

Minutes of the Meeting of the Northport Village Corporation Board of Overseers
Sunday, June 13, 2021 Live and Zoom

Attendees:

President: John Spritz
Treasurer: Wendy Huntoon (Zoom)
Village Agent: William Paige

Overseers

Lisa Fryer (Zoom)
Michael Lannan
Vicky Matthews (Zoom)
Judy Metcalf
Janae Novotny
Jeffrey Wilt

Meeting called to order: 8:06 am

Approval of Minutes: Jeffrey W. made a motion to approve the May 16 minutes; Janae N. seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Public Comments:

- Beverly Crofoot requested permission to plant red and pink peonies in Merithew Square. Judy M. made a motion to approve, Jeffrey W. seconded, the vote was unanimous.
- Blair Einstein requested permission to hold a memorial service at the bottom of Bayview Park for Peter Stewart; the event is estimated to last one hour on Saturday, August 14. Janae N. made a motion to approve, subject to any potential existing conflicts for that time/space; the motion was seconded by Jeffrey W. The vote was unanimous.
- Dan Webster made a request that the agenda for the August 10 Annual Meeting include an opportunity at its conclusion for any comments by meeting attendees.

Report of the Treasurer – Wendy Huntoon

The Treasurer had submitted her report in advance of the meeting and entertained questions or comments.

- Judy M. noted that there was an \$891 invoice for Brown Excavating with an unknown processing code. Nina Richards (Finance Manager) said that new codes had been developed and would be sent to all of the Overseers.
- Judy M. made a motion, seconded by Janae N., to approve the 2022 NVC operating budget, as approved in the budget workshop, pending a review by the Finance Committee. The vote was unanimous.
- The Finance Committee will review language in the warrant regarding any conditional taxes.
- Mike L. made a motion, seconded by Janae N., to approve the warrant for the 2021 Annual Report and Annual Meeting, to include any final comments by the Finance Committee. The vote was unanimous.

Report of the Village Agent - Bill Paige

(The Village Agent had issued the Overseers a full status report, prior to this meeting. That report is appended to these minutes.)

- Per the Village Agent's report, Mike L. made a motion, seconded by Judy M., to authorize the Agent to spend up to \$1,000 from contingency funds to replace/repair two support beams in the downstairs of Community Hall. The vote was unanimous.
- Per the Village Agent's report, Janae N. made a motion, seconded by Judy M., to approve the NVC's contract with Tidewater Oil Company for fuel oil for the period June 1, 2021-May 31, 2022. The monthly cost is approximately \$145. The vote was unanimous.

Commenting on the Village Agent's report...

- Bill noted that the Town of Northport was having difficulty getting a company to sweep the roads.
- Janae N. requested that, once the NVC website is up, the Village Agent's reports should regularly be stored there.
- Judy M. asked when wharf inspection would occur? Bill said that the call is in to the marine inspectors, they have yet to respond.
- Judy M. noted that a hole has developed on Maple Street, in front of the drain. Bill will look at it.

Updates

- **COVID:** Janae N. suggested that the Overseers rescind the "48-hour limitation" rule they had adopted at the April meeting. Judy M. made a motion, seconded by Mike L., that events can occur within Community Hall within 48 hours of each other. The vote was unanimous. (SEE ATTACHED "PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – COVID RECOMMENDATIONS")
- **Community Hall use requests:** Janae N. made a motion, seconded by _____ to approve the following pending Community Hall use requests, subject to all other NVC rules and regulations regarding use of public spaces:
 - Sid Block: July 9; 5-6 pm for a lecture
 - Bayside Historical Preservation Society: Aug. 10; 10 am – 3 pm for "Collection Day" event
 - NYC Pancake Breakfast: Aug 1, morning
 - NYC Annual Meeting and Dinner: Aug 14, late afternoon to evening
 - Northport Food Pantry To Fill the Hall; Aug 15, 10:30 am -1:30 pm
 - Jackie Lacoste Yoga Class: Mondays and Wednesdays, July 7-Aug 25; 9:30-10:30 am
 - **Seawall:** Farley & Sons, contractor for the project, will work on addressing the problem of weeds growing where grass was planted.

Personnel Committee – Janae Novotny

- Janae N. introduced Shiloh Field (who was in attendance) as the new Office Assistant.
- The NVC Police Department has officially signed off on recommended policies which the Personnel Committee believes should also be formally adopted by the NVC. These policies include:

Situational Use of Force, Vehicle Pursuit, Domestic Violence, Hostage or Barricaded Subjects Incidents, Response to Mental Illness and Involuntary Commitment, Hate/Bias Crimes and Violations of Civil Rights and Bias-Based Profiling, Recording of Suspects in Serious Crimes and Preservation of Notes and Records, Public Access to Records, Sex Offender Community Notification, Complaints Against Law Enforcement Personnel, Criminal Conduct Engaged in by a Law Enforcement Officer, Investigations of Deaths and Probable Deaths, Missing Persons, Crash Investigations, Concealed Firearm Authorization, and the recommended policy on Underage Drinking Enforcement.

Judy M. made a motion to formally adopt these policies, correcting the policy titles to reflect the correct name of the Northport Village Corporation. The motion was seconded by Jeffrey W. The vote was unanimous.

- Janae N. outlined the Personnel Committee's recommendations as a next step in the strategic planning process: a series of four Saturday morning (9:00-10:30 am) coffee-and-doughnuts gatherings with Overseers and Villagers, to begin talking about large issues facing the community. The first event would be on Saturday, June 26, to be run by the Personnel Committee. (See attached, "Personnel Committee – Strategic Planning Forums").

Mike L. presented three proposed "Strategic Planning" warrant articles for the August 10 Annual Meeting (appended to these minutes as "Draft Strategic Planning Articles," pp. 7-12). The articles are meant to address increasing infrastructure needs and limited financial resources. Mike L. made a motion, seconded by Jeffrey L., to adopt all three articles. Following discussion that included observation of the proposed new strategic planning process (above), Mike L. withdrew his motion.

Jeffrey W. made a motion, seconded by Mike L., to direct the Personnel Committee to enter into a formal strategic planning process that looks at key issues, includes Bayside Village input, and reports back to the Overseers. The vote was unanimous.

Infrastructure Committee – Michael Lannan

- Regarding Nordic Aquafarms, Mike L. noted that the formal court case for tidal rights and interest begins in June in Belfast.

Tree Committee – Lisa Fryer

- The Committee has received the formal contract from Project Canopy; Lisa F. will meet with the Treasurer and Nina to determine a process for accounting/records, in order to be properly reimbursed.
- Mike L. made a request that the Committee replace the (now taken down) crabapple tree by the seawall with something other than a crabapple tree, which attracts vermin. The Committee will look at the situation.

Communications Committee – Lisa Fryer

- Lisa F. encouraged Overseers and staff to look at the website and get back to her with any comments by Monday evening, June 14. The Communications Committee is examining various bill-paying options for the site.

Tree Warden - Vicky Matthews, no report

Finance Committee – Judy Metcalf, no report.

Governance Committee – Judy Metcalf

- The Committee held a public hearing yesterday (June 12) to review the proposed Waterfront guidelines and Parking Ordinance. (Dan Webster encapsulated public comments.) The Committee will look at the comments and make any revisions to the two ordinances, which will then be presented to the Overseers by the July 11 meeting.

Waterfront Safety – Jeffrey Wilt

- 47 boaters have purchased registrations for small watercraft. “People are getting used to it.”

Utilities Committee – Judy Metcalf

- The committee met on June 11th. There are no action items to report.
- There is a plan to beautify the new wastewater treatment building.

Safety Committee – Michael Tirrell

The Safety Committee has not met since the last Overseers meeting. The following summary of safety topics/priorities was provided by chairperson Michael Tirrell:

- Lifeguards are scheduled to start on June 26th and details around their seasonal orientation are being worked out now. It’s likely we’ll do a meeting that day with both lifeguards, Bill Paige, Janae, Beanie Einstein, and Michael T.
- The schedule of police coverage is still in the works. The Personnel Committee is looking to schedule a meeting with Michael Boucher — to finalize schedule priorities for the season.
- A sub-committee of the Safety Committee has updated the safety brochure, which we’re now calling the Bayside Safety Guide. A draft version was sent to the Overseers. This document builds on prior “safety brochures” and will be posted to the new NVC website, distributed via baysidemaine.com, and rental agencies/agents.

Report from President – John Spritz

- The Overseers approve asking Lee Woodward if he is available to serve as Moderator for the August 10 Annual Meeting; Judy M. will continue the conversation.,
- Overseers and staff members are reminded to write and return to the President any reports they are responsible for, which go into the 2021 Annual Report.
- The Ann Einstein Memorial Playground Fund will be used to accept donations to repair/replace playground equipment. Checks are to be made out payable to the NVC, with the memo noted “Ann Einstein Memorial Playground Fund.”

Comments by Meeting Attendees

- Chris Maseychik, of 5 North Avenue, claimed that the width of North Avenue was now less than previously, before it was repaved and curbed. Following conversation with and

among the Overseers, the majority of Overseers agreed to explore the width of this road, as well as all roads in the village, going forward, as part of any future strategic planning process.

- Dan Webster asked that documents discussed during an Overseers meeting be distributed to the public ahead of time.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:20 am.

The next Overseers Meeting is at 8:00 am on Sunday, July 11, in Community Hall.

Meeting minutes submitted by John Spritz.

DRAFT

Motions Approved during this Overseers Meeting:

- Judy M. made a motion to approve the planting of peonies in Merithew Square, Jeffrey W. seconded, the vote was unanimous.
- Blair Einstein requested permission to hold a memorial service at the bottom of Bayview Park for Peter Stewart; the event is estimated to last one hour on Saturday, August 14. Janae N. made a motion to approve, subject to any potential existing conflicts for that time/space; the motion was seconded by Jeffrey W. The vote was unanimous.
- Judy M. made a motion, seconded by Janae N., to approve the 2022 NVC operating budget, as approved in the budget workshop, pending a review by the Finance Committee. The vote was unanimous.
- Mike L. made a motion, seconded by Janae N., to approve the warrant for the 2021 Annual Report and Annual Meeting, to include any final comments by the Finance Committee. The vote was unanimous.
- Mike L. made a motion, seconded by Judy M., to authorize the Agent to spend up to \$1,000 from contingency funds to replace/repair two support beams in the downstairs of Community Hall. The vote was unanimous.
- Janae N. made a motion, seconded by Judy M., to approve the NVC's contract with Tidewater Oil Company for fuel oil for the period June 1, 2021-May 31, 2022. The monthly cost is approximately \$145. The vote was unanimous.
- Judy M. made a motion, seconded by Mike L., that events can occur within Community Hall within 48 hours of each other. The vote was unanimous.
- The NVC Police Department has officially signed off on recommended policies which the Personnel Committee believes should also be formally adopted by the NVC. These policies include:
 - Situational Use of Force, Vehicle Pursuit, Domestic Violence, Hostage or Barricaded Subjects Incidents, Response to Mental Illness and Involuntary Commitment, Hate/Bias Crimes and Violations of Civil Rights and Bias-Based Profiling, Recording of Suspects in Serious Crimes and Preservation of Notes and Records, Public Access to Records, Sex Offender Community Notification, Complaints Against Law Enforcement Personnel, Criminal Conduct Engaged in by a Law Enforcement Officer, Investigations of Deaths and Probable Deaths, Missing Persons, Crash Investigations, Concealed Firearm Authorization, and the recommended policy on Underage Drinking Enforcement.
- Judy M. made a motion to formally adopt these policies, seconded by Jeffrey W. The vote was unanimous.
- Jeffrey W. made a motion, seconded by Mike L., to direct the Personnel Committee to enter into a formal strategic planning process that looks at key issues, includes Bayside Village input, and reports back to the Overseers. The vote was unanimous.

Three Proposed “Strategic Planning” Warrant Articles for NVC Annual Meeting 2021

This draft memorandum (no header as of yet), is intended to propose three Articles to assist the NVC with long-term strategic planning for residents to consider at the annual meeting this year, 2021. They are intended to authorize formation of three independent subcommittees for exploratory purposes made up of subcommittee members from the general public, The NVC Overseers, and/or NVC Officers that will report to the governance (and/or finance) committee. The three articles are being proposed together, and the intent will be that they will be discussed and voted on together, unless there is a motion from the floor to do otherwise. Following the articles is a general explanation of the desire for exploring these three long-term options. The draft articles are as follows:

Article “A” – This article will formally authorize the NVC President to form an adhoc subcommittee with the sole purpose of evaluating the pros and cons of the NVC eliminating the current arrangement we have had with the Town or Northport since 1957 thereby forming our own town.

Article “B” – This article will formally authorize the NVC President to form an adhoc subcommittee with the sole purpose of evaluating the pros and cons of the NVC eliminating all traditional roadway Infrastructure and Maintenance activities and returning the cost and timetable for their upkeep to the Town of Northport. The current arrangement we have had with the Town since 1957 requires the town to fund and maintain our roadway infrastructure.

