



Minutes of the Meeting of the Northport Village Corporation Board of Overseers

Sunday, January 17, 2021

Virtual – Zoom

Attendees

President: John Spritz

Treasurer: Wendy Huntoon

Village Agent: William Paige

Overseers

Lisa Fryer

Michael Lannan

Vicky Matthews

Judy Metcalf

Janae Novotny

Michael Tirrell

Jeffrey Wilt

Meeting called to order: 9:00 am

Approval of Minutes: Janae N. made a motion to approve the November 15th minutes; Jeffrey W. seconded; the vote to approve was unanimous.

Public Comments/Questions: None

Nordic Aquafarms Update: Vicky M. & Mike L. noted that there are currently appeals being brought to Belfast Planning Board & Maine BEP rulings. Mike commented about a focus on the project's electric/power needs, which may be beyond what the area can reliably provide. The Overseers were not asked to take any particular actions.

Seawall Update - Mike Lannan

- Mike showed Zoom call participants a series of photographs highlighting the project's progress. Within three weeks, the project will be done until spring clean-up/paving work.
- Janae N. asked whether large surface rocks that have long been in the lower portion of Ruggles Park will be removed. Mike indicated that yes, the plan is to remove those rocks that sit within the construction area.

Report of the Treasurer – Wendy Huntoon

The Treasurer had sent out year-end reports before the meeting, and responded to any questions concerning those reports. She noted that 2020 ended with a roughly \$20K surplus, but that the Overseers should not assume a similar surplus for 2021 or moving forward. Also:

- Overseers, and especially Committee chairs, should stay within 2021 budgets.
- In 2002 the police cruiser had \$4,500 in expenses over the budget.
- The Finance Committee will look at the 2022 budget at their next meeting, end of January.

There was a discussion regarding the review of Warrants by the Overseers. With Warrants now being reviewed (and signed) online, there is no apparatus for Overseers to mutually discuss the Warrants, especially the larger ones. A portion of the Treasurer's report at the next Overseers meeting (February 14) will be set aside to discuss and resolve this issue.

Infrastructure Committee – Michael Lannan

- All Bayside roads have been catalogued, a report will be presented in February or March.
- The North Avenue project is mostly done, except for final paving.
- A new and ad hoc Lighting Committee has been proposed, to address how lighting in the Ruggles Park/wharf area can best be designed, now that there are opportunities with the current construction. The key initial issue is to determine where conduits are placed, for future pole installation. The Committee will be chaired by (Overseer) Janae Novotny and will include (Overseer) Michael Tirrell and residents Craig Brigham, Blair Einstein, Gordon Fuller and Joe Reilly, with potential additional representation from the community. The Treasurer reminded the Lighting Committee members on the call that any costs for lighting should be included in the 2022 budget.

Tree Committee – Lisa Fryer

- The Committee has been looking at possible Project Tree Canopy grants, to pay for new tree plantings in the village. The Committee is considering three factors:
 1. The locations where community-property trees have come down or may come down;
 2. The viewsheds that these trees affect; and
 3. The species of the current and replacement trees.
- The Committee has been thoughtful and deliberate in its research and findings. In particular, they are concerned about the large ash trees in Ruggles Park that will soon fall prey to the emerald ash borer.
- Working with an arborist, the Committee selected certain trees and locations for new tree plantings, if the Project Tree Canopy grants are awarded. The Committee sent letters to all of the residents whose views would ultimately be affected by the planting of any new trees, and received back responses from several residents, primarily opposed to the notion of new trees.
- The Overseers commended the Committee for its deliberative process and spoke strongly about the need to preserve Village assets, including our natural landscape. Vicky M. made a motion to approve the Tree Committee’s recommendation to pursue the Project Tree Canopy grants and any subsequent planting program. Judy M. seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Tree Warden - Vicky Matthews

- Vicky noted that the tree stump at Merrithew Square was now gone (“on the back of the Village truck,” Bill Paige noted).
- Three trees are to be removed, one on Griffin Street and two on upper Maple Street. An organization in Belfast may be contacted to pick up the wood, for distribution locally.
- Judy M. made a motion, seconded by Jeffrey W., to authorize \$1,750 to pay for cutting down the three trees as described, without removing the wood. The vote was unanimous.

Communications Committee – Lisa Fryer

Lisa and Michael T. presented slides showing progress on the new NVC website, particularly the navigation.



- Judy M. noted that the Governance Committee is working on a Waterfront Ordinance, which will appear on the new site.
- The Overseers discussed whether a “Renters Do’s and Don’t’s” should appear on the site.
- At its February meeting, the Finance Committee will examine resources for funding the website, estimated at a maximum of \$1,500 for the first year.

Finance Committee – Judy Metcalf

- The Committee met on January 6, and Judy sent out a summary. The next meeting will be January 28, planning (then) for the audit and for the 2022 budget.

Governance Committee – Judy Metcalf

The Committee is working on waterfront rules and regulations, to codify them within a Waterfront Ordinance.

Personnel Committee – Janae Novotny

The Committee met last week.

- They have a job description for a part-time Village Agent/utility worker, to assist Bill Paige.
- They are also looking at options for a customer service/office assistant.
- They are also looking at comprehensive staff compensation and performance evaluations.

Utilities Committee – Judy Metcalf

- The committee met on January 15, and will be looking at financials at future meetings.
- The small water treatment plant building is in place, between the Yacht Club and the wharf, but is not yet finished. The public is reminded not to enter this job site.
- The Overseers reiterated their wish to see lighting on the building consistent with other (new) lighting throughout Ruggles Park.

Safety Committee – Michael Tirrell

The Committee is looking at staffing for the summer of 2021.

- Lifeguards and police officers are likely to return, which is good news.
- The Village Agent raised the prospect of COVID: will the Village respond as it did in 2020, in terms of signage and restrictions?

Waterfront Safety – Jeffrey Wilt

The new Waterfront Ordinance will 1) improve regulations which were last approved in 2019; 2) improve the communications process among all those involved in waterfront safety; and 3) ensure that the waterfront regulations align with the proposed parking ordinance. The Committee will bring before the Overseers recommendations regarding the storage of small watercraft (kayaks, canoes, etc.).

Town of Northport – Vicky Matthews

- A Selectperson position is open in the Town of Northport.
- Northport is also looking for people to serve on a committee focused on bringing broadband to the area. Any interested party should contact Vicky Matthews, vmatthews@nvcmaine.org.



- Vicky and others in the NVC will be working with the Town to re-address the reduction in the tax rebate.

Report from President – John Spritz

Nothing to report.

Report of the Village Agent - Bill Paige

- Everything has been covered by other people in their Committee reports. Bill emphasized that Village staff should not be left out of the communications loop.
- Bill will be taking vacation for one week at the end of July/beginning of August.

Comments by Meeting Attendees: None

Judy M. made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jeffrey W., vote was unanimous.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:39 am.

The next Overseers Meeting is at 9 am on Sunday, February 14.

Meeting minutes submitted by John Spritz.



Motions Approved during this Overseers Meeting:

- Vicky M. made a motion to approve the Tree Committee’s recommendation to pursue the Project Tree Canopy grants and any subsequent planting program. Judy M. seconded and the vote was unanimous.
- Judy M. made a motion, seconded by Jeffrey W., to authorize \$1,750 to pay for cutting down the three trees as described by the Tree Warden (1 on Griffin Street, 2 on upper Maple Street), without removing the wood. The vote was unanimous.

DRAFT