

## Why now?

The Morris memorial has determined that if an alternative site can be found it may be best to sell their building and move to a new site. This decision by the Morris Memorial Board was made because a recently completed engineering study determined that renovating and rehabilitating the Morris Memorial would cost between one and two million dollars. The board recognized that even when completed, the building would still lack the space to pursue the boards expanded mission of providing a modern community center offering a recreation and wellness program for all age groups. The board decided it made the most sense to seek an alternative location and only consider the rehabilitation of the Morris Memorial if an alternative site could not be procured. A second part of the proposal is to administer the Town's recreation program at the park if the town can commit to provide dependable funding for this program.

## Why Crellin Park

The Morris Memorial Board decided that the best alternative site was for the new Morris Memorial was within Crellin Park. There are many facts that support this idea. Crellin Park is the building site closest to the village. In terms of Recreation Programming, having both an indoor facility and a park in the same location would make implementing a recreational program easier and perhaps less expensive. If the Town and the Morris partnered and combined their recreation program having one site serve all programs would simplify administration and management. As it stands a small town now has two active recreation programs often competing for the same sources of funding,

## Town Board's initial response to the proposal.

The Town Board's response could best be described as mixed. Overall, the board seemed interested in the programmatic advantages for the community. However, the board expressed concern about the feasibility of the project. Many citizens enthusiastically supported pursuing this proposal further others expressed concern about the Morris leaving the Village of Chatham. The board handled its response by approving an advisory committee that had representatives from town government, the Morris Memorial and concerned parties including the Village of Chatham, The Town of Ghent, and the Chatham Central School District.

## Committee's agenda

The committee will review only legal and related financial issues involved to the town selling or leasing land to the Morris Memorial. If the project is considered legally viable and the finances to implement the project moving forward beyond this initial idea can be approved, then a second agenda for this committee can be developed. That agenda will include such topics as: funding for the project and, how a partnership in which the town maintains ownership of the park and the Morris maintains control of the new building and the recreation program could work.

## Agenda for initial meeting 7/26 6:30 Crellin Park New Pavilion

### Introduction

The goals of each agenda item will be to briefly review the issue and assign responsibility for further action if needed.

### Community Center

1. Two ways to go both need to be considered by committee; Park Alienation or Not
2. If Alienation, what are the costs and who will pay for those services.
3. Does it make sense to refer to this project as a new recreation center.
4. Broad scope of what the Morris and Town envisions. Discussion of recreation from group to help board with development of initial ideas of what community/recreation center would include.

### Recreation Program

1. Assuming Town Board decides about direction of rec program when survey for comprehensive plan update is completed what would it be able to contribute on a regular basis.
2. Ways to accomplish this. Is a referendum on a recreation fee legal, how else could the same idea be accomplished?
3. Do we include the Village and Town of Ghent financially and if so how.
4. House Keeping: organization of meetings, Minutes etc.