

Village of Skaneateles Planning Board Meeting September 6, 2012

An update on several matters by Village Trustee James Lanning.

Present: Bruce Kenan, Chairman
Bill Eberhardt, Member
Megan Keady, Member
Douglas Sutherland, Member

Riccardo Galbato, Attorney for the Planning Board
Dennis Dundon, Clerk to the Planning Board

James Lanning, Village Trustee

Absent: Toby Millman, Member

At 8:32 pm Chairman Kenan permitted Trustee Lanning to provide an update for the Members of the Planning Board.

Trustee Lanning began with an update on the new Village Office project. A final design has been received from the architects and asbestos abatement is underway by Jupiter Environmental. Regarding the application for the NYSERDA grant for green improvements, we have been led to believe we scored well, but there were a lot of applicants for the available funds. Member Eberhardt suggested that an important criterion seemed to be the numbers of permanent jobs created.

The wastewater treatment plant saw the delivery of the new replacement Rotating Biological Contactors (RBC) today. The roof of the building was removed by crane and the existing RBC units will be removed. The plant has been operating on three RBCs for approximately 9 months – a timeframe lengthened because of abnormalities with the original contract.

Four of the five principal landowners along Fennel Street have sent back approvals for a survey of a possible creek walk, and have all shown interest in it. Kirby Janke has not yet responded. The four represent the segment from Endurance Monster to Kinney Drugs.

Trustee Lanning said he is working on a sidewalk project along West Elizabeth Street now that the paving has been completed. While there had been a sidewalk on the north side of the street, it has deteriorated in most locations and disappeared in others. Member Eberhardt indicated that he has the names of residents who are supportive of such a project. Discussion ensued about the Village's title to right-of-way for sidewalks in that area. The Planning Board is very supportive

of having sidewalks along every street in the Village and routinely makes that requirement part of its site plan approvals. Further discussion ensued about the incomplete sidewalks at the Whitegate development and the newly-constructed berm that is in the area in which the sidewalks were to be built.

The Village is moving ahead with the underground electric project for Fennell Street. CVS and the new Village Hall are already underground. Trustee Lanning questioned what historical precedent dates back to the underground installation on Genesee Street -- regarding paying for the underground connection to a home or business. Chairman Kenan repeated his caution that the Fennell Street improvement plan needs to be understood and followed when making decisions on undergrounding so that costly mistakes are avoided.

Trustee Lanning brought up the Fennell Street Master Plan and asked for input regarding a proposed redesign of the Fennell/Jordan intersection. The Board recalled that this work had been done by EDR. They furnished contact names and phone numbers to Trustee Lanning. Chairman Kenan suggested that the Trustees appoint a formal committee to pursue the redevelopment of Fennell Street, to avoid the "hit or miss" approach. He strongly encouraged the appointment of Member Sutherland to such a panel, and that the services of Dave Crandall, former owner of EDR, would be very helpful.

Attorney Galbato reminded the group that much of this area is in the Downtown "D" District, and therefore any redevelopment must go before the Village board for a Critical Impact permit.

Chairman Kenan noted that the catch basins on West Lake Street are being raised, and asked what the plan is. Trustee Lanning said that he believes that the second paving coat is being delayed until next spring, which seems at odds with the current work.

The Board expressed its satisfaction with the continuing dialogue.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm.