

## Village of Lansing

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lansing held on Thursday, September 12, 2024, held at the Village of Lansing 2405 N. Triphammer Road.

PRESENT: Mayor Ronny Hardaway; Trustees Susan Ainslie, Wolfgang Bullmer, Carolyn Greenwald, Kathleen Yen; Code/Zoning Officer, Mike Scott; Clerk/Treasurer, Jodi Dake; Supt. of Public Works, John Courtney; MEO, Chris Zavaski

Roll Call: Susan Ainslie, Kathleen Yen, Carolyn Greenwald, Wolfgang Bullmer (Zoom), Ronny Hardaway

Mayor Hardaway called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 12:01pm.

Courtney reported that they paved the trail behind Bishops Mall up to Uptown Village. We are done with tying in the driveways on Cayuga Heights Road. The final payment application for the sewer expansion project should be submitted by Vacri Construction in October. Currently, they only lack a few items.

R.B. Robinson is moving right along with the 2024 Dart/Graham Utility and Sidewalk Improvement Project. The streetlight infrastructure has been installed, water infrastructure is in, and the sewer infrastructure is completed. They are tying into Votapa today. The sidewalk on Graham Road West looks great and the road will be milled and paved soon. We will be upgrading the stop signs in this area. The Graham Road West sidewalk was widened to five feet up to where the sidewalk runs beside the YMCA. The part by the YMCA is owned by the mall and is only 3 feet wide. There will be crosswalks added at Butler Road. It will be a luminated intersection with painted crosswalks.

Monday they will be starting the lead service line investigation. We only have 19 of 165 left to do in the Highgate area of the village. Those homes were built in 1968, and we have no records to tell us if they used lead lines. A company out of Syracuse will be doing the hydro excavation for us. 1975 was when regulations started that lead service lines were no longer accepted. After this, Bolton Point would only accept copper lines. Dake wondered if the people that mandated this actually realized the impact and cost it would be for municipalities. Courtney stated that it is another unfunded mandate.

Culvert installation in Lansing Trails will be done mid-October. It should only take a couple of days to complete. Hardaway stated that the deadline is October 31<sup>st</sup>. They will continue the trail system improvements in that area after the culvert is replaced.

Hardaway asked about the status of the road cameras. Courtney was unsure. He thought the company was bench testing and creating the software program. We are currently paying on the SIMS card. The cameras will provide us with the ability to post this on the website. Courtney will check in with them.

Greenwald asked about a trail from the Town of Lansing to the Village along Triphammer Road.

The County line starts north of Cherry Road. Courtney stated that we do not have a dedicated right of way (ROW), it is a highway by use. The State has a large right of way. Courtney stated that typically with utility easements they have no right to give permission for use to any other utility. Dryden is using the railroad bed. Greenwald thought they used the utility ROW. Courtney stated that how they got most of their ROW in Dryden for their trail was when the property owners came in for special permits, they had to give easement in exchange. Dake stated that she has spoken with a lot of people in the Town of Lansing, and they are not for spending tax dollars to create a trail down Triphammer since we are a rural area. Greenwald stated that the Town got a \$50,000 grant for a viability study for a trail from the Lansing Schools to Myers Park. The Town will be very grant heavy in planning and doing these trails. They hope to start with a trail from the town center to the schools. The trails are moving forward with support of the Park Foundation. The committee wants to start laying out the path to the Village even though it is early in the process. Greenwald stated that they are looking at three potential routes to go from the village to the town. They are developing trails through the Young properties because he is willing to give easements. Courtney pointed out that they have to meet ADA compliance rules which is not always easy. They will need 20-foot easements for the trail.

Zavaski left the meeting.

Courtney stated that the Youngs are moving forward with their connections to our water line

Scott stated that permits are slowing down. The new 2024 NYS Code review is now in a comment period. The stretch code which only a few municipalities in the State adopted, will probably become standard. More strict reviewing will be required, which will be harder for commercial entities. They are also looking at any permitting after 2028 will have to be all electric. It does create hardships to move from gas to electric. The new code makes it so you have to have space in your electric panel for an electric car charger. Scott will be sending his concerns to the State.

