

Trail plan has some obstacles

Written by MARK JAEGER

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Village says it must have willing sellers before project can proceed

Earlier in the month, Fredonia Village President Chuck Lopicola spoke optimistically about progress on plans for a bicycle and pedestrian trail on the east end of the village.

One of the property owners who would need to grant an easement for the project told the Village Board last week that the trail backing may not be a done deed.

"I have no intention of going along with the trail," Ron Ansay told trustees.

According to the village, about 220 feet of easement on land farmed by Ansay would be needed for the latest trail design.

"I spent about \$5,000 last year putting in drainage tile on that land," Ansay said, suggesting any trail improvements might damage that drainage work.

He said children using the trail might also be tempted to damage his crops as harvest time nears.

Lopicola said Ansay's concerns, and those of any other affected landowner, would be included in any final plans for the trail.

He said the proposed route for the trail was chosen because it largely goes through a marginal floodplain that could never be built on. Lopicola said that was how the assessor estimated the value of the land needed for the trail at no more than \$6,000.

Lopicola said the impetus for the trail and a related underpass that could be incorporated into the project, is to provide a safe route for children and residents to travel through the community.

"We want to make this trail as safe and accessible as possible," he said.

Trustee Don Dohrwardt stressed the tentative nature of the current trail plan.

"We are just in the planning stage, so we can have something on paper and show it to you," Dohrwardt said.

"It is a process. We are just starting out and we are not taking anybody for granted."

Lopicola said village representatives plan to meet with Ansay and other landowners to get input on options for the trail.

"The grant we are seeking requires willing sellers," he said.

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