Article “C” – This article will formally authorize the NVC President to form an adhoc subcommittee with the sole purpose of the developing a realistic arrangement to co-operatively present to the Town where the NVC would be reimbursed a fixed percentage of the taxes that NVC residents pay to the Town of Northport. This percentage would be mandatorily reimbursed to the NVC each fiscal year to fund the basic infrastructure services the Town of Northport provides to the rest of the town, but has withheld for Bayside for years, such as roadways, streetlight, fire hydrants, park maintenance, wharf maintenance, float maintenance, etc. Although it will be the task of the subcommittee to develop a reasonable amount to request, prior to 1957 the amount was set for all villages at 60%. The current reimbursement rate for the coming fiscal year is \$10,000 reimbursed of approximately \$1,350,000 (0.74%) in Town taxes paid by NVC residents. Furthermore, at least one member of the Northport Select Board is on record stating a preference to reduce the reimbursement rate from less than 1% this year to zero.

Rationale for the Three Strategic Planning Articles

The Overseers have identified a need to develop a long-term strategic plan for the Village. Ultimately the plan will be to develop one single pathway forward, but to do so, various options for reorganization should be explored with resident input throughout the process.

Why has this need developed? In order to answer that question, first some background information may be helpful. The Northport Village Corporation (Bayside) was created by the Maine State Legislature in 1915 by Private and Special Law. It was one of about 100 such villages created up and down the coast of Maine and in lakefront communities. Their historic foundations were rested in the discovery of the beauty of Maine as a vacation destination. The generations of “rusticators” who flocked to Maine at the start of the twentieth century to escape the unhealthy air of the industrial cities found a value in land not otherwise suitable for development as farms or industry in Maine. Like most of these, Bayside’s charter created the power of the property owners to raise their own taxes and compelled the town of Northport to automatically reimburse to the Village 60% of all the town taxes paid by property owners to the town of Northport. Although the village has the power to raise its own taxes, the task of collecting them is assigned to the Town and the town is paid a set fee to do so.

The Village in turn had the power and obligation to provide public water and sewers, parks, a wharf, community protection such as police and fire and entertainment. The charter expressly relieved the town of any obligation for laying out and maintaining any of the miles of roads in Bayside.

This rebate relationship continued until 1957. At that time, the school at Brown’s Corner had burned down and the town needed to build a new school. To help the town raise the funds necessary to build the school the village and the town together went to the legislature and petitioned to change the charter of the village whereby the rebate of the town taxes to the village was eliminated. Many villages in Maine still receive a rebate from the town in which they lie. Baysiders in 1957, however, then (and now) recognized that the town needed to have a school for its children. With the elimination of the mandatory reimbursement rate of 60%, the charter was amended so that the town no longer was relieved of the duty to care for all the infrastructure needs for Bayside roads. Instead, the town going forward (and up to today) has a statutory obligation to do all the road work. In 1959 and through this year, the Town has reimbursed the NVC each and every year for the services the NVC provides in lieu of town services.

The Town also, like all towns, has an ongoing obligation to fairly and properly distribute its resources for the good of all in the town for which it collects taxes and provides services. ALL cities and towns traditionally must spend more money in more densely packed areas, like Bayside, simply because the demands for services are concentrated in these areas. Yet, for some reason, the Town of Northport has decided that the NVC demands are either superfluous, or if they wait long enough, the NVC will pay and execute them by itself. And while, it is very clear that the NVC can better track and organize Bayside’s needs, that fact alone should not require the NVC to fund all of its own infrastructure projects AND pay town taxes to do so.

Unfortunately, the town has been increasingly skirting its obligation to use tax dollars paid by NVC residents to provide similar services to Bayside that it provides to other areas of the town. At one time, the NVC tax rate was very low, and the NVC like other similar summer villages,

were reimbursed for a majority of their budget by the town. An amount set at a fairly large percentage of tax basis to the towns, made sense from a logical and logistical basis. The logic was simple. The year round needs of the town and the needs of a summertime village were very different, and it made sense for villages like the NVC to handle their own seasonal needs. By setting the percentage statewide to 60% it made logistical sense too. Since most Town Meeting laws requires permanent resident status to vote, villages set up to provide services for summer only residential communities could do so with this annual commitment, but simply could never have an adequate voice at Town meeting to advocate for reimbursement on an annual basis. Typically at a Northport Town meeting, Baysiders that are “full-time residents” and have the ability to vote are outnumbered by other Northport Residents by 10, or 20, to 1.

In 1956, before the Northport school fire, the NVC received \$8,170.96 in reimbursement and the NVC was in charge of its own infrastructure. In 1959, after the agreement was made with the town to reduce the reimbursement to help rebuild the school, it was set at \$3,000. It was raised to \$4,000 in 1962.

So if one adjusting for inflation, the 1956 “pre-fire” reimbursement percentage of 60% of the NVC’s share of town taxes, dropped to 26% in 1962 with the statutory change that the Town was now responsible for the NVC’s Infrastructure (which at the time was essentially the roadway budget). Since that time the Town of Northport and the NVC has added other infrastructure improvements such as stormwater collection, fire water supply, street lights, and most recently internet capacity. It was interesting that the excuse for cutting the NVC reimbursement again this year, for the second year in a row, provided by the Select Board at the Town of Northport annual meeting in June of 2021, was that the money “saved” by cutting the NVC infrastructure reimbursement was necessary for infrastructure, just not NVC infrastructure, but broadband infrastructure for the town at large.

This reduction for the NVC in turn is forcing the NVC to postpone timely infrastructure projects simply because we are substantially subsidizing the Northport School District while at the same time slowly accepting full management and financial responsibility for our complete infrastructure costs. As a result, the NVC has been forced into a position of minimizing preventative maintenance, in order to attempt to minimize current tax increases. But, minimizing preventative maintenance simply forces higher maintenance costs and premature replacements down the road. This continued approach is simply unsustainable. So how did we get from voluntarily helping Northport rebuild its school after a devastating fire in the 1950s, to a Town of Northport preference for no reimbursement to the NVC in the 2020s? It was a gradual process that did not happen overnight. Here are a few of the factors in play.

1. **The 60% reimbursement in 1956 was reduced to fixed value which corresponded to 26% of tax payments in 1962. More importantly than the initial reduction in value, the fixed value became less and less correlated with respect to infrastructure needs as the value was no longer calculated on a percentage basis.** The reimbursement payment was changed to a lump sum of \$4,000 in 1962. It was then increased to \$5,000 in 1975, \$7,000 in 1977 and to \$8,500 in 1979 when there was a period of inflation. From 1983 to 2001 it was raised to 5 times to the maximum value of \$25,000. It was \$25,000 for 18 years until last year, when it was reduced to \$15,000 (or the same value it

was in 1989). This year it was reduced to \$10,000 (or the same value it was back in 1983). With this reimbursement factor changed from a percentage to a fixed sum, it was no longer naturally indexed to the cost of government or to any inflation consideration. The \$4,000 in 1962, would be at least \$35,000 today if the only factor for increasing the NVC budget was normal inflation.

2. **The government need for services has increased at a rate much faster than the normal rate of inflation so even when the lump sum was increased it did not keep up with the Infrastructure demand costs.** If the “pre-fire” 1956 reimbursement value of \$8,170 value is indexed for inflation to today’s dollars it would be approximately \$80,000 today. If the 60% factor was still a requirement, the \$1,350,000 that NVC residents pay to the Town in taxes today would result in a reimbursement of \$810,000 annually. Obviously a reasonable value is likely somewhere between the \$80,000 value and the \$810,000 value. This ratio does highlight the obvious discrepancy between the normal inflation rate and the true government costs. The actual tax rate increased more than 10 times over the normal inflation rate. The higher rate increase is influenced by many factors (i.e. more regulation today, higher building and road standards, more people, and the cost rate of increase for education).
 - a. **The number one use for NVC residents’ tax payments to the town is the Northport School budget.** As everyone knows, the NVC includes many cottages that are seasonal cottages and they have no ability, or need to use school resource. Northport seasonal residents are considered taxpayers, but “non-residents”. So unfortunately, even though these seasonal homeowners pay taxes on these properties, the NVC as whole then has almost no input into this budgeting. While for nearly two decades the NVC and its residents had no intention of reducing its commitment to Northport for the schools, even though each year the cost of the schools continues to rise AND the present value of the \$25,000 and its ability to cover infrastructure needs continued to diminish with inflation each year, the town decided to ignore the previous arrangement and to purposely exploit Baysiders by reducing reimbursement and forcing disproportionate village tax increases instead for additional money to be diverted to the town’s needs (last year for Covid, and this year for Broadband). At this juncture, it is not unreasonable for the NVC to now complete the same exact analysis the Town of Northport did a few years ago. At that time, the Town came to the conclusion that Northport preferred not to overly subsidize the education of Belfast and Searsport residents by opting out of the regional school system. The town now pays for education not provided in town on a per student basis. If the NVC desired to opt of Northport, it could do the same analysis, evaluate how many students it has, and determine how much it would cost the NVC to send them to a school of their choice on a per pupil basis. If 1/2 to 2/3rd of the town’s real estate tax base is going to the school system, then it should not take long to understand that the per pupil cost will be drastically less than the

\$675,000 to \$900,000 the NVC residents are contributing. The question is not whether the tax allocation and needs are close, but, how much more is the NVC contributing on a cost multiplier basis?

- b. Like the School needs, the roadway needs today far exceed the needs of yesteryear.** Over the years, the norm has morphed from mostly dirt roads to paved roads with water service utilities buried underneath, and storm drain systems that must be installed, serviced, and maintained. This is simply the expectations of today's society. These expectations have caused the cost of roadway restructuring, repaving and repair to increase at a rate exceeding that of normal inflation.
- 3. Without any demand by the NVC to raise the reimbursement rate from \$25,000 in 2002 in proportion to the true infrastructure needs over the last two decades, the view from the Town seems to be to suggest that today, the fraction of the overall tax contribution has gotten so small that it seems more like a "gift" than an "in lieu of services" payment.** Maybe this is where the desire of the NVC to be good neighbors has been used against the NVC. The Overseers initially thought that this concern may simply be a misunderstanding, and simple education would persuade the town to return the reimbursement from \$15,000 last year back to the \$25,000. An excellent letter (see attached) was provided to the town that explains the history of this very generous arrangement from the NVC in 1957. It gently reminds the Town that with that historic change they need to provide roadway services, or reimburse us for them. Unfortunately, there was no formal reply from the town and instead of restoring the previous amount that had been provided for the last 18 years, the NVC learned through the normal budgeting process that the Town arbitrarily reduced it further to \$10,000 this year, and then one Select Member when questioned decided to "come clean" and admit that they would prefer the reimbursement rate be \$0. As a result, \$0 reimbursement, seems very likely in the near future with a significant push by the NVC to explore other options.
- 4. The Town of Northport has come to rely on compromises from the NVC financially to minimize costs for the town budgets.** At the Town's annual meeting, the NVC was "told" to accept this arbitrary reduction in reimbursement in lieu of required services provided. The Town knows that historically the NVC prefers to handle these activities internally to ensure that the NVC provides its services on their own timetable, but unfortunately with minimal reimbursement to the NVC, that will no longer be sustainable.

At this point it may be time to simply sever the relationship and go our own way to provide services (Article "A"). To consider accepting less control over grading, paving, and roadwork and demand that the town eliminate the paltry "in lieu of services" reimbursement payment, develop a long-term needs list, and simply maintain our roadways to the level of service necessary for a densely populated area in town (Article "B"). Or to determine what the NVC feels is a true and proper reimbursement for these services and to develop a reimbursement plan that is properly indexed on a percentage basis to our contribution to the town.

Unfortunately, at this time we drastically cut the road budget and the NVC is proposing a moratorium on any new infrastructure projects for 2022 and possibly until well after the 2024 or 2026 bonds are retired or consider raising taxes accordingly each year to fund the necessary infrastructure projects to do so. This means unless the NVC is properly compensated for roadway related services (stormdrain cleaning, repaving, new gravel, regrading, etc.) from the Town that the NVC will need to revert back to a purely reactive approach to infrastructure and will only address concerns as they arise. The NVC will not be completing any preventative maintenance, any minor roadway infrastructure projects, and not contributing anything to reserves to off-set the future costs of

Again, the NVC does not wish to simply make a decision strictly on saving money. If so, the NVC would have never negotiated the originally deal to help out the Town with the school. However, if the town is not going to renegotiate a reasonable reimbursement that is indexed to a tax percentage each year, for the other services the NVC provides, then the NVC budgeting process is simply unsustainable with both double to possible quadruple taxation per use for the NVC share of the school system services used, and also for paying the town for their Infrastructure budget and then having to not only fund those ourselves but to have to do so continual via bonds which further increases the stress on budgeting requirements.

The NVC Overseers recommends an affirmative vote on Articles “A”, “B”, and “C”. The NVC essentially has three primary budgeting needs, fixed costs, infrastructure costs, and summertime costs. Since summertime needs is, and will remain the primary focus of the village, it tends to get funded at a level that ensures safe swimming, clean and well-maintained parks, garbage pick-up, etc. each year. It is not inflated, but it is not an area that is ripe for reductions on any given year to fund infrastructure needs. So as government needs increase, to minimize tax increases, the tendency has been to attempt to minimize expansion of fixed costs, and to stretch infrastructure projects out.

The NVC has a barebones commitment to personnel. It simply impossible for the size staff provided to perform all the necessary functions within the village. To fill the gap the NVC relies heavily on volunteers at all levels. While this can continue to some extent in the short-term, it in and of itself is unsustainable in the long-term. The availability of volunteer time and the personnel skill sets necessary for this village will eventually no longer be able sufficient. Therefore, these fixed costs will likely increase each year, but more importantly for this discussion, they are not something that is available on an annual basis for reductions. The other fixed costs are our outstanding bond payments and other annual financial commitments. The NVC has not contributed to the reserve for a few years and is currently using it to supplement the seawall payments until 2024 as proposed previously to the village to minimize the tax impact from the seawall construction project. These fixed costs will continue for some time, so in essence all that is left to minimize tax impacts is Infrastructure.

Northport Village Corporation

To: Board of Overseers, Officers, and Village Agent

From: Janae Novotny

Re: June 13, 2021 Board Agenda Item Under “Covid” and Pending Facility Use Requests

Recommended Actions

- Rescind Overseers April 2021 action requiring a minimum of 48 hours between uses of Community Hall.
- Approve pending Community Hall use requests and one Bayview Park use request

Background

At our April 2021 meeting, the Board adopted the following guidelines governing the use of Village public spaces.

1. All outdoor areas will be open for use by the public, following CDC guidelines particularly regarding appropriate social distancing and the wearing of masks.
2. The Bayside Library will be open to the public, subject to any CDC guidelines, particularly regarding appropriate social distancing and the wearing of masks.
3. The upstairs of Community Hall will be open to the public, subject to any CDC guidelines regarding appropriate social distancing and the wearing of masks, as well as the following conditions:
 - Windows must be open during any public use or event;
 - Any fans in use during events or activities must be directed for an outward air flow; and
 - A minimum of 48 hours must take place between uses of the hall.
4. The downstairs of Community Hall will be open to the public, following the same precautions put in place in 2020 regarding traffic flow, appropriate social distancing, and the wearing of masks.

On May 13 and 14, effective May 24th, Maine modified Covid-related rules and guidelines effective May 24, 2021:

- lifted all capacity limits and requirements to physically distance in all public outdoor settings;
- lifted all capacity limits in public indoor venues;
- lifted the physical distancing requirement at indoor public settings where people are eating or drinking and therefore would be removing their face covering;
- adopted the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (U.S. CDC) [new guidance](#) which allows fully vaccinated Americans not to wear face coverings indoors, effective May 24, 2021; and
- consistent with the U.S. CDC’s guidelines, recommends that people in Maine who are not fully vaccinated wear face coverings in indoor public settings.

Pending Community Hall Use Requests

We have a number of pending Community Hall use requests, some of which cannot be approved under the “48-hour rule.” If the “48-hour rule” is rescinded, the following pending 2021 use

requests for Community Hall are presented for Overseers consideration and approval, subject to all other NVC rules and regulations regarding use of public spaces:

- Sid Block: July 9; 5-6 pm for a lecture
- Bayside Historical Preservation Society: Aug. 10; 10 am – 3 pm for “Collection Day” event
- NYC Pancake Breakfast: Aug 1, morning
- NYC Annual Meeting and Dinner: Aug 14, late afternoon to evening
- Northport Food Pantry To Fill the Hall; Aug 15, 10:30 am -1:30 pm
- Jackie Lacoste Yoga Class: Mondays and Wednesdays, July 7-Aug 25; 9:30-10:30 am

Previously approved Community Hall and Bayview Park use requests:

- Maureen Robinson dance: Thursdays 7/8-8/12, 9:30-11:30 am
- Gayle Koyanagi: Wednesdays, May 26, June 30, July 28, Aug 25; 7:30-9 pm
- John Woolsey, Bayside Arts: Meeting Room, Aug 3-15 for exhibit
- John Lojak & Carla Noyes: July 11, approximately 3-6 p.m., wedding. (Time frame allows for arriving/gathering/departing for the 45-minute ceremony.)
- John Lojack & Carla Noyes: rental of approximately 35 chairs for July 10-12.

