

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

Minutes for Monday, January 22, 2025

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

Work Group members:	Chairperson, Nancy Nice (Planning Board)	Present
	Co-Chair, Quinn Golden (Community)	Present
	Katie Infantino, Secretary (Planning Board)	Present
	Ann Lafford (Community)	Present
	Karen Schleyer (ZBA)	Present
	Marcia Miller (Community)	Present
	Chuck Infantino (ZBA)	Present
	Susan DeMuth (Community)	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)	Absent
	Jared Bridge (Planning Board)	Present

Guests: Dennis Weidman, Charles Perkins, Karen Howell, Amy Orel, Sue Keysaw, Jill Miller, Sherry Kramer, Gary Kramer, Gerald Welch Jr., Jeremy Gray, Chris Gray, Kevin Weidman.

Minutes: A motion was made by Karen Schleyer to accept the November 18, 2024 minutes, **2nd** by . Quinn Golden. All in favor 13 AYE, 0 NAY, 0 ABSTAIN, **motion passed.**

Minutes: A motion was made by Quinn Golden to accept the December 24, 2024 non-meeting minutes, **2nd** by Karen Schleyer. All in favor 13 AYE, 0 NAY, 0 ABSTAIN, **motion passed**

Old Business

Grants - Susan DeMuth

- There is a Generic Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan Grant.
- One ends in March and another ends in August 2025.
- Sue and Nancy will meet with Travis from Livingston County to discuss more about the grant.
- Kathy Button has also talked to Travis about a parks grant.
- The grants are matching grants, which means a contribution from the town or village would be necessary.
- **Quinn** - what is the process for searching for grants? The Village of Nunda just received a \$90K grant for sidewalks.
- **Kathy** - has a website listing all the grants that are available. She will share the website with everyone.

- **Quinn** - Maybe we could have a person constantly checking the updated list of available grants to bring to the Town and Village Boards. Such a position could be shared by both the town and village.
- **Kathy** - Livingston County will not write grants.
- **Nancy** - The original Master Plan had a grant writer for a year.
- **Sue** - At one time Livingston County had someone to write grants.
- **Katie** - Grants almost always ask for a matching monetary amount because they want to make the municipality follow through with the grant.
- **Jaren** - Mauve we can research grants using AI. He is starting to become familiar with it and can begin looking once Sue and Nancy meet with Travis.
- **Gary Kramer** - The Village of Naples received a grant for new pickleball courts. Other money came for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Rotary, and the community.
- **Charlie Perkins** - The APRA money for the Village of Dansville was used for the sewer fund.

EV Updates - Nancy Nice

- Still waiting for the laws to be added to the Village of Dansville Police Department website.

Airport Update - Ann Lafford

- The credit card system for the gas pump has been installed.
- They are meeting with an engineering firm to discuss grants that may be available.
- They are working on compliance with a tank that needs to be above ground.
- **Quinn** - How can we get the word out about the improvements at the airport.
- **Bob** - Pilots are spreading the word and that should continue. Bob also reported that more hangars will be built in the future.

New Business

Williams Park (Washington Street)

- Nancy listed some of the amenities in the park :
 - Two picnic tables.
 - Old sign that needs to be fixed is about 30 years old.
 - Pickleball court (formerly a skateboard area).
 - Girl Scout house.
 - Playground.
 - The creek which is being cleared for people to enjoy.

Suggestions for changes and additions to Williams Park

- Trim trees behind the Girl Scout house.
- Should the GS house be relocated or torn down and rebuilt? It is in need of repair.
- Is the heating in the GS house efficient?
- Stairway is narrow.
- We need a long-term plan for fixing and maintaining the house.
- Fixing the GS house is in the grant that Kathy Button is working on.
- Having the Village Board invest in a long-term plan for our parks would prevent parks from falling into disrepair. We will encourage the board to do that.
- The upgrades to the park were brought about through community involvement.
- We might be able to get volunteers to help with planning and doing upgrades to the park.

- Sign needs to be replaced and updated.
- The Lions Club is always looking for community projects. They would love to be involved.
- A park for kids with special needs would be a great addition to our park system. Something similar to the autism trail in Letchworth State Park.
- Another great addition to our parks would be a splash park.
- Lions would be willing to donate time or money for a park for special needs children.
- Can we change the name from Williams Park to Washington Street park to avoid confusion?
- It's very secluded near the bike jump, it needs some cleaning out. Possible illumination and foot bridge to discourage drug use in that area.

Frontage Park (Town of North Dansville)

- Nancy listed some of the amenities in the park :
 - Pavillion
 - Soccer field
 - Baseball field

Suggestions for changes and additions to Frontage Park

- Ann said that the pickleball group is working with the town to build 6 new courts. They are working on writing a grant and have letters of support from Dansville Chamber of Commerce, Dansville Lions Club, Dansville Rotary Club, Auxiliary, Varsity Park. The group is looking to mirror the Naples pickleball courts.
- Creek access fishing is permission only from the town.
- How do you get permission to fish? Nancy said you can ask when you get the fishing license at the town hall.
- Ticks are relevant in that area, people should pay attention.
- A frisbee golf course would be a great addition. They are relatively easy to set up.
- Identify parks that could hold new things like shuffleboard, frisbee golf, and other activities.
- Long term planning would help decide the best parks for these activities.
- The more that we have in our parks, the more people in the parks which will decrease vandalism.

Elm Street Park (pocket park)

- Nancy listed some of the amenities in the park :
 - Two swings
 - Basketball court
 - Lots of trees providing lots of shade

Suggestions for changes and additions to Elm Street Park

- Add benches for more sitting areas. The shade trees make it a pleasant place to sit.
- Swings for adults.
- Should this park be more of a quiet park or a park for kids?
- Add more playground equipment? There are lots of kids who utilize this park.
- Swings need to be updated.
- Update basketball court. It was noted that the basketball court will be resurfaced soon.
- Baby swings.

- Softball or kickball area.

Washington Park (Williams Street)

- Nancy listed some of the amenities in the park :
 - Has 3 bridges which need work.
 - Two swings
 - Basketball court
 - One bench
 - Lots of trees
 - Creek

Suggestions for changes and additions to Washington Park

- There are lots of old trees in this park and some may need to come down. The trees should not come down until they are replaced. Plant new trees and let them mature before taking the old ones down. There are trees at the landfill available for planting.
- More swings could be added.
- More playground equipment.
- More benches.
- Shorter basketball baskets for younger kids.
- We need a long term plan for trees in all the parks. We don't want to have a treeless park.
- There is a light by the middle bridge that needs to be fixed. A solar light could be placed there or a trench could be dug to Clinton Street to hook to electricity.

Church Park

- Nancy listed some of the amenities in the park :
 - Has a huge old oak tree.
 - Gazebo which is under construction.
 - Clara Barton Statue
 - Some new trees have been planted.

Suggestions for changes and additions to Church Park

- Who owns the land around the churches?
- The village needs a plan for this area when and if the churches close. We do not want vacant buildings in the middle of the village.
- One of the churches has already been on the market. It may happen to more churches in the coming years.
- We need to be aware to who, the land belongs. Buildings with no land have no value without parking.
- Could call Cynthia Houck about grants for religious spaces. A church in Central NY that closed is now being used as music studios. We need to think outside the box for what these churches could be.
- St. Mary's school is full of asbestos. It would cost a significant amount of money to fix or demolish.
- The Dansville Area Historical Society would like to take the church down that is next to them. This could also be quite costly.
- Are grants available for tear down?

- Church Park is a very important issue for the village to address.

Babcock Park

- Nancy listed some of the amenities in the park :
 - Gliders baseball
 - Gazebo
 - Fire Department Pavilion
 - Creek
 - Basketball court
 - Nature walking trail
 - Sledding hill
 - Walking paths throughout the park
 - Pickleball court
 - Tennis court
 - Playground
 - Port a Potties

Suggestions for changes and additions to Babcock Park

- There is a tree down on the walking trail that needs to be addressed.
- Creek runs down the walking trail that needs to be addressed.
- Should be maintained by the village.
- Basketball court has some toe catches that are dangerous and could cause injury.
- No restrooms except portable toilets.
- Have the cameras been installed?
- Cameras on firemen's pavilion and on Glider's field.
- There was supposed to be a crew come back and trench for cables needed to set up cameras. Not sure if it has been done.
- Once cameras are set up, who will monitor them?
- Youth football locks up their toilets because they have been vandalized.
- There should be an expectation that if park improvements are made then money needs to be allotted to maintain them.
- Police patrol needs to be part of the long term plan
- Pickleball is played at Babcock and that court must be maintained too. It is the only shaded place to play. This court will need to be resurfaced too.
- The paved walking trail will need to be resurfaced.

Miscellaneous

- Elements to consider when creating a pickleball court
 - Noise
 - Parking
- That makes Frontage Park the perfect place for a new court.
- The cost of a new pickleball court including fencing, surfacting, nets, etc. is approximately \$112,000. This does not include the foundation. There will be a little cost involved for the foundation but the town crew has agreed to help keep the cost down.
- Designating a point person for researching grants is important.
- A pedestrian bridge over the creek at Red Jacket Street and Route 36.
- A walking path around the whole perimeter of Williams Park would improve the park.

- Pioneer Park is a monument park so not much can be added.

Update on the YMCA

- A fundraising firm has been chosen and they are putting together the materials for their “story.”
- They are looking for prospective donors. They will then meet with the donors to figure out whether they can raise the money they need.
- They will be partnering with the senior nutrition program and Noyes Hospital.

Railroad Tracks on East Hill

- Suggested a few years ago to create a walking trail along the tracks.
- Towers are fenced off
- Town of North Dansville owns the tracks. It is padlocked but not sure why. It may be an insurance issue.
- The possibility of making it into a public walking area should definitely be looked at.
- Trail Otter received permission to hike the tracks.
- If it is incorporated into the town park system then we might not need special insurance.
- What happened to the grant the village received to look into making the castle-on-the-hill a ruin museum?
- Grant was originally \$40k to do a study with no village funding. When the grant came in it was \$20k. Now the decision needs to be made whether to fund raise or use taxpayers dollars.
- What was the grant for?
- The grant was for a feasibility study for turning the castle into a ruin museum.
- We should include the castle into the park system.
- Susan is going to see if she can get a copy of Tom Acomb’s plan so the Comprehensive Plan Work Group can see it.
- Peter Krog still owns the property.
- Has Krog been approached to find the rest of the money for the study? No one seemed to know that answer.
- All the ideas are fabulous but thinking about the cost for all of these things. The village doesn’t have the tax base like they had in the past.
- The ideas would probably cost around \$2 million. But if each of these things were put into a long term plan they could be budgeted and planned for over the course of many years.

Next Meeting: February meeting TBD

Scott Tracy, Scott Mitchell, Greg Horr, Barry Haywood, and the village board and town board members will be invited to discuss infrastructure.

Motion by Jared Bridge to adjourn, 2nd by Ann Lafford. All in favor 13 AYE, 0 NAY, 0 . Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Infantino, Secretary Comprehensive Plan Work Group (CPWG)