



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

8:00 am, July 12, 2020

Virtual – Zoom

### Attendees

President: John Spritz

Treasurer: Steve Kazilionis

Village Agent: William Paige

### Overseers

Miles Frieden

Lisa Fryer

Michael Lannan

Vicky Matthews

Judy Metcalf

Michael Tirrell

Jeffrey Wilt

**Meeting called to order:** 8:00 am

**Approval of Minutes:** Vicky M. motion to approve the minutes from the June 14th meeting; Judy M. seconds the motion; the vote was unanimous.

John S. states that the Safety Committee report is being moved to the top and will include a discussion about COVID-19 regulations.

John S. discusses the rules of operations, an overview of NVC and that meetings cannot be carried on between Overseers meetings. Mike L. raises a point of order and discussion continues.

### Public Comments:

- Jim Coughlin states that the NVC is overly restricted with current rules and regulations and operating outside the CDC guidelines within the state. He would like to see local rules rescinded to match the state's.
- Casey Brown agrees with Jim, and is worried about the potential for drowning, with the current lifeguard setup; the probability of spreading the disease outside is small, and the liability is much worse with the current policies.
- Cynthia Stuen was on the COVID task force and thinks what the governor just came out with is helping tourism but it requires masks in any environment where people are in close proximity of six feet. All have seen 25 kids on the dock, doesn't think it is responsible. Following the rules has helped control the virus, doesn't think we can run the risk for the sake of our pleasure being a little restricted.
- Mike Trasatti agrees with all statements. People should be observing social distancing, police enforcement should be limited to people, not social distancing.
- Jane Strauss supports Cynthia, especially about face masks. She would rather see restrictions stay in place as a starting point to get the younger population to follow State of Maine rules.
- Jim Huning sees very few people wearing masks or practicing social distancing and is in favor of keeping the rules. Maine is one of three states where the cases are going down, why make changes to risk that until over with. 2020 has not been the greatest summer, but he's not

interested in getting rid of rules because we want a normal summer: it's not normal anywhere. The US has 4.2% of the world's population, but 25% of the COVID cases.

- Karen Trasatti would like to see restrictions lifted and have more enforcement if necessary. She sees a lot of inconsistencies with what is open and what is not.
- Beverly Crofoot supports maintaining restrictions, she is high risk.
- Lisa Berry would like to propose lightening the restrictions; if there was a lifeguard on the dock it could help to monitor who is there and the number of people.
- Emily Weisenbach comes from NY and is a hospital admin, is afraid a lifeguard can't do all of that enforcement, if the NVC starts undoing the restrictions it will create greater risk.
- Bryan Field thinks the NVC is operating under a false sense of security, perhaps reevaluate.
- Paul Hamlin spent a week in Bayside as a visitor and is in favor of relaxing restrictions.
- Gina Cressey says the dock is busy under normal conditions; possible parent committee.
- Diantha supports Cynthia's position, recognizes how unhappy they are not being able to use the dock and swim float, but this is a matter of personal responsibility, and the kids not obeying rules. The summer of polio, in the 1950s, was similar, with restrictions.
- Karen Trasatti says it feels like people keep saying a huge influx of people is coming, but few to no cottages are rented.
- Jim Coughlin says Belfast is less restrictive.
- Casey Brown says that COVID is not going away, seconds Gina's point about parenting kids from dock, but he can't because he can't go on the dock.
- Wendy Huntoon personally doesn't have an opinion. The Maine guidelines specifically state that municipalities are in the best position to make their own rules, she feels that the Overseers are in the best position to decide what is reasonable for our community, if that is different than what is in other towns, that is because they are looking at safety for our specific community.

### **Safety Committee:**

- Michael T. says that Bayside is a largely seasonal population, notes the need to balance safety and use in new environment, hence the task force. The safety of NVC employees also is part of this. He has no recommendations for changing and does not support changing the rules.
- John S. received email from Dr. Brown and Mike Trasatti for language for a motion to discuss about COVID-19. Mike L. motion to open and discuss the current situation. Miles F. seconds the motion.
- Mike L. says there are two different regulations/recommendations that are being used interchangeably: Phases vs Keep Maine Healthy. He wants to discuss the rules we have in place and look at being more responsible.
- Michael T. gives a law enforcement update: police are stepping up with speeding because people voiced concerns; police are doing what they can but there is also a "let Bayside be Bayside" concern. The Safety Committee has hired another lifeguard to work Sunday and Monday on the beach but there continue to be concerns about kids on dock and boat float. He has asked the police to emphasize waterfront policing.
- Mike L. made a motion to take \$5,000 from the police budget to fund a dock attendant for the rest of the summer season to Labor Day; the motion was not seconded.



