

Northport Village Corporation
Approved Minutes of the Board of Overseers Meeting
Sunday, July 14, 2024

Overseers, Officers and Staff present: Celine Bewsher; Brady Brim-Deforest (via Zoom); Fred Lincoln; Vicky Matthews; Judy Metcalf; Michael Tirrell; Jeffrey Wilt; President, Janae Novotny; Treasurer, Wendy Huntoon; Office Manager, Trish Parker; Village Agent, Bill Paige; Clerk, Maureen (Beanie) Einstein (via zoom)

Community Comments:

Dan Webster (Shore Road): Asked about the Nominating Committee process for announcing candidates for the three Overseer positions; asked why the Donuts & Dialog budget discussion was postponed; and asked that the Annual Warrant Article 8 wording, *“and/or providing entertainment and cultural events and the facilities therefore in the Village”* be removed from the Article.

President Janae Novotny indicated that these queries will be addressed later in the meeting.

Vicky Matthews (Griffin Street): The two CPR classes held at the Community Hall were sold out. A class in *“Fentanyl Awareness Training”* will be held at the Community Hall, Tuesday, July 16, 4-5 p.m. She encouraged residents to attend this training.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

Approval of the minutes of the June 9, 2024 Overseers Meeting.

Janae N. asked if there were any questions/comments or changes to the June minutes distributed prior to the meeting. Celine B. – change the wording in the Infrastructure Report to: *“Plan B”, working off Bill Cressey’s Proposal, is a preliminary plan for discussion at the Annual Meeting”*.

Jeffrey W. moved, Michael T. seconded, to approve the Minutes of the June 9, 2024 Overseers meeting as amended. Voted – Unanimous.

President’s Report – Janae Novotny

Dog Waste: I have been receiving complaints about dog owners not picking up their dog’s waste on public and private property. Per our Dog Ordinance, “dog owners are responsible to pick up and dispose of their dog’s excrement deposited on the land of others and/or public land and ways.” Violators are subject to a fine imposed by the Village Overseers of \$25.00.” Michael T. will publish, on the NVC website, a reminder of the “Dog Ordinance” in place and have it posted on our bulletin boards. Trish P. will pass this info on to the rental agents in the village. Wendy H. reminded the Overseers that we do not have a mechanism in place for processing fines.

Atlantic Challenge Facilities Use Request. This group is requesting use of the Community Hall as a back-up in case of rain on Wednesday, July 24th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The large group will be arriving by boat and disembarking on the Bayview Park beach. They will be picnicking for lunch in Ruggles Park if it is not raining.

Judy M. moved, seconded by Vicky M., that the Overseers approve the Facilities Use Request from Atlantic Challenge to use the Community Hall for lunch, July 24th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. as a rain date back-up and recognize their intention to use the Bayview Park beach area for storing their boats while they are here and that storage will be consistent with the pattern of temporary storage used at the beach at this time. Voted – Unanimous.

Discussion and approval of the Proposed 2025 Annual Budget:

Wendy reviewed the status of the draft proposed budget. The Personnel Committee recommended the following regarding line item 6088.5 Village Agent Assistance – recommended renaming this item **Finance Manager**. This would allow hiring someone for a couple of hours a month to alleviate volunteer hours, be an extra pair of eyes and drive down the “clean-up costs” related to the audits.

Item 6191 Auditing Services- Celine B. – This figure should be increased from \$8,400 to \$9,000. Wendy H. will correct this item by adding \$600.00 to Legal and Professional Services and deducting \$600.00 from Other Expenditures and update ref. Note 3 to reflect this change.

Judy M. moved, seconded by Brady B., that the Proposed 2025 Annual Budget be approved, changing the name of Item 6088.5 to Finance Manager, correcting Item 6191 from \$8400 to \$9,000, as stated above. Voted – Brady B. Deforest; Fred Lincoln; Vicky Matthews; Judy Metcalf; Michael Tirrell; Jeffrey Wilt: Yes. Celine Bewsher – Abstained.

Annual Warrant

Article 8 of the Annual Warrant – In response to Dan Webster’s comment regarding Article 8 prior to this meeting, Judy M. noted that our Charter compels us to provide certain services, and one of those services is “*providing entertainment and cultural events and the facilities therefore in the Village*”.

Judy moved, seconded by Jeffrey W., to approve Annual Warrant for 2025 as written. Voted – Brady B. Deforest, Fred Lincoln, Vicky Matthews, Judy Metcalf, Michael Tirrell, and Jeffrey Wilt: Yes; Celine Bewsher – Abstained.

Donuts & Dialog Budget Discussion - After discussion, it was agreed to schedule this discussion for Saturday, July 20 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Judy M. will reschedule her Voter Registration hour to Sunday, July 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Michael T. will post these dates on the NVC website and forward onto Dan W.

Treasurer’s Report – Wendy H.

Wendy Huntoon, referred the Overseers to her written report circulated prior to the meeting.

Village Agent Report – Bill Paige

Bill referred the Overseers to his written report with attachments circulated prior to the meeting.

