

**VILLAGE OF PERRY
VILLAGE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

AUGUST 12, 2013

The Special Board Meeting of the Village of Perry was held at the Village Hall 46 North Main Street Perry New York at 7:00 p.m. on the 12th day of August 2013.

| | | |
|----------|------------------|---------|
| PRESENT: | Frederic Hauser | Mayor |
| | Anita Billings | Trustee |
| | Dariel A. Draper | Trustee |
| | Eleanor Jacobs | Trustee |
| | Bonnita Matson | Trustee |

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|
| ALSO PRESENT: | Gail Vosburg | Village Clerk |
| | Ed Flynn | LaBella Associates |
| | Amy Dake | SRF Associates |
| | Ray Tourt | City of Batavia |

GUESTS: See attached sign in sheets.

Mayor Hauser called the Meeting to order at 7:05 PM and led in the pledge to the flag.

Trustee Draper welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the board and guests, Amy Dake, SRF Associates, Ray Tourt, Supt. of Maintenance – City of Batavia, and Ed Flynn, grant writer from LaBella Associates.

Trustee Draper then read guidelines for the public comment period:

- Speakers must be recognized by the presiding officer.
- Speaker must stand up.
- Speaker must state their name.
- Speaker will be limited to speak for three minutes.
- Speaker may not delegate their time to another speaker.
- Board members may, with the permission of the Mayor, interrupt a speaker during their remarks, but only for the purpose of clarification or information.
- All remarks should be addressed to the Board as a body and not to individual Board members.
- Speakers must observe the commonly accepted rules of courtesy, decorum, dignity and good taste.

Mayor Hauser introduced Amy Dake, Senior Engineer with SRF Associates. They were the lead consultant along with Ingalls Planning & Design and Steinmetz Planning Group that developed the Village's Circulation, Accessibility & Parking Study.

Amy Dake – SRF

Ms. Dake stated that the study purpose is to enhance the economic vitality and overall livability of the Village of Perry's Main Street District through the use of transportation, land use and urban design techniques, strategies and designs. The study objectives that came from the workshops when the study was completed are:

- Enhance community activity center
- Improve business friendliness
- Improve walkability and pedestrian safety
- Strengthen Main Street Character
- Improve bicycle function
- Improve travel efficiency and safety

Ms. Dake reviewed the timelines from when the study was being completed. The final study plan was presented in January 2008. The study shown several alternatives plans and alternative plan #3 was preferred by the Study Advisory Committee. Now the next step is to request grant funds to implement this plan. The plans include the following near term (within 10 years) recommendations:

- Modify existing signals to be more pedestrian responsive
- Install pedestrian countdown signals
- Add striping to highlight crosswalks
- Include bike lanes
- Install parallel parking space tees
- Removable planters in downtown area
- Install decorative cobra head style streetlights
- Replace trees

Medium term (10 – 20 years) recommendations include:

- Install raised and flush median in center of road
- Install corner bumpouts
- Install more a significant gateway

Long term (20 – 30 year) recommendations include:

- Widen the pedestrian realm
- Install brick pavers

Ms. Dake said the plan is in place, grant fund would be needed to go through with the plan.

Mayor Hauser reviewed some of the opportunities. They met with the village's grant writer to discuss the various grant programs. It was determined that the Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP) grant was the best fit for the type of work proposed to complete the plan. The TEP is in its last year and there is approximately \$2.3 million available for the seven county region that includes Wyoming County. The Village Board voted to proceed with the draft grant application on June 3, 2013. The primary scope of work would include:

1. Storm drain work – The storm sewers downtown are in poor condition. The board has worked with the DPW to get condition assessments of the infrastructure in the downtown area. The sanitary sewer is in good condition. The work would fix long standing problems with the storm drainage system at the lowest point – from the Town Hall to Bush Hill Florist on both sides. This is an opportunity to tie the repairs into the grant program.
2. Sidewalks – Sidewalks would be replaced on both sides of Main Street with no new curbs.
3. Bump outs – Bump outs of the sidewalks at key intersections and enhanced crosswalks would improve safety by providing better visibility for walkers and reduce crossing length.
4. Streetlights – Pedestrian street lights would be installed to compliment the pedestrian nature of downtown and improve visibility after dark.
5. Medians – Two Small planted medians are proposed at the approached to downtown.

A timeline of the grant (if awarded) was reviewed:

| | |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| 12/13 | Awards announced |
| 2/14 – 6/14 | Execute NYSDOT Agreement |
| 2/14 – 5/14 | Select Engineer |
| 7/14 – 3/15 | Prepare Design Approval Document |
| 4/15 – 12/15 | Prepare Contract Documents |
| 1/16 – 3/16 | Bid & Award |
| 4/16 – 12/16 | Construct and Inspect Project |

Mayor Hauser addressed some common concerns:

1. Impact on businesses downtown during construction – Main Street will not be torn up and sidewalk work would happen stages.
2. Impact of medians – Traffic flow and emergency vehicles will be considered during the design phase. The medians will create a gateway for a sense of arrival. The village is aware of the oversize vehicles and farm equipment. As the state owns the highway, the village would be responsible for any maintenance of the work downtown.
3. Money – The total scope cost of the project is \$1.4 million from end to end. The village's share of the project is \$350,000. The project breakdown consists of the construction costs, 25% contingency, administration, engineering and construction inspection. The Village Board has created a capital asset master plan that included equipment, vehicles, structures and includes repairs downtown. We currently have a Repair Reserve Fund, an Equipment Reserve Fund and the unallocated fund balance. The Village has the funds for this project and can allocate funds to the repair reserve fund with no effect on village property taxes. The village does not need to borrow any monies for this project.
4. Snow plowing – After evaluating how we currently remove snow from Main Street, it is estimated that an additional 40 man hours per winter would be needed to remove the snow. The methods in which the snow is removed would need to be changed.

Ray Tourt – City of Batavia Supt. of Maintenance

Ray Tourt, Supt. of Maintenance for the City of Batavia spoke on his experience with TEP grants. He was the project administrator for the \$28 million dollar project of the reconstruction of Route 5 in the City and Town of Batavia and Route 63 reconstruction. They had a lot of interest from the community. He cautioned that if this project is built, it must be maintained.

Trustee Draper then called residents that signed in to speak under public comments:

Ron Biondolillo – Mr. Biondolillo has looked over the project and thinks that it looks nice, but hopes the village is not doing this to detriment the rest of Perry. He lives in a forgotten area with great ditches but no sidewalks. He would like to see something else done.

Debbie Sheppard – Ms. Sheppard questioned the storm drain capabilities during heavy rains. She is not convinced that new drains would help. She asked if sidewalk work could be done on areas other than Main Street and totally disagrees with the idea of a median. Could the money be used elsewhere? Is NYSEG going to be involved?

Ed Flynn said the focus of the TEP grant is mainly on the Main Street corridor. The Safe Route to Schools is a grant just for sidewalks. Amy Dake answered that the idea is to try and have more pedestrian friendly lighting, and NYSEG would be involved. The proposed street lights would be 15-20' high and be spaced close together than the current 30' street lights.

Dana Grover – Mr. Grover feels that there are some holes in the plan. The estimate calls for replacement of 1200' of curbs. He can see maintenance and traffic issues. He questioned the change in the contingency percentage from the prior estimate and believes the \$1.4 project cost is fairly accurate. There is no money in the estimate to remove the storm sewers, pave Main St and no money to drain the storm sewer off Main Street. He said there is new CAP funding right after this funding that would allow for more monies for work. He inquired as to the results of the sidewalk walkers study. Why widen the Main Street sidewalks and restrict traffic?

Ed Flynn addressed the storm sewers as there are issues and problems at Borden Ave and Covington Street. The new estimate accounts for this with \$100,000 for storm drains and a 25% contingency line item. All work has to

comply with NYS and federal regulations. The \$100,000 is for removal and replacement of the drains. Mr. Grover said that he feels this is happening way too fast to make a decision.

Ray Tourt said that not everything in the proposed plan is set in stone. If awarded, designs can be finalized, but plans can be changed during the design phases. At the end of the day, the stakeholders are the business and property owners.

Ray Pierson – Mr. Pierson does not want downtown to change so that it is unrecognizable. He feels the plans are extreme and the festival plaza was not done well. He does not want NYS to become Detroit. There are pockets of problems downtown. Mr. Pierson thinks that a study of the trees downtown should have been done.

Millie Mandeville – Ms. Mandeville feels the plan is not very smart and does not show a measure of common sense. She believes that Main Street is very safe. The appearance of Main Street could be very nice if not for the vacant buildings. A large part of the \$2 million came from the taxpayers. The PIP trashcans that were downtown years ago were nice and does not believe the bike lane is necessary. How is it okay for the village to make decisions that cost so much money?

Charles Scripp – Mr. Scripp stated that he dealt with the construction of the parking lot downtown. His business makes multiple deliveries each day; would they be able to get out to make them during the construction? Would his customers be able to get to his business? How long would it take for the businesses to recovery from all of the construction? He employees 10 people. A lot of businesses thrive on the retail.

Darlene Swede – Most of Ms. Swede's concerns have already mentioned. She is concerned with the traffic from the turbines; they take up a lot of space on the road. With the bump outs at the Covington Street corner, trucks will not be able to make it. She feels that this is a very serious issue.

Daniel Atwood – Mr. Atwood questioned the amount of money beautifying Perry. How many side roads are in shambles? St. Helena St has potholes and Dolbeer St was terrible before they repaired it. Why are the sidewalk plowed after the kids are gone to school. The snow plows are out at 5:00 am, why not the plow the sidewalks? How many bicyclists are on Main St? He only sees them during the Chalk Fest & Tour de Perry. He is concerned that with a bike lane, a garage truck could run them over. He feels that the village is getting into pet projects. He suggested that the farmers *market* should have been placed next to the creek. This project is a waste of tax payers money.

David Swede – Mr. Swede asked if the village has checked with the Villages of Warsaw and Mt. Morris to see what impact the construction had on their Main St. businesses. He asked if any *thought* was made for an increase in construction costs a couple of years from now.

Ed Flynn replied that was why the contingency amount is 25% to cover the anticipated increase in construction costs.

John Naylor – Mr. Naylor wanted to know why there was not any advertising for the meeting tonight and tomorrow's meeting. He only noticed that there were meetings from an article in the County Courier. He questioned where the additional \$150,000 will come from.

Mayor Hauser said the additional monies will come from the fund balance and the repair reserve. Mr. Naylor then asked if the grant application was due by Friday. Mayor Hauser said that a special board meeting was being held on Tuesday at noon to vote on the grant application.

Mike Mercer - Ms. Mercer said that the sidewalks are being plowed, just not on Saturday. The medians would be in the way of plowing. How would they be traffic calming? It would only be more for people to look at while driving. She feels that some ideas are great. She said that the sidewalks are fine on Main Street and do not need to be replaced. The bump outs will make plowing a pain. Parking at the end spot will make exiting a safety concern. She believes that we are making Perry too artsy. There are *more* things that need to be done.

Amy Dake said the parking by the bump outs are designed with space to exit. The bump outs will not affect parallel parking. They are more for pedestrians whom then would have less risk in traffic.

Jim Dacey – Mr. Dacey asked if Main Street is broke. He questioned how much wider is Batavia's Main Street then Perry's. How many at the board table are financially involved. Two board members have businesses on Main Street. He feels it is asinine to plant trees and plantings on Main Street, how is that safe? How many more man hours would it take to clean Main Street.

Steve Laraby – Mr. Laraby spoke on behalf of the Perry Fire Department. He said not one person has mentioned emergency vehicles. How are they to get around park cars with medians? In order to set up the ariel truck on Main Street, it would need a space 20' – 30' wide. He thinks that the turning radius of the fire trucks needs to be addressed.

Amy Dake said that as part of the design work, emergency vehicle traffic is looked at. The size of the bump outs may have to be changed and the medians may have to be removed.

Ray Tourt said that they deal emergency traffic a lot in Batavia. They have two traffic lanes and 18 traffic signals. He asked what the department does now. Mr. Laraby said that they use the center lane (turning lane). Mr. Tourt said that in the city, they just go around. He said that the Village already has medians; only they are stripped, not built up. We could make medians that can be driven over. Mr. Laraby said that he is not against or for it; he just wants his concerns looked at. Mr. Tourt said that the plans can be changed. He did say the bumpouts are a pain to plow around, but the medians are no problem. Parking is not allowed within 20' of a corner and 30' from a traffic control devise. The medians will not be all the way to the corners in order to allow for turning. In order to grow downtown, the whole town needs to grow.

Pete LeBlond – Mr. LeBlond feels that there have been many important comments made. He is in favor of looking into infrastructure. We should be looking at something for the whole community. He said the village should hire professional grant writers to help fund water/sewer improvements.

Jill Aaron – Ms. Aaron concern is what is this for? This is a small community. People are leaving, businesses are leaving.

Sarah Billings – Ms. Billings stated people are against new things and there is nothing wrong with Perry. She moved back to Perry and now owns SLB Salon. She feels the trees on Main Street are beautiful. Everyone may not enjoy it, but the Village has the festival plaza. She sees people walking and biking on Main Street. Ms. Billings said the sidewalks on Main Street have had the same problems as years ago and hopes that the Mayor and Village Board will address them.

Melinda Pratt – Ms. Pratt is new to Perry and she and her husband own the Canaan's Butcher Shop. They have put everything they own into this store. When they first came to town, people were leaving. She said that people need to believe in Perry and asked the board to please consider all things mentioned tonight.

George Stevens – Mr. Stevens said that he has been coming here to Perry for the summers for a number of years. He has watched businesses leave over the past 40 years, but in the last 14 years, there seems to be a renaissance on Main Street with many new businesses. He feels that there a lot of things positive in Perry. He has hears a lot of good and people may not like all of the things that they have heard. A lot of people are competing for the money and if we do not apply, someone else will.

Cindy Hendrickson – Ms. Hendrickson asked Mr. Tourt what would they have done differently with their project in Batavia. He replied that some of their vegetation choices for the medians were not right and had to make some changes. She was on the Planning Board when the study was presented to them. They had a lot of questions and decided to shelf the plan. She stated that there are 25 storefronts downtown, not businesses, and a lot of people who have put their hard earned money on the line with no tax incentives. She does not agree with the scope of work, it is not good for all people, and may be good for some. She feels that the Planning Board was circumvented. Ms. Hendrickson than stated that two members on the Village Board are principles on the PMSA Committee and feels that this is a conflict of interest. As she feels that they have a direct interest, she asked that they abstain from voting. Although she feels the project is good, she asked that the Village Board take a step back and plan better.

Ryan Fitzsimmons – Mr. Fitzsimmons said that he brought his house in Perry because he feels it is on its way back by building a central core. He feels that you cannot build a town without a core. As he was part of the sidewalk evaluations, he feels that some are needed. He supports the plan.

Mayor Hauser stated the purpose of the meeting was to hear the public comments and concerns. He thanked everyone for attending and he has learned in the process.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:44 p.m. was offered by Trustee Draper, second by Trustee Billings and carried with all voting aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Vosburg
Village Clerk