

**Minutes Northport Village Corporation  
Board of Overseers  
Sunday, July 9, 2023**

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

**Comments by Members of the Public – No Comments**

**Business Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m.

**Approval of June 11, 2023 Overseers Meeting**

Janae N. asked if there were any questions or comments on the minutes of the June 11, 2023 meeting. Hearing none, she recommended the Board approve the minutes.

**Brady B. moved, seconded by Jeffrey W., to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2023 Board of Overseers meeting. Voted: Unanimous.**

**Village Agent Report – Bill Paige**

Bill P. referred the Overseers to his written report circulated prior to the meeting. He also stated that the overflow parking in Cradle Row is working.

**Treasurer’s Report – Wendy Huntoon**

Discussion and Approval of the 2024 Budget.

Wendy H. explained the Budget and suggested changes. The tax increase for 2023 was 18%; tax increase for 2024 will be approximately 19%.

**Jeffrey W. moved, seconded by Michael T., adoption of the 2024 Budget with additions to include \$6000.00 for landscape architecture, \$200 for Insurance and \$124 for tax increases for a total of \$518,024,00. Voted: Unanimous.**

**President’s Report – Janae Novotny**

Recommendation to approve August 8, 2023 Annual Warrant, consistent with the approved proposed 2024 Budget.

After discussion, the Overseers recommended to amend the Warrant as follows:

- To change the opening sentence from the “Presiding Police Officer” to *Presiding Police Officer or designated agent for the Northport Village Corporation*” to post the Annual Warrant.
- If the weather is inclement as of 2:00 p.m. the location for the meeting will be at the Community Hall.

- Article 5 – “To see if the Northport Village Corporation will vote to appropriate and authorize a majority of the Overseers of the Corporation to borrow on behalf of the NVC and/or expend funds from accumulated surpluses, a principal amount not to *exceed \$518,000 in anticipation of 2024 taxes...*”
- “At an estimated rate of 7% for a term of one year, the estimated costs of this bond issue;”
- Article 6 – To borrow on behalf of the Northport Village Corporation a principal amount not to exceed \$1,000,000. This amount was increased from \$500,000 in the 2022 Warrant for replacement and repair of Community Hall, Wharf, etc. This amount is for catastrophic purposes.
- Place the Overseers’ signatures in alphabetical order.

**Brady B. moved, seconded by Judy M., to approve the August 8, 2023 Annual Warrant as verbally amended and consistent with the approved proposed 2024 Budget. Voted: Unanimous.**

Recommendation to approve Facility (Community Hall and Bayview Park) Use Requests.

**Judy M. moved, seconded by Celine B., to approve the two submitted requests from Carolyn Treadwell and Bayside Arts. Voted