Recommendation to return the remaining \$2,000.00 deposit to the Bay Street property owners.

Vicky M., moved, seconded by Celine B., to return the remaining \$2000 deposit to the Bay Street property owners. Voted – Unanimous.

Wharf repair – the 2024 Annual Inspection of the Wharf by Pinnacle Hill Engineering was attached to his report. He is still waiting to hear from contractors with quotes for repair of the wharf. This is a very busy time for everyone and Bill hopes to hear back from contractors soon.

Dying crabapple tree in lower Ruggles Park – Clarified the Village has not used any fertilizer on Ruggles Park for the last two years.

Encroachments in Village Parks – Chairs (Ruggles and Bayview Parks) and other items (cushion on the library bench) are starting to appear in public areas. Judy M. referred everyone to the Village’s “Public Use Policy” which is posted on the Village’s website.

Governance – Judy Metcalf

Recommendation to approve the proposed revised Fire Ordinance. A public hearing was held Sunday, June 30 at 9:00 a.m. in the Community Hall.

Judy M., moved, seconded by Fred L., to adopt the revised Fire Ordinance. Voted – Unanimous.

Vicky M. noted and Judy M. agreed that a form would be needed to implement the ordinance.

Park & Trees – Vicky Matthews

Vicky M. referred the overseers to the Committee meeting minutes circulated prior to the meeting.

Vicky M. moved, seconded by Judy M. approval of the expenditure of \$925 for five juniper bushes to plant around the basketball court and one river birch tree to plant at the library and approximately \$1500 for related labor. Voted: Unanimous.

Hawks Trees: The two ash trees in Ruggles Park have been treated for Ash Borer for an approximate cost of \$1200.00 which has been allotted for in the Tree Budget.

Samway Gift Path: The boundary lines have been determined and marked with tape. Vicky thanked Dan & Don Webster and John Hoy for their work in tackling and achieving a difficult task.

Two village trees are dying under suspicious circumstances: the crabapple tree at the bottom of Ruggles Park and an evergreen tree near the old jail. Discussion ensued. Judy M. would like a new tree planted in Ruggles Park and to remind people that they cannot damage village trees. Vicky M. will take suggestions back to the Committee for their input.

Utilities – Jeffrey Wilt

Donuts & Dialog – This discussion was held Saturday, July 13, with a large attendance.

BOD exceedances -There were two exceedances in May. We are doing studies to figure out what is going on.

Testing - The Trustees have been struggling with Northeast Lab; the labs results have been slow which makes it difficult to make adjustments. We are moving our lab testing to Maine Coast Lab where we can receive timely data at lower rates.

PUC – The Trustees have applied to the PUC for a 25% rate increase. Discussion ensued. Increased costs are associated with the need for increased pumping. The key to managing BOD is increased pumping.

Town Liaison – Janae Novotny

Paving – The Town of Northport is having difficulty finding contractors to work on the roads.

DOT – There will be a public hearing in the future for the DOT's plan to work on Route 1 from Lincolnville into Northport,

Speed Limit – At the Town's request, the DOT will be conducting a "speed survey" on Bluff Road. The new paving has increased speeding. There are specific rules of "density of population" that determines what the speed limit DOT will establish.

Climate Resiliency Committee – Thanked Celine B., James Kossuth and the Northport intern for their work to submit grants for Bayview and Auditorium Parks shoreline stabilization.

Office Manager Report – Trish Parker

Trish P. referred the Overseers to her report circulated prior to the meeting.

Infrastructure – Celine Bewsher

Grants – The three Grants have been submitted and we are waiting to hear in about 3-4 weeks.

Safety – Michael Tirrell

Signage: The Safety Committee will be considering additional signage throughout the Village next year if there is an absence of Village police coverage.

Annual Report – The Annual Report will be going to the printer on Tuesday, July 16!

Public Comments

Rachael Rosa (Auditorium Park) – Thanked Judy Metcalf for her many years of service stated she will be missed by the entire community.

Alma Homola offered comments about village trees.

Infrastructure Planning List – Judy M. raised concerns about the impression made in the Committee’s Capital Projects Spreadsheet under the proposed task “Raising the Dock” that the Village Agent advocated affirmatively for the destruction of the dock. She stated that the comment was clearly inconsistent with his consistent work and commitment to the preservation of the Village assets and that in any event the purpose of the document was undermined by the inclusion of out of context commentary by anyone since its purpose was simply to establish and identify the prioritization of prospective Capital Projects. She asked Celine B., the Chair of the committee, to remove that comment as distracting and unnecessary. Celine B. declined to do so as the List accurately reflects what she heard stated at the planning meeting and stated that she had a duty to record people’s point of view.

Executive Session

The Overseers went into executive session at 10:08 a.m. The Board returned to public session at 10:08 a.m. No action was taken in the executive session.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen (Beanie) Einstein, Clerk
/s/

and

Janae Novotny, President
/s/

Approved by the Board of Overseers, August 11, 2024.