### **Seawall Update:**

- Mike L. met with engineer and contractor. Prock Marine won't be available to move the blocks to the beach from the waterside because of a reduction in their workforce. The contractor has another place to put the blocks and will start in August putting them at the base of Ruggles Park, stacked no more than three high. Only one to two trucks per day will be entering the area; there will be a need to block off two to three parking spaces for the blocks.

### **Nordic Aquafarms Update:**

- Mike L. states that permitting for the project is moving forward. The Belfast Planning Board meeting was last week and Nordic Aquafarms expects to receive a draft order of conditions within two weeks of the meeting.
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### **Report of the Treasurer:**

- Skip for now.

### **Infrastructure Committee:**

- Mike L. says that the Committee is still working within budget. One resident volunteered to do some work at the base of the seawall. It is his project and his money. There is focus on the clogged storm drain at the top, which the Committee believes can be addressed in next year's budget.

### **Report of the Treasurer:**

- Steve K. states there is not much money to spend this year. There is still some money in the tree budget, but no more money in the roads budget—but Bill has done good job with roads.
- John S. noted that the Overseers need to sign the warrant and the past month's warrants.
- Michael T. asks if cost for a dock attendant can be shared by the NYV and the village?
- Steve K. says that problems with the village computer have held up availability of financials.

### **Tree Committee:**

- Mary Brown wants volunteers to help maintain Merrithew Park and to move the lilac bush.
- John S. says that the Tree Committee can work with Mary to figure out.
- Lisa F. says there are two grants within the Project Canopy grant, one for planting, and one for planning, they will meet and walk around to map out trees for grant.

### **Tree Warden:**

- Vicky M. states that they are still trying to see if the tree treatments were successful with browntail moths.
- She is looking at having a tree cut down on Main Street and possibly planting new trees.

### **Communications Committee:**

- Lisa F. says there are two more signs coming but she is hearing lots of talk about basketball court and signage.

### **Finance Committee:**



- Judy M. states that there is nothing currently to report.
- Wendy suggests a vote on using electronic signature. Judy M. made a motion to allow electronic signatures on all warrants. Jeffery W. seconds motion. Vote is unanimous.

#### **Governance Committee:**

- Judy M. states that they have not met and that the parking ordinance is on hold.
- Voter registration for the Annual Meeting will be offered at Community Hall next Saturday from 10 – 11 am.

#### **Personnel Committee:**

- Jeff W. states that there is nothing to report.

#### **Utility Committee:**

- Judy M. states that three bids were received for the new Utility Building contract, and the contract was awarded to Blane Casey Building Contractor and will be signed by the chair; the project starts after the Around Islesboro race. The current plan is to be able to pay out of reserves and must coordinate with seawall project.
- The Superintendent's Report states that the plant operates effectively. Utility bills are going out this week, many are not paying their bills.
- Mike L. raise a point of order and wants the information regarding the new Utility building moving forward. Discussion ensues.
- Jeffrey W. states that there is a need for a website for public access to NVC and Committee meetings and decisions.

#### **Waterfront Safety Committee:**

- Jeffrey W. states that there is nothing to report.

#### **Town of Northport Issues:**

- Vicky M. states that the Northport town meeting is July 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Report of the President:**

- John S. states that the Annual Meeting will be held at the basketball court and the backup is Community Hall.
- There is a short Overseers meeting before the Annual Meeting, at 5 pm on August 11; the Annual Meeting follows at 5:30 pm. The next full Overseer's meeting is August 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Vicky asks who the moderator is. Judy M. says that the Nominating Committee (Blair Einstein presiding) decides. Blair says Lee Woodward is the moderator.
- Vicky asks if there are people running for the open Overseers seats? Blair says not yet.
- Vicky doesn't understand why there is secrecy around not announcing nominees' names before the meeting.

#### **Village Agent Report:**

- Bill P. states that he has nothing to report.



- Steve K. asks about wharf repairs.
- Michael T. asks if the swim buoys are going in, Bill says he believes so.

**Office Manager Report:**

- Trash stickers are at the Northport town office and Wentworth grocery.
- Warrants will be available for signing.

**Community Comments:**

- Dan Webster is trying to look up the time for the meeting notice for the July 3<sup>rd</sup> Utilities meeting.
- Janae N. is worried about traffic impact from the blocks in park and if the boat float will come out earlier.
- Mike Lannan wants to know how the NVC can adjust to be more along the lines of today, be more responsive.

**Meeting Adjourned:** at 10:50am

**The next Overseers Meeting is at 8 am on Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup>.**

Meeting minutes submitted by Nina Richard.