead service inspections which needs to be completed by Spring of 2024. We have received a list from Bolton Point showing that we need to investigate approximately 166 properties in the Village.

We are ordering the material for closing the ditches up on Nor Way. This will help with snow removal. Oakcrest Rd was paved. We milled out 4" and put two and a half inches of binding down and then an inch and a half of top. The road is wide so pedestrians have an area to walk. We will be striping Graham and Dart even though we will be repaving them next year.

Greenwald suggested that we have a longer formal discussion about hiring another person for the highway department in the near future. It seems that we have so much to do and she feels that we need a brainstorming session about what jobs to sub out. She wondered what kind of a position would be most beneficial to help facilitate all these projects. Courtney stated that this year we took on small jobs instead of the large projects. Courtney feels it is hard to get subcontractors. We will be contracting out the Dart Drive sidewalk instead of taking that on ourselves. It will cost the Village more money, but he feels this would work better than hiring additional people. Courtney stated that there are two times of the year that you can't do anything, spring and fall. Courtney feels his expertise is dealing with the public. TG Miller has been doing the construction inspections for the sewer project so that has taken away some of Courtneys duties. TG Miller's is doing the daily reports. Maximum efficiency is the goal and sometimes hiring does not allow that. Hardaway wondered if it would help to have someone do the administrative work. Courtney feels that if anything, we need an MEO for plowing.

Scott stated that the Planning Board has asked that the village parking lot get stripped. Courtney stated that we will be paving it. It is in the budget to do but we have had a lot of rain.

Courtney left the meeting.

Deer Management

Bernd Blossey was present to update the Trustees on last year's deer hunt and to give recommendations for this year. The following are the reports previously emailed to the Trustees regarding last year's hunt and the 2022-23 Justification:

2022-23 Village of Lansing Deer Hunting Report

Bernd Blossey

Background

2022 was the 16th year that the village has implemented deer reduction efforts using bow hunting, and the 8th where exclusively Deer Depredation Permits (DDP's or nuisance permits) were used. The village also continued use of cross bows. 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 2022-23 season.

2022-23 Deer harvest statistics:

During the past season, 11 hunters participated and 10 were successful in harvesting 57 deer during the approved shooting period that ended on 31 March 2023. The deer take is almost identical to the previous season (Table 1).

Hunters made 88 trips (10 more than in 2022) and site Baldini was added for this season. for a total of approximately 213 volunteer hours (only hours in stand are counted). This equates to about 3.7 hours of effort needed to harvest a deer (the exact same number of hours as in 2022), a great level of effectiveness (Table 1).

Age and sex distribution:

The age and sex distribution in 2022-23 was skewed substantially in favor of adults and in favor of does.

Adult does: **26** Does <1 year old: **7** Adult bucks: **19** Bucks <1 year old: **5**

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	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14 (DDP)	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19	20	21	22
Leopold	11	2	5	9	3	2	1	13(13)	0	1	0	0	7	15	8	8
Lempert/Novarr	-	-	7	7	4	8	4	4	-	0	4	7	1	11	10	6
Bieri/Adelson	-	-	21	6	22	10	13	17(12)	19	12	14	10	10	10	13	11
Street/Butler/Dennis	-	-	-	21	14	14	4	9(2)	6	2	0	1	0	1	1	0
Autumn Ridge	-	-	-	-	13	2	8	4	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Park/Cayuga Heights Road	-	-	-	-	4	7	1	4	6	11	9	4	7	7	4	8
Route 13	-	-	-	-	5	2	5	4	1	3	2	3	3	3	0	0
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	0	19	10	7
Dean	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	2	0	0	-	-	-
Craig	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dart Drive	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	7	3	4	1	3	3	2	2
Bolton Point	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Schleelein	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Baker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miller lands									5	1	2	0	2	-	-	-
Coventry Walk									0	0	0	5	5	10	3	2
Brentwood Drive									2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Baldini	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Unaccounted for in qualtrix											4	0				
Total	11	2	33	43	65	65	49	68	65	43	47	34	38	79	51	

While we maintained the number of properties in the portfolio of landowners allowing deer management activities, not all properties were used and deer were not taken off all properties, although we added a location (Table 1). We also had to continue to not use certain sites due to the continued DEC issued set-back distances for bait piles from public roads (>150 feet). 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 continue to fail. Part of this is expected as deer numbers are stabilized in VOL, but much deer movement occurred in the middle of the night. And very few participants ventured out past midnight, as anticipated. But their dedication and a switch to infrared crossbows by some continues to make a difference (Leopold, Novarr, Bieri and Cornell Business Park).