Scott is reorganizing Quadrozzi's fire inspections system. We are now doing operating permits for R-2's. It is time-consuming, but very beneficial. He has found quite a few violations. There are places that are in bad shape, but by writing up these violations we will help to keep people safe.

The Planning Board issued a special permit to Taco Bell. They will be demolishing the old Pizza Hut building and building a new Taco Bell. There is some interest in doing a cluster subdivision at 980 Warren Road. Scott stated that there is an urgency to get a site plan review or Full EIF before year end to get grandfathered in on the wetlands. They are looking to do single family and owner operated housing.

The sidewalk on Blue Heron was replaced. The property is for sale. To get a final Certificate of Compliance there are items that need to complete before the property can be sold.

Greenwald had heard that there were two solar permits and wondered what the status was. Scott stated that that they have been approved according to our current law. There was no special permit required for that. They have one year to get the panels in.

Greenwald asked if we had any projects planned that we could use the \$10,000 NYSEDA grant

for. It was asked if installing an air source heat pump in the old office would be a potential project. Courtney did look into it, and it would cost around \$25,000. We already replaced the air conditioning for \$6,000. We have until December 6<sup>th</sup> to decide how to spend the money or we lose it.

The Trustees and staff discussed potential clean energy projects for the \$10K NYSERDA grant. They identified the following candidates in order of preference:

1. Use the grant money for the installation of 18 LED streetlights that are in progress on Dart Drive and Graham Road West within the village.
2. Replace DPW Garage building's fluorescent lighting with LED lighting.
3. Replace current DPW gas-powered tools (i.e., leaf blowers, chainsaws, edging equipment) with battery-powered tools.

Hardaway will contact Chris Skawski at Cornell Cooperative Extension to confirm that these proposed projects are acceptable with NYSERDA

John Courtney left the meeting.

### **Deer**

Bernd Blossey was present to request that the Village apply for the Deer Damage Permit again for 2024-25. We had a poor season last year for unknown reasons. We have made progress over the last 15 years. Yen asked about a deer management plan. Dake explained that when we set up the program each individual property had to have its own plan. We have a discharge law in our codification that was passed to allow for this program.

Blossey stated that the Village of Cayuga Heights (VCH) does contact killing which is very expensive. VCH tried what we do here in the Village, and it failed because with the laws it was difficult to find large enough properties to have controlled hunts. Blossey explained that when you do it that way, the deer meat is not consumable, and they just go to the landfill. Currently, we buy corn from Genoa for the baiting sites. Our meat is donated and consumed.

Hardaway asked about the measuring of oak regeneration which Blossey does for free. Hardaway wondered how the saplings are protected. Blossey stated that they are not protected but they can tell what animal eats the oak. It is clearly the deer. Deer move and they are hard to count. Numbers do not matter, what the issue is is the damage they cause. Just because you don't see the deer, it doesn't mean they are not there. We have cameras that prove otherwise. Hardaway personally likes deer and has been in parts of the world where the deer are starving. He does not want to overkill, which we are not doing.

Blossey previously emailed the following three documents: 2023-24 Season, Deer Damage Permit Application and the justification to go with the application to the NYSDEC.

**Village of Lansing Deer Hunting Report**  
**2023-24**  
**Bernd Blossey**

**Background**

2023 was the 17<sup>th</sup> year that the village has implemented deer reduction efforts using bow hunting, and the 9<sup>th</sup> 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 2023-24 season. While the deer reduction is clear, reductions are as of yet insufficient to allow sensitive species to thrive and forest regeneration to become more widespread. Further continuation of this program is essential to prevent the deer population to rebound.

**2023-24 Deer harvest statistics:**

During the past season, 10 hunters participated and all were successful in harvesting 32 deer during the approved shooting period that ended on 31 March 2024. The deer take is less than half of the previous 2 seasons (Table 1). The reasons for this drop are unknown, but participants made 56trips, about 30 fewer trips than the previous season.

**Age and sex distribution:**

The age and sex distribution in 2023-24 was skewed substantially in favor of adults and slightly in favor of does.

Adult does: 16

Does <1 year old: 2

Adult bucks: 10

Bucks <1 year old: 4

**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	23
Leopold	11	2	5	9	3	2	1	13(13)	0	1	0	0	7	15	8	8	3
Lempert/Novarr	-	-	7	7	4	8	4	4	-	0	4	7	1	11	10	6	3
Bieri/Adelson	-	-	21	6	22	10	13	17(12)	19	12	14	10	10	10	13	11	5
Street/Butler/Dennis	-	-	-	21	14	14	4	9(2)	6	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
Autumn Ridge	-	-	-	-	13	2	8	4	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Park/Cayuga Heights Road	-	-	-	-	4	7	1	4	6	11	9	4	7	7	4	8	4
Route 13	-	-	-	-	5	2	5	4	1	3	2	3	3	3	0	0	2
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	5
Dean	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	2	0	0	-	-	-	-
Craig	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dart Drive	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	7	3	4	1	3	3	2	2	1
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	2
Brentwood Drive									2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Baldini	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		13	9
Unaccounted for in qualtrix											4	0					
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>32</b>

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).

Large deer 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: 3  
November: 11  
December: 10  
January: 6  
February: 1  
March: 1

### **Outlook and recommendation for 2024-25**

The deer harvest rate in VOL precipitously declined last season, for reasons not entirely clear. reduced enthusiasm by long-term participants may explain some of it. Weather fluctuations remain another possible explanation. The season at Cornell was equally poor, in terms of deer killed. 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 hold deer populations at reduced levels, but accurate counts are impossible. 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 keep considering it again this year. 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 2024-25**

For the past 17 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. 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.

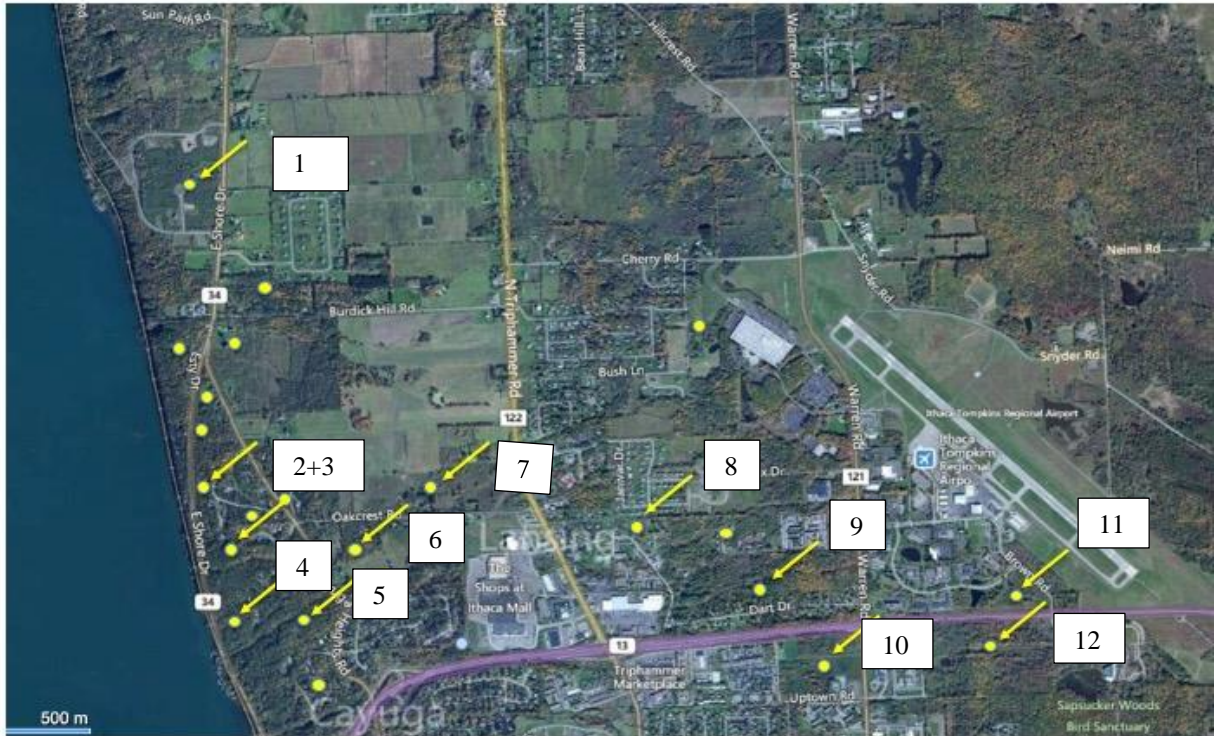
**Table 1:** Deer take in VOL since 2007 in the regular hunting season, during the DMFA seasons (2014 was both regular and then DDP in early 2015) and using DDP's (since 2015).

Deer take	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19	20	21	22	23
Regular season	11	2	33	43	65	47	47	40									
DMFA January season	-	-	-	-	-	18	2	0									
<b>Total</b>	11	2	33	43	65	65	49	68	65	43	47	34	38	79	51	57	32

This approach appeared to have worked well, at least in greatly reducing deer damage and somewhat stabilizing the population. 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 are not limiting, but enthusiasm to continue to spend the needed hours by our long-term participants are waning. Furthermore, in part, access to deer on locations we are not currently allowed to hunt due to DEC set-back regulations has eliminated some productive sites, but mostly the changed activity patterns. 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 2024-25 season with a start date of October 1st, and continuing to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025. 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 Blossy (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.



**Table 2.** Shooting location information

Site #	Name	Lat	Long	Remarks
1	Baldini	42.50549	76.51198	
2	Park	42.48593	76.49594	
3	Park	42.48757	76.51006	
4	Leopold	42.48266	76.51006	
5	Novarr	42.48364	76.50294	
6	Dennis	42.4887	76.50102	
7	Adelson/Bieri	42.48888	76.49594	
8	Village of Lansing	42.48728	76.4795	
9	recent sale			
10	Cornell University	42.48118	76.47019	
11	Cornell University	42.47846	76.45742	
12	Cornell University	42.48408	76.45746	



**Resolution #7093-To Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Deer Damage Permit Application**

Hardaway moved this resolution. Ainslie seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye	Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye
Trustee Kathleen Yen-Aye	Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye
Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer-no reply heard	

Dake reminded the Trustees that there would not be a meeting on Monday since Dake, Hardaway and Yen will be at the NYCOM Fall Training School. Dake will not be at the next meeting on October 7, 2024. Tax reminders have been mailed to those that have not paid their taxes yet. (\$193,058.69) The newsletter will be going out at the end of September, so all newsletter articles need to be to Dake by September 24<sup>th</sup>. The survey will be up online so we can direct people there in the newsletter. We will also have a few copies in the Village office.

Greenwald asked about mailing out a letter to people that are along the potential trail from the Town. Dake suggested putting all the addresses on labels so that if she needs to do multiple mailings, she can use the labels.

Yen asked how many people receive the newsletter. There are about 80 people that receive the newsletter by mail. There is also an electronic list of people who have requested to receive notice when the newsletter is available. The actual survey will not be included in the newsletter because it is too many pages. Only 6 pages can go in an envelope before you must add more postage. The newsletter will tell residents where they can go to get a survey.

Dake asked the Trustees if they would like to approve the minutes from August 5<sup>th</sup> ,15<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>. August 15<sup>th</sup> will have to be approved separately since Greenwald was not present. August 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> can be approved together since everyone was here. The suggested changes that were emailed to Dake have been incorporated.

Motion - To Approve the Minutes from August 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Hardaway made a motion to approve the minutes. Ainslie seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye	Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye
Trustee Kathleen Yen-Aye	Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye
Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer-Aye	

Motion - To Approve the Minutes from August 15, 2024

Hardaway made a motion to approve the minutes. Ainslie seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye	Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye
--------------------------	---------------------------

Trustee Kathleen Yen-Aye  
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Abstain

Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer-Aye

**Resolution #7094-** Abstract of Audited Vouchers

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 4 for the General Fund, in the amount of \$735,265.11 is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 4 for the Sewer Fund, in the amount of \$4,802.03 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 \$6,114.28 is hereby approved for payment, and

Be it RESOLVED, that Abstract of Audited Vouchers No. 4 for the Water Fund, in the amount of \$120,074.24 is hereby approved for payment.

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

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye  
Trustee Kathleen Yen-Aye  
Trustee Carolyn Greenwald-Aye

Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye  
Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer-Abstain

Greenwald stated that the Comprehensive Plan surveys are going out this fall to residents and businesses. It will also be on the Village website. Greenwald will also be sending letters to property owners along the potential trail route from the town to the village. This is very preliminary.

Our annual payment to the Recreation Partnership will be going down next year by \$78. The calculation of what each municipality pays is based on usage and population and our usage went down slightly. In general, their budget went up.

For the bulb project we will be getting approximately 10,000 for \$3,000. Greenwald did some checking, and this is a very good price. Hardaway asked if this would be enough. Greenwald would like to see how this goes before we spend any more money.

Greenwald wondered if we should consider using the special permit process, if that is what Dryden had done, to obtain easements for the trail. Greenwald will ask Attorney French this question and have her reply to Dake, Scott and the Trustees.

Ainslie reported on the Planning Board. The Solar Law is still being worked on. Scott stated that a paragraph was added making the property owner responsible for decommissioning. This will be brought up at the continuation of the public hearing on October 7<sup>th</sup>. The Planning Board also talked about future projects including chart of usage, short term rentals, battery energy storage system, camping in the parks. The supreme court has recently ruled that it is up to the municipality to decide if we want to allow people to camp in parks. We need to check our Codification to see if

we have a law to not allow overnight camping on public property.

Yen reported that the Climate Smart/Clean Energy Communities met on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August. The Core Advisory Group information was previously emailed to the Trustees. September is National Preparedness Month. Community Justice Center uses the YMCA as one of their regional hubs. In the future, Yen would like the Trustees to consider the following three items:

- (1) Boards retreat
- (2) Policies and procedure review
- (3) Open positions on the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) and the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council.

Dake pointed out that we review the policies at our Organizational Meeting every year.

Bullmer had nothing to report.

The Board discussed the Village's Capital Plan. Hardaway created a new one, not to replace the one Dake already has, but one that can be used to tell us where we are and what we need to do. Hardaway stated that this is more of a status report sheet than a Capital Plan. Dake pointed out that all this information is already part of the budget explanation that she provides each year. Dake feels that this is just recreating the wheel. Greenwald feels this is a nice visual for the Trustees to see what is happening with the DPW. Hardaway likes that all the information is on one or two sheets. He feels this would help the Trustees to focus on where we are going and what we need to do. This form would tell if a project is in progress, in the planning stage, completed or TBD. Hardaway would like to revisit this spreadsheet every quarter. We will try to use it for a while and in December we will look at it again. Hardaway is going to send the Googledoc link to the staff and board. Dake likes the fact that the trustees are checking on the staff quarterly and making sure we are doing what we need to do. This keeps us all accountable.

Motion- To Adjourn

Ainslie moved for adjournment. Trustee Yen seconded the motion. A vote was taken:

Mayor Ronny Hardaway-Aye  
Trustee Kathleen Yen-Aye

Trustee Susan Ainslie-Aye  
Trustee Wolfgang Bullmer-Aye

The meeting adjourned at 1:55pm.

Jodi Dake, Clerk/Treasurer