


VILLAGE OF LOMBARD
REQUEST FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACTION
For Inclusion on Board Agenda

_____ Resolution or Ordinance (Blue) _____ Waiver of First Requested
_____ Recommendations of Boards, Commissions & Committees (Green)
 X Other Business (Pink)

TO: PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FROM: Scot Niehaus, Village Manager
DATE: February 18, 2020 (BOT) Date: March 19, 2020
SUBJECT: Honorary Street Naming – Ellen Martin Way
SUBMITTED BY: Carl S. Goldsmith, Director of Public Works 

BACKGROUND/POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Per Section 152.28 (A) of the Lombard Code, staff recommends that the Village Board of Trustees authorize the designation of Maple Street between Main Street and Elizabeth Street as Honorary Ellen Martin Way to honor the contribution that Ellen Martin had to the Womens Suffrage Movement.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:

Review (as necessary):
Finance Director _____ Date _____
Village Manager _____ Date _____


NOTE: All materials must be submitted to and approved by the Village Manager's Office by 12:00 noon, Wednesday, prior to the agenda distribution.



February 18, 2020

TO: Village President and Board of Trustees

THROUGH: Scott Niehaus, Village Manager

FROM: Carl S. Goldsmith, Director of Public Works 

SUBJECT: Designation of Maple Street between Main Street and Elizabeth Street as the Honorary Ellen Martin Way

On April 6, 1891, Ellen Martin led fourteen (14) women to the local polling place to vote in the municipal election in Lombard, IL. After much debate, the women were allowed to cast their vote. This marked the first time in the State of Illinois that women were given the right to vote. Ms. Martin's vote on April 6, 1891 took place twenty-nine (29) years before the ratification of the 19th amendment allowing women the right to vote in all elections.

The Lombard Historical Society, has been working with the National Votes for Women Trail (NVWT), a committee of the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites (NCWHS) to award Lombard a grant to place one of five state markers to commemorate important moments in women's suffrage history to be placed in Lombard. This marker would forever be a reminder of the contribution that Lombardian Ellen Martin had to the Women's Suffrage Movement. A historical marker will be placed at the Victorian Cottage located at 23 W. Maple to commemorate Ms. Martin's casting of the first vote in Illinois by a woman.

In addition to the historical marker denoting the approximately location where Ms. Martin cast that first ballot, the Lombard Historical Society has requested that the Village Board designate the roadway adjacent to the location as "Honorary Ellen Martin Way". Per Section 152.28 (A) of the Village Code, the Village Board may authorize the designation of a public roadway as an honorary street. The Lombard Historical Society, supported by several other agencies/entities has requested that the Village Board designate Maple Street between Main Street and Elizabeth as "Honorary Ellen Martin Way" to honor the legacy of Ellen Anette Martin.

Staff has reviewed the request and determined that the request complies with the Village Code relative to the honorary designation of a public roadway. As such, I respectfully request that this matter be placed on the Village Board agenda for the March 19, 2020 meeting for consideration.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Village President and Board of Trustees authorize the designation of Maple Street between Main Street and Elizabeth Street as "*Honorary Ellen Martin Way*".

President Keith Giagnorio
Village Board of Trustees
Village of Lombard
255 E. Wilson Ave.
Lombard, IL 60148

Cc: Scott Niehaus, Carl Goldsmith, Chief Newton, Chief Sanders

February 4, 2020


Dear President Giagnorio

On April 6, 1891, Ellen Martin led fourteen women to the local polling place to vote in the municipal election in Lombard, IL. After much debate, the women were allowed to cast their vote and their voices counted. This marked the first time in the State of Illinois women were given the right to vote. It then took a full 29 years before women's suffrage was made legal nationwide, four years after Martin's death.

August 26, 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment allowing women the right to vote in all elections. There are many commemorations taking place both locally and nationally. The Lombard Historical Society with Tim Frakes Productions, Inc is creating a documentary to mark this event. LHS is also hosting programs and exhibits highlighting women's suffrage. We are also working on national plaque recognition for this Illinois event.

With that, we are respectfully asking that the Village of Lombard Board of Trustees pass an ordinance to name West Maple Street between Main Street and Elizabeth Street "Honorary Ellen Martin Way." This location is central to where Ellen Martin as well as many of the other original female voters lived. The Lombard Historical Society is also asking the Village waive any fees associated with said naming.

We look forward to working with the community development department, fire, police and public works on this project. Our hope is that the street signs could be unveiled on April 6 to honor the original voting date of the Ladies of Lombard.



