

Comprehensive Plan Work Group
Town of North Dansville & Village of Dansville
14 Clara Barton Street
Dansville, NY 14437

Minutes for Monday, May 20, 2024

Meeting was called to order by Nancy Nice at 6:00pm

Work Group members:	Chairperson, Nancy Nice (Planning Board)	Present
	Katie Infantino, Secretary (Planning Board)	Present
	Chuck Menosky (Planning Board)	Present
	Kathy Button (Village Board)	Present
	Jeff Weidrick (Village Board)	Present
	Bob Infantino (Town Board)	Present
	David Luce (Town Board)	Present
	Jared Bridge (Planning Board)	Present
	Ann Lafford (Community)	Absent
	Quinn Golden (Community)	Present
	Marcia Miller (Community)	Present
	Karen Howell (Community)	Absent
	Sue DeMuth (Community)	Present
	Karen Schleyer (ZBA)	Present
	Chuck Infantino (ZBA)	Present
	Sue Mettler (Community)	Absent

Guests: Kurt Gerould, Dennis Weidman, Charlie Perkins, Francine Warren, Wilhelmina Potter, Beverly Hallock, Roxanne Simeone, Shannon Griese, Karen Norton.

Minutes: A motion was made by Quinn Golden to accept the March 26, 2024 minutes, **2nd** by Marcia Miller. All in favor 13 AYE, 0 NAY, 0 ABSTAIN, **motion passed.**

Old Business -

Marcia Miller - Pennysaver

- The Pennysaver charges .14/each for flyers to be inserted. There are approximately 4,189 deliveries and 289 drops to businesses. It would cost about \$617 to include an insert in the Pennysaver.
- It is free to advertise in the community section. We could put meeting dates and topics in each month.
- It was discussed and decided that we would post in the free community section until we had a survey ready. At that time we will discuss the insert again.

Susan DeMuth - Grants

- She will get the grants committee together soon.
- Sue will be meeting the Livingston County grants person.

New Business - Speakers

Kurt Gerould- Director of Transportation Dansville Central School District

- He's been in the job for 6 months and things are improving.
- The new sidewalks in some areas have made a significant improvement. Parents are able to walk their students to a community stop, rather than picking up at each house.
- Hoping more new sidewalks will be done to make community stops possible throughout the village.
- Communication with the town and village has been good regarding road closures and other issues.

Shannon Griese - Chief Dansville Police Department

EV-Bikes, scooters, electric wheelchairs, sidewalks, crosswalks, etc.

- Jefferson St, Babcock Park, and Franklin St. had had a few complaints about cars speeding and some complaints about the other motorized vehicles. The officers are working on improving that.
- It is unfair for some residents to pay for their sidewalks while others are not paying for them. There needs to be a solution. Sidewalks need to be improved.
- There are telephone poles in the middle of the sidewalk on Knox Street.
- Sue Demuth is going to ask about walkability grants.
- Charlie Perkins said grants are always talked about but nothing ever happens.
- It was reported that other municipalities are receiving grants for sidewalks.
- Is there an ordinance that requires streets to have sidewalks? Yes, there must be a sidewalk on at least one side of the street.
- Suggested that sidewalks be on the side of the street that has power lines and trees be planted on the other side.
- Injuries have been reported on unsafe sidewalks by members of tonight's audience.
- Shannon reported that there are approximately 4 injuries per year, relating to the unsafe sidewalks, that need medical assistance.
- There was a question about who is responsible for maintaining the sidewalks.
- There is a sidewalk survey that is available. It was done a few years ago by Charlie Perkins. That will be reviewed.
- There was a question about who is liable for injuries if they occur in front of the abandoned house in the village. Karen Schleyer mentioned that the government always used "prior notice" in order for the municipality to be held responsible for injuries.
- It was mentioned that sidewalks are tied together with walkability, trees, and the health of the community. Tree lined streets invite people to slow down and explore. Trees also cool the pavement for people and animals.
- In 2026-2027 all school buses will be electric, which will then lead to all municipal vehicles going electric. This will double the cost of the vehicles which will be reflected in our taxes.
- Lots of issues with electric buses.
- Griese says there aren't many complaints about crosswalks.
- Cars are not required by law to stop at crosswalks except at intersections, however, they should be stopping.
- Griese reported that 2 people have been killed in pedestrian/car accidents in the last 20+ years in Dansville.
- Legal crosswalks are at intersections if they are marked, the pedestrian has the right of way. If they aren't marked then the motor vehicle has the right of way.

- There is a new crosswalk in front of the school that the administration uses to get across the street safely. There are lights that can be activated to notify motor vehicles of people crossing.
- Stoplights - Griese reported that they no longer flash at 10PM. They also are alternating so they are not all green at the same time.
- DOT changes patterns of lights every so often.
- Parking lines on Main Street - there are no lines and no issues that he knows of because of that.
- There doesn't seem to be an issue with people parking there for more than 2 hours.
- There are no handicap designations for parking.
- There are no markings around fire hydrants.
- E-bikes, scooter, etc - Chief Griese has sent his proposed guidance to the village board. They have not discussed it yet.
- See how other municipalities are handling the issue and what is working.
- 1st violation- tow the bike and the owner is responsible for the cost of getting it back.
- We don't have a local impound lot. Dansville Police Dept does not want to be responsible for keeping the e-bikes.
- The fines will be decided by the judicial system.
- There have been 3 accidents involving e-bikes since winter.
- People need to be educated about e- bikes. Officers will start doing this when they encounter them.
- If an e-bike user is under 16 or 18, the parent will be responsible.
- Officers will most likely stop and give a warning. They try not to arrest, if it is dismissed in court the office could be sued in civil court.
- E-bikes, scooters, electric wheelchairs are not required to be registered.
- Bicycles are still registered. Bikes that are found are given to the school for bike safety classes.
- Our streets are not wide enough for a bike lane.
- E-bikes can be rented at Rent-A-Center.
- Do not need a valid driver's license to register a motor vehicle.
- DPD has used a QR Code to elicit feedback after a traffic stop. They sent out 100 and have received 14 responses. They are looking for feedback so they can improve.

Charlie Perkins - Village Trustee

Sidewalks

- Sidewalks have been an ongoing debate for decades.
- Grants would be helpful.
- The sidewalk program that is currently in use, the homeowner gets on a list, DPW evaluates and tells them their cost.
- The difficulty is that some can afford to replace sidewalks and some cannot.
- Even if a homeowner can't afford to have their own sidewalk done, they are still subsidizing the homeowners who can through their taxes.
- It is a bit lopsided and unfair.
- We have a high percentage of rentals and often sidewalks are not the landlord's top priority.
- People want to get them done but can't afford it.
- The state has offered to put a crosswalk on Franklin St Tops Plaza but it wouldn't be accessible by sidewalk from some parts of Franklin Street.
- Currently the village law states that the installation of new and replacement of old sidewalks is as follows:
 - 1. Public safety.
 - 2. Property owner request.

- 3. Property owners can use a private contractor.
- Sidewalks were originally designed for public safety.
- We need to designate destination spots and prioritize sidewalks in those areas and make them walkable.
- Prioritize sidewalks where cars and pedestrians come into contact with each other (public safety).
- If the sidewalk falls within public safety is the homeowner responsible for the cost? That would be a decision of the village government.
- The cost of the North Clinton Street sidewalks was \$48 per foot.
- Concrete is expensive.
- Franklin Street has approximately 900 feet of unusable sidewalks.
- Too much focus on individual homes. Good sidewalks can be accessed because they are surrounded by bad sidewalks.
- Karen Schleyer commented that the Village of Wayland put new sidewalks in the whole village.
- Charlie isn't sure what funding we currently have in the budget for new sidewalks.
- If replacing sidewalks for individual homeowners is our goal, then the current program is good.
- If walkability is our goal then our current program does not support that.
- Kathy Button commented - grants take a year to receive so we are looking at next year. The village needs to focus on getting those grants so we are not pushing it out another year. We need a group to work exclusively on grants. We are always a year short.
- Charlie suggested we invite the mayor from the Village of Perry and any other municipality who has gotten sidewalk grants to talk to us and tell us how it is done.
- Currently our plan only covers people who can afford to replace sidewalks.
- We need to change the focus from individuals to public safety and walkability.
- The main question is, how can sidewalks be afforded by everyone? Must be through taxes and the public must be educated.
- Currently there is an active list of 16-20 homeowners waiting for sidewalks.
- Quinn Golden commented that code enforcement can cite someone for unsafe sidewalks, although it isn't common practice here.

Suggestions and Ideas

- Chief Griese suggested other subcommittees could be created and shared with the mayor and village board.
- We will try to get mayors or groups who were able to get grants/money for sidewalks to attend and speak at our meeting.
- Sidewalks are complicated and we should have a subcommittee.
- Spread the word to people who might be interested in serving on these committees.
- With community participation we can make this happen.
- Invite Scott Tracy from DPW to the next meeting and include him on the subcommittees.
- Put notice in the community section of Pennysaver for the next meeting date and topic. Marcia will see that this is done. She will also contact WDNV.
- Chuck Menosky will post meeting dates and topics on Facebook.
- Chuck Menosky and Katie Infantino will meet to create a insert to include in the June water bills. It will include a survey, dates of meetings, Facebook name, request for people who are interested in the workin on a sidewalk subcommittee.

A motion was made by Karen Schleyer to adjourn, **2nd** by Jared Bridge. All in favor 13 AYE, 0 NAY, 0 ABSTAIN, **motion passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:27pm

Next Meeting: June 17, 2024 in the auditorium of the North Dansville Town Hall.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Infantino, Secretary Comprehensive Plan Work Group (CPWG)