

**Happ Road Committee  
Meeting Summary  
October 9, 2025**

|                           |         |  |                           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|--|---------------------------|---------|
| Alicia Bellar             | Present |  | Francisco Gonzalez-Pulido |         |
| Andrew Juedes             | Present |  | Jennifer Sucher           |         |
| Asheesh Seth              |         |  | Kelly Cheng               |         |
| Barnaby Dinges (co chair) | Present |  | Maureen Huhs              |         |
| Christine O'Neil          |         |  | Pam Papadatos             | Present |
| Debbie Papas (co chair)   | Present |  | Samantha Tideman          |         |
| Ed Elfmann                | Present |  | Sarah Munoz               |         |

Village Manager Patrick Brennan was in attendance as well along with 5 residents.

Barnaby and Debbie, the committee chairs, asked members if there were any comments about the summary from September 4 meeting. There were none.

Debbie recapped 3 emails that were sent in to the village about this project:

1. A suggestion was made to make Happ Road one way going South, forcing more traffic on to Northfield Road and Frontage Road, to improve safety. Add a cul de sac at the point where commercial buildings end and housing begins.
2. A resident asked for clarification on the right of way for homeowners on Happ Road. Patrick explained that for some residents on the east side of Happ Road, the sidewalk is on their property when it is typically on public property. Cook County had proposed changing it so that the sidewalks were all on public property.
3. A committee member emailed to request a less frequent meeting schedule as it is difficult to attend more frequently than monthly.

Ed Elfman provided an update on village news from the September board meeting.

- 405 Central Avenue: approved 12-unit condo building.
- 2040 plan: following a meeting in September to review the plan it was requested that the graphics be revised to remove the roundabout. According to Patrick a public hearing process is needed and this will most likely happen when there are other changes needed to the document.
- President Mendrick wishes the village board to be kept at arm's length from the Happ Road Committee. The Committee has "free will" in their discussions and planning. She reiterated this at the board meeting.

Andrew Juedes provided a recap of the Happ Road Improvement Project history, as well as the 2040 plan, highlighting the ways it impacts Happ Road. He emphasized that the 2040 plan is a guideline, not a mandate.

In a discussion about the Committee's goals, it was suggested that a menu of actionable items be drafted, one that trustees can refer to. To work more efficiently toward the stated goal (actionable items for Happ Road), the co-chairs recommended dividing the committee into two outreach groups. One group would focus on the business community and the other would focus on residents. In both cases, the two broad areas of exploration would be:

1. Mobility - functionality for cars, bikes and people
2. Aesthetics - the overall look, feel, vibe

In discussing this approach, committee members present in the meeting volunteered for their preferred outreach group. Patrick will poll the absent members to find out which group they wish to join. Barnaby and Debbie will "float" across both groups offering assistance and guidance as needed. They will also connect with other stakeholders such as the Park District, school board, etc.

The outreach groups will develop their own objectives and methods for obtaining the input needed. The two groups will merge their findings and recommendations for the final report.

It was suggested that the report recommendations be prioritized, since it is not likely that everything recommended will all be done at once. The sidewalk committee's report was noted as a good example of project prioritization.

The meeting concluded with a resident commenting on that there should be more disclosure from the village on plans for the Skokie Valley Trail expansion because the potential for increased bike traffic could have implications for Happ Road businesses and foot traffic.