Leslie Sulla
President
Board of Management

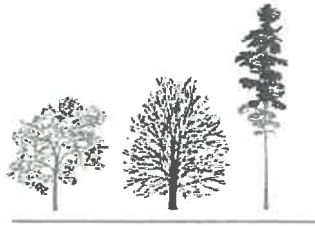


Sarah Richardt
Executive Director



**LOMBARD
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

23 West Maple Street
Lombard, Illinois 60148
630.629.1885
www.LombardHistory.org



**Historical New York Research Associates
Judith Wellman, Principal Investigator**

2 Harris Hill Road, Fulton, New York

www.historicalnewyork.org

historicalnewyork@me.com, 315-529-7808

Discovering Extraordinary People and Places in Time

February 15, 2020

Lombard Village Board
255 East Wilson
Lombard, Illinois 60148

Dear Lombard Village Board Trustees:

I am chair of the National Votes for Women Trail scholarly advisory board. We have reviewed the application for an historic marker from the Pomeroy Foundation to commemorate Ellen Martin's leadership in voting rights for women. The committee found the story of her 1891 voting experience, along with fourteen other women, dramatic and compelling.

It would be a wonderful commemoration of the work of these fourteen women—and by extension to commemorate the lifetime of work that so many women and men gave for women's equal voting rights-- to re-name part of Maple Street in their honor.

Sincerely yours,

Judith Wellman
Chair, Advisory Committee
National Votes for Women Trail
Professor Emerita, State University of New York at Oswego
Director, Historical New York Research Associates



February 6, 2020

President Giagnorio and Lombard Village Trustees,

League of Women Voters is thrilled to hear that the Village of Lombard is considering honoring Ellen Annette Martin with a street named in her honor. 128 years after Ellen's bold move to claim the right to vote, we are still amazed and impressed by her legendary courage.

Please let us know when the official unveiling ceremony will take place so League of Women Voters groups from around DuPage County can join you to celebrate.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becky Simon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Becky Simon, President

League of Women Voters of Naperville

Rita M. Schneider
5 East View Street
Lombard, Illinois 60148

February 6, 2020

President and
Board of Trustees
Village of Lombard
255 E. Wilson Avenue
Lombard, Illinois

Dear Lombard Village President
and Board of Trustees,

I would like to endorse the possible naming of Maple Street "Ellen Martin Way" in commemoration of the first woman to vote in the State of Illinois.

Lombard has an outstanding history in many ways and in this year of the 100th Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote, I feel that this action regarding our history would be very appropriate. It would bring honor to the early women of Lombard for their strength of character and their place in making decisions for themselves in the voting system. Please "count my vote" in favor of this action.

Sincerely,

Rita M. Schneider
Chair, Lombard Historic Preservation Commission



January 31, 2020

Lombard Village Board
255 E Wilson
Lombard, IL 60148

Honorary Ellen Martin Street Naming

Dear Lombard Village Board trustees –

The Lombard Area branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) enthusiastically endorses the idea to give an honorary name to Maple Street recognizing Lombard attorney Ellen Martin.

As the first woman to vote in Illinois in 1891 – well before women’s suffrage was ratified statewide in 1913 – Ellen Martin is an empowering model for young girls and women in the Lombard area. Being a female attorney in the 1880s is another inspiring aspect of Martin’s life.

How wonderful for Lombard to recognize the importance of Ellen Martin’s defiance in casting a vote in 1891, contrary to the prevailing Victorian norms.

Thank you for considering honorarily naming Maple Street from Main to Elizabeth to acknowledge the contributions Ellen Martin made in our village’s history. This is especially exciting if it can happen by the April 6, 2020 – 129 years after Ellen’s first vote, and during the centennial anniversary of women’s enfranchisement in the United States

Sincerely,

Danielle Byron

Danielle Byron,
President, Lombard Area AAUW

cc: Scott Niehaus

February 8, 2020

Dear Lombard Village Board

We are writing to support the effort to rename a street in Lombard after Ellen Martin, the first woman to cast a legal vote in Illinois. As you may be aware, we are huge proponents of Lombard and its history, referencing many historic names and events in our businesses. We are proud of the accomplishments of past residents and are in favor of almost any effort that highlights these achievements and educates a broader audience.

Further, the achievements of women, here in Lombard and most everywhere else, have gone unrecognized or minimized throughout history and it's time to catch up. A street and one day, perhaps a statue, is a great way to address these inequities! Thanks for your consideration.
#GoLombard.

Sincerely,

Dana & Steve Moreau
Topaz Restaurant Group, LLC