Northport Village Corporation

To: Overseers, Officers, Village Agent

From: Janae Novotny, Michael Tirrell, Jeffrey Wilt, John Spritz

Re: Strategic Planning – Community Engagement

The Personnel Committee met on Wednesday, June 8, 2021, to consider next steps in the strategic planning process begun by the Overseers at our initial strategic planning workshop on April 25, 2021.

Our primary focus was on how best to advance the process and, specifically, the need to engage in a village-wide dialog with three important goals:

1. To explore with the community the challenges Bayside faces in the coming years
2. To engage Baysiders in a process that elicits wider input, perspective, and ideas
3. To help shape priorities in a context emphasizing transparency and communication

With those goals in mind, the Personnel Committee recommends a summer series of Saturday morning public forums – over coffee and donuts – to both broaden the dialog and help build momentum around our strategic planning process.

We anticipate that the focus of these forums will take shape over time – they could each be shaped around a specific topic, perhaps. But the initial session will be to open the dialog about how the Overseers are looking at these strategic planning issues and to begin the process with Baysiders.

Details about how these public forums will be facilitated will be worked out over the next weeks. We recommend that they be held in the Community Room of Community Hall – with the first one to be scheduled on Saturday, June 26, from 9AM-10:30AM.

Additional dates will be scheduled soon – our primary intent now is to introduce the idea and schedule the first forum.

Overseers who are present and available in the Village should attend; not all are expected to attend all of the proposed community engagement sessions.

The Personnel Committee assumes that some potential topics might include:

- Village budgeting priorities and impact on tax rates
- Bayside's relationship with the Town of Northport
- Future challenges – near term and further out – and planning priorities
- The growing population of year-round residents – managing year-round priorities

beaches & parks

Public areas of Bayside including parks, waterfront, playground, and wharf are meant to be enjoyed.

Please do not litter. Public consumption of alcohol and drugs is prohibited by state law.

The basketball court shall be vacated by 9PM, all parks shall be quiet by 10PM, and the wharf vacated by 11 PM.

pedestrian safety

Pedestrian safety is for all ages. Drivers and pedestrians must be cautious and ensure each other's safety at all times. Village streets are limited to 15 M.P.H. unless otherwise posted.

wharf

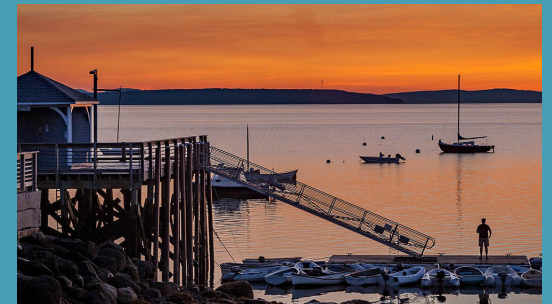
The wharf is available to anyone, whether you enjoy fishing, swimming, boating, or just sitting and looking at the view. However, some rules do apply for the protection of everyone.

The lifeguard has authority over all activities on the wharf and the two floats. Detailed rules of conduct are posted at the entrance to the wharf.



Photo by Ned Lightner
Pamphlet Design By Nate Cohen

bayside safety guide



**EMERGENCY - CALL 911
FIRE, MEDICAL, POLICE**

**NON-EMERGENCY
(207) 338-2040
WALDO COUNTY SHERIFF**

Photo by Steven E. Nelson

bayside

A community of caring individuals who enjoy their corner of paradise while respecting the rights and comforts of their neighbors. Whether you are a resident or visitor to Bayside, please be considerate of your neighbors.



Photo by Sarah Szwajkos

bikes & boards

Please be considerate and safety minded when operating bicycles, scooters, or skateboards.

Bicycles are not to be ridden in parks or between cottages. No skateboards or scooters after dark.



All dogs should be on a leash. Clean up after your pet, it is the law. Dispose of pet waste in your rubbish containers.

Photo by Paula Reilly

fires

Many Bayside homes are old, close together, and tinder dry. In our history several major fires have occurred, with disastrous results.

Be careful with fires, including barbecues and candles. Fireworks are not permitted in the village.

No fire pit or open fires are allowed within 75 feet of any dwelling or structure, or within 25 feet of any combustible materials

parking

Parking is an issue in Bayside.

Please be considerate.

Vehicles blocking emergency access will be towed. No overnight camping or campers are allowed.



Photo by Joy Sherman