Nevertheless, participants saw 227 deer while on location representing slightly more than 1 deer per hour of observation. This represents a slight increase from the previous 2 seasons, potentially suggesting a slight increase in the number of deer in VOL. But large groups are now rarely reported, except later in the winter when conditions become harsh. Trail camera's show that in the

middle of the night, aggregations can still form around the feeders. Most of the deer taken were in the first 3 months of the season, in part explained by more participant activity early and then reduced numbers.

Time of harvest:

October: 4
November: 20
December: 17
January: 8
February: 4
March: 4

We continue to keep track of efforts using qualtrix reporting. We found that deer ran on average 50 yards before collapsing with the maximal distance at 160 yards.

In 2021-22 we could not recover 4 deer (or 6%) after they were hit, mostly in dense brush (multiflora rose and honeysuckles). Most of the deer shot were kept by participants for self-consumption but some were donated.

Outlook and recommendation for 2023-24

Despite difficulties, the deer harvest rate in VOL remains high, although it dropped off from a high two years ago. Despite the fact that many landowners report an improvement in growth of understory plants and flowers, oak recruitment, judged by planting of seedlings at several 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 in 2019 but at only a few select sites with none close to VOL.

The challenges that remain are to increase or maintain participation by shooters and to potentially increase the number of shooting locations in different areas of the village. We did not make efforts to include the DPW site - but reconsider doing so in 2023. The Bomax shooting location is permanently lost due to construction at the site, and the previous Miller properties are sold and are no longer in the program. This leaves an important corner of VOL with little pressure or ability to take deer and the need to target this subherd. Otherwise, I recommend that the same approach be followed as for the previous season.

Village of Lansing Deer Management Program

Justification for use of Deer Depredation Permits in 2023-24

For the past 16 years the Village of Lansing (VOL) Board of Trustees has annually approved a coordinated bow hunting program to reduce the size of the deer herd in the Village. Concerns by residents about Lyme disease, deer vehicle collisions, ecological damage (no forest regeneration) and damage to ornamental plantings prompted the initiation of this program in 2007. The number of properties we hunted steadily increased and well over 30 landowners

potentially participate in the program. Deer take increased initially but then tapered off (Table 1) despite the ability to target deer in more locations. Trail camera surveillance and general observations in the village suggest a reduced deer population, but not sufficiently so to help address ornamental damage, damage to forest regeneration, or Lyme disease concerns. Oak sentinel plantings continue to suffer extremely high mortality unless fenced.

The establishment of the DMFA, special regulations, and an additional hunting season in late January have greatly aided to enable individuals who are proficient and skilled to take additional deer. However, the early success of the DMFA season was eliminated by 2015 (Table 1) and trail cameras show that deer have adjusted behaviorally to the hunting pressure by becoming nearly entirely nocturnal, an observation also made in the Cornell program. This leads some to conclude that there are few deer left, when instead their activity pattern has shifted. Nocturnal deer are nearly impossible to take in the regular hunting season – and participants in the DDP program in the past years who do not use artificial lights are very rarely successful. Number of tags made available by DEC or hunter efforts are not limiting. Instead it is, in part, access to deer on locations we are not currently allowed to hunt, but mostly the changed activity patterns. This includes the nocturnal behavior but also travel patterns and avoidance of stand locations. While the hunting program had made some contributions, most importantly to the acceptance of deer reduction programs in the village, it was recognized that hunting in the village alone was not likely to succeed in reducing the deer damage to acceptable levels. In 2015, the Board of Trustees approved a switch to apply for use of DDP’s throughout the entire village and permits were ultimately granted annually by the DEC.

Table 1: Deer take in VOL since 2007 in the regular hunting season, during the DMFA seasons (2014 was both regular and then DDP in early 2015) and using DDP’s (since 2015).

Deer take	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19	20	21	22
Regular season	11	2	33	43	65	47	47	40								
DMFA January season	-	-	-	-	-	18	2	0								
Total	11	2	33	43	65	65	49	68	65	43	47	34	38	79	51	57

This approach appeared to have worked well, at least in greatly reducing deer damage and somewhat stabilizing the population. But continued vigilance is important otherwise the progress will be eliminated. While we have no data to assess the total deer population in the Village, some recovery of typically browsed plants occurs according to landowners. But not sufficient to allow continued forest regeneration. We therefore request approval of the renewal of the attached DDP application for the 2023-24 season with a start date of October 1st, and continuing to March 31st, 2022. As in previous seasons, we request the ability to take antlered deer, with antlers delivered to the DEC every 10 days, and the ability to discharge bows and crossbows during a 24-hour period. This enables participants to be active in the early morning before daybreak as trail camera surveys have consistently shown that this would be a prime activity pattern at our bait sites. The backbone of the operations are strategically placed nuisance baiting locations throughout the village (Fig. 1). We will monitor deer travel and feeding patterns using trail cameras and will use archery equipment only.

Bernd Blossey (through independent sources of funding) is continuing to assess oak seedling survival using several locations in VOL.

Fig. 1. Possible shooting locations (yellow circles) in VOL. Due to setback distances for bait, not all shooting locations can be used at the present time. Active sites are indicated with a yellow arrow.

Blossey would like to start the program October 1st.

Riedl asked about the yellow sites to explore if there could be more deer control in their area. Blossey explained that these are places that the Trustees and landowners had agreed to allow

hunting.

Hardaway stated that by authorizing the mayor to sign the application the Trustees would be approving the NYSDEC Deer Damage Program through the end of 2023 and 3 months into 2024.

Resolution #6994- To Authorize the Mayor to Sign the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Deer Damage Permit Application for the 2023-24 Season

Hardaway made a motion to approve this resolution. Ainslie seconded the motion.

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye	Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye
Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer-Aye	Trustee Drew Riedl-Aye
Trustee Carolynn Greenwald-Aye	

Hardaway will sign the application and scan it to Blossy this afternoon. The Clerk/Treasurer will have the original. Blossy will submit to the NYSDEC and cc Dake and Hardaway.

Scott reported that the Beer Subdivision has come to the Planning Board and it is close to being the final plat. Goetzmann will also be in at the next Planning Board meeting to request an extension of Phase II for the Lansing Meadow project. 20 Bomax PDA will also be in at the next meeting.

The Ithaca Mall is getting an estimate to take care of their stormwater issue in October.

Cornell has land on Uptown Road that they sold to be developed. They will be coming to the Planning Board for a special permit. With the size of the project, the cost of the special permit would be \$60,000. They have requested a payment plan in case it is not approved. Bullmer stated that this is a cost of business. Ainslie agreed. Greenwald does not like the bigger the company the more they ask for. Everyone should have the same standard. Riedl feels these are the rules and they are what they are. The Board did not want to set a precedence by doing this. The projected cost of this project will be \$15 million.

Bullmer had nothing to report.

Ainslie stated that the Joint Youth Commission had a zoom meeting on Tuesday night where they were dealing with budget. There are not many students served from the village. Greenwald feels it is not well organized and not many know about it. Hardaway stated that he started on the Joint Youth Commission, and they do a really good job for the county youth. Greenwald stated that they do a great job in the middle school.

Greenwald stated that she and Riedl went on the Cayuga Lake boat tour with representatives of local governments. She did meet Ruth Groff, Town of Lansing Board Member, and they talked about the town and village. They talked about trails and having the town trails joining up to the village trails. Greenwald thinks that we should have someone attend town meeting and report back to the Trustees. (FYI-John O'Neill used to do that for the village. Hartill used to appoint a Trustee to do that each year.)

Hardaway stated that Village residents can vote in the Town of Lansing elections. They are on the November ballot at your regular polling place.

Riedl spoke with the City of Ithaca sustainability group about Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) regarding municipal electricity. The CCA project could pool commercial project for renewable energy and helps people find real energy projects they want to do. It's working to net zero. Once they get approval, they will offer it to other municipalities. Hardaway would like all board members to watch the next CCA meeting. Riedl will put Mike Scott in touch with the City of Ithaca to explore how this might impact our solar array law we are working on.

Hardaway stated that Riedl and Ainslie will be at NYCOM next week. He pooled the Trustees to see if they wanted to cancel Monday's meeting.

Resolution #6995-To Cancel the Board of Trustees Meeting on 9/18/23

Greenwald moved to cancel the September 18th meeting. Trustee Ainslie seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye	Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye
Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer-Aye	Trustee Drew Riedl-Aye
Trustee Carolynn Greenwald-Aye	

Motion-To Approve the August 17, 2023 Minutes

Hardaway moved that the meeting notes, as reviewed and revised by the Board, are hereby adopted as the official minutes of the August 17, 2023, meeting.

Hardaway moved to approve the minutes. Trustee Bullmer seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye	Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye
Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer-Aye	Trustee Drew Riedl-Aye
Trustee Carolynn Greenwald-Abstain	

Hardaway entertained a motion to approve the vouchers. Greenwald asked how often we clean the windows. It is done annually. Greenwald also thought that \$800 was a lot to strip the New Hickey Park parking lot. Hardaway thinks that it is reasonable. Bullmer & Ainslie had to first review the vouchers.

Referendum to Transfer Water Reserve Money

Hardaway stated that the next item was to pass a resolution to move the money from the water reserve fund. Any time you take money out of the Reserve Fund you have to do a permissive referendum. We had budgeted for this transfer in the 2023-24 Budget. This is a formality that we have to go through.

Resolution #6996 - Capital Reserve Expenditure Authorization

WHEREAS:

- A. The Village of Lansing (the “Village”) is intending to consider the transfer of monies from the Water Capital Reserve Funds for capital improvements and/or the acquisition of equipment and materials for the water system in the Village of Lansing under the Graham Road Water Project (the “Project”), the intent being to accommodate the needs of the community and for the benefit of the Village and its residents; and
- B. The Village Board of Trustees has reviewed the needs of the community and for the benefit of the Village and its residents, thereupon determined that such actions will be in the best interests of the Village; and
- C. In anticipation of the current need and anticipated future needs for future acquisitions of equipment and materials, the Village has maintained reasonable and appropriate capital reserve funds so as to set aside such funds for such current and future purposes as they may arise; and
- D. The Village Water Capital Reserve Fund has sufficient funds for such contemplated and intended capital improvements and acquisitions of equipment and materials in furtherance of the Project, some or all of which have been included in the recently approved 2023-24 Village budget; and
- E. The Village Board of Trustees wishes to authorize at this time the sufficient expenditure of such funds such that the aggregate sum of \$474,221 be transferred from the Water Capital Reserve Fund;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. The Village Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the expenditure of funds contemplated and intended for capital improvements and acquisitions of equipment and materials in furtherance of the Project as set forth above, and the transfer of \$474,221 from the Water Capital Reserve Fund, as determined by the Board of Trustees for such purpose; and
- 2. Within ten (10) days after the adoption of this resolution, the Village Clerk shall, as set forth in Article 9 of the Village Law, post and publish a notice which shall set forth the date of the adoption of this resolution and contain this resolution or an abstract thereof concisely stating the purpose and effect thereof. Such notice shall specify that such resolution was adopted subject to a permissive referendum; and
- 3. This resolution shall take effect thirty (30) days after its adoption, unless a referendum is requested, in which event it shall take effect, if approved at such referendum, upon such approval; and

4. This resolution is adopted subject to a permissive referendum as required by law.

Mayor Hardaway moved this resolution be adopted and Trustee Ainslie seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway –Aye
Trustee Drew Riedl-Aye
Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye

Trustee Carolyn Greenwald –Aye
Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer-Aye

Bullmer had budget questions in general, but he will wait until Dake is back.

Hardaway asked the Board if the Village should spend \$7,400 on a Retail Marketing study. Greenwald feels it will not help us because we do not get to pick which retail comes to the village. The other trustees agreed that there was no reason to participate. One issue is how would you use the information when you get it. Hardaway feels the real problem is we are centrally isolated, and it is hard to get products to Ithaca. Hardaway will let them know that we are declining.

Albany is investing a lot of money in Syracuse for a microchip technology campus. Menlo Micro did not want to go to Syracuse, but they wanted to be close to Syracuse. Tompkins County IDA worked with them to come here. Hardaway has a meeting with the Meno Micro people next week to discuss their water usage. He and Dawson will be doing a tour of their facility.

Bullmer thinks we should look at our Comprehensive Plan to see if all these technology and business changes fit in. The Comprehensive Plan is due to be updated in 2025.

Hardaway stated that the CES/CSC Task Force submitted their solar energy campaign documents from 2022. They were approved so we will receive a \$5,000 non-competitive grant. And the only responsibility is that we need to come up with a letter of commitment and let them know how we will be using it. This has to be related to clean energy. One option would be a charging stations or anything that has to do with making clean energy available. It could also be a public relations campaign to get people more involved with clean energy programs. Cornell Cooperative Extension people will help us with this. Once this is done, we will get the \$5,000 grant. Greenwald does not want to spend it on a campaign. Greenwald wondered if we could make it a grant available to residents to do projects and get \$100 until it is gone. Hardaway will ask. Another option may be putting solar panels up. Hardaway asked the Trustees to come up with ideas and we will discuss it later.

At the October 2, 2023, we will discuss the date for volunteer recognition. Dake has asked that everyone remember to have their Fall Newsletter articles to her before September 25th.

Resolution #6997- Abstract of Audited Vouchers

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 4 for the General Fund, in the amount of \$70,491.67 is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 4 for the Sewer Fund, in the amount of \$328,184.20 is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 4 for the Water Fund, in the amount of \$245,408.15 is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 4 for the Trust & Agency Fund, in the amount of \$910.00 is hereby approved for payment.

Trustee Hardaway moved that the foregoing Abstract of Audited Vouchers resolutions be adopted, and Trustee Riedl seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye	Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye
Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer-Aye	Trustee Drew Riedl-Aye
Trustee Carolynn Greenwald-Aye	

Motion- To Adjourn

Mayor Hardaway moved for adjournment. Trustee Reidl seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye	Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye
Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer-Aye	Trustee Drew Riedl-Aye
Trustee Carolynn Greenwald-Aye	

The meeting was adjourned at 1:54pm.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer