

At a special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Morrisville held the 10th day of November, 2015, at the Town of Eaton Offices, Morrisville, there were:

Present:	Mark Shepard	Mayor
	Margaret Brody	Trustee
	Emily Marshall	Trustee
	Kathleen Roher	Trustee
	Allen Noel	Trustee
	Amy Will	Clerk-Treasurer

Others: Tracy Scholefield and Joseph Giusti, residents; Dr. Elisa Livengood, Caitlin Stark, Nikki Sebastian, Packard Haynes, Jessica Miller, David Rice, Dan Marshall, Jared Trickey, and Cheyenne Beach, of Morrisville State College.

Mayor Shepard opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. He noted that this meeting was to discuss the parcel of property owned by the village located between Union and Eaton Streets. He thanked Dr. Livengood and her students for attending and opened the floor to them.

Dr. Livengood indicated that this group of students are in an eco-system impact course, with the goal of creating and analyzing land management plans. As part of the course she and the students completed an initial survey and inventory report of the village property to identify species composition, how it is currently being utilized by surrounding property owners, evidence of wildlife, etc. Dr. Livengood said this evening they would like to have input from adjacent property owners and village officials regarding their vision for the property. With that information, her students will create a land management plan which could be implemented in the spring or fall of 2016, in conjunction with other courses. Dr. Livengood said that ultimately this is a learning opportunity for her students, and she would like to see collaboration between the college and village.

Mayor Shepard noted that the initial survey indicates there are trees that should be harvested. He questioned whether that would be done by students. Dr. Livengood said that could possibly be done by the heavy equipment class. Mayor Shepard asked who would coordinate this project. Dr. Livengood stated she would be the point person for coordination of courses within her department, then branching out to other departments should the need arise.

One student remarked that this property could be developed into a wildlife area where certain species are planted to attract butterflies or migratory birds. It would be something people want to see in their back yard, but wouldn't invite people in as an area to hang out in. Dr. Livengood stated that she understands we do not want to make this property a pass through or hangout. She also suggested the village consider putting up signage in an attempt to keep landfill activities down or a fence all the way around the property.

Trustee Marshall asked if there was a timetable for this project. Dr. Livengood indicated there isn't yet because they're unsure what the village envisions for this property. Once that is determined, the timetable would be part of the land management plan they will create. Trustee Roher stated that she doesn't want to see the property wide open as it currently acts as a noise barrier and we don't want to encourage people to hang out there. Dr. Livengood indicated the plan could include planting barrier shrubs or trees which will delineate the property and discourage a pass through. If opened up or developed, it might become a place where people hang out.

Mayor Shepard questioned whether their plan will include a cost analysis. Dr. Livengood indicated that could be included. She noted that the next phase for the group to present the village with an actual plan.

Mr. Giusti said that as the property currently sits it acts as great noise buffer for sound coming from Eaton Street and it also keeps people out. In his opinion, we should leave it alone. In the alternative, if it is a burden to the village he suggested that it be sold to the adjoining property owners as he would be happy to take a piece of that property. He said that putting a park in there is going to be nothing more than a nightmare. Mr. Giusti also noted that if the property is cleaned up neighbors will be able to see into each other's backyards. The property is

beneficial the way it sits right now. Dr. Livengood acknowledged that it is clearly important to adjoining property owners that a buffer remain. She added that at no time do they want to turn the property into a park or an attractive nuisance. Dr. Livengood said if the goal is to encourage other species of songbirds, they don't need the noise either.

Mr. Giusti said that the initial survey notes that there is evidence of skunks and woodchucks. If we start disturbing the property those animals will go elsewhere and may create a problem for homeowners. Dr. Livengood said that the downed brush is part of the problem; it provides burrows for those animal to breed. She added that the college could look at putting out live traps and relocating those animals. She said that the habitat they want to encourage is not for mammals but for songbirds.

Trustee Marshall offered access through her adjoining property to avoid disturbing others. She also noted that Gerry Oliveri gave permission to access the lot through his property.

Trustee Noel asked the students to develop a plan for songbird habitat so we have more details to share with adjoining property owners. Dr. Livengood said that with the information from tonight's meeting they will develop a plan by the second week of December. Mayor Shepard thanked the group for their time this evening.

The board addressed the request of Joel Marshall for a reduction in the water bill for 6 Mill Street. This matter was discussed at the regular meeting last week, however the vote failed. Mrs. Will recommended a credit of 7109 cf on the O&M portion of the bill. Trustee Noel made a motion authorizing a credit in the amount of \$319.90 to the O&M portion of Account 000502, seconded by Trustee Roher, all ayes with Trustee Marshall abstaining. Motion carried.

Mrs. Will addressed the creation of a village Facebook page as was discussed at the October meeting. The board approved of this.

Mrs. Will advised the board of a complaint made by Bill Donnelly of East Maple Avenue today. Mr. Donnelly indicates that a 53ft tractor trailer went down East Maple Avenue Friday. Mr. Donnelly was initially upset by this, but considered that perhaps it had been at Copesetic. However, on Sunday a large Pepsi truck went down East Maple Avenue. Mr. Donnelly doesn't believe there is any reason for that truck to be on the street other than to avoid the traffic light. Mr. Donnelly suggested that the board have a procedure in place to deal with truck traffic as it takes away from the residential atmosphere of the neighborhood.

Mrs. Will advised the board of an issue with her accumulation of sick leave. She noted that when she was rehired in August 2013 it was for 7.5 hours per day. She has been accruing sick leave for an 8 hour day, resulting in an overpayment of 7.68 hours. She suggested the board reduce her sick leave balance by this amount. Trustee Brody made a motion directing the reduction of Amy Will's sick leave balance by 7.68 hours, seconded by Trustee Noel, all ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Roher made a motion that in accordance with the employee handbook, effective December 1, 2015 eligible employees will be credited with one sick leave day per month, and such credit shall be made in the last payroll of each month, seconded by Trustee Noel, all ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Roher spoke with Jennifer Caloia regarding the hanging flower baskets that were once placed on poles throughout the village. Ms. Caloia inquired whether we would be interested in doing that again. The village would need to maintain the baskets once hung, however. Mayor Shepard asked Trustee Roher to find out what Peterboro and Eaton do in the summer to maintain their baskets.

Mayor Shepard advised the board that he met with a representative of Madison County Soil and Water today. Their meeting was regarding the problematic creek that runs through the village from Route 20 through the backyards of property owners. Mayor Shepard noted that with Eaton Street scheduled for maintenance, he thought that might be the time to deal with this issue. Soil and Water will complete a survey to determine the grade of the water flow from the culvert put in by NYS DOT all the way to Eaton Street.

Each member of the board reviewed all vouchers presented. Trustee Noel made a motion to pay audited vouchers as indicated below, seconded by Trustee Roher, all ayes. Motion carried.

General – Vouchers 127-130

Waste Water Operation & Maintenance Fund – Vouchers 36

With no further business before the board, Trustee Roher made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m., seconded by Trustee Noel, all ayes. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Will
Village Clerk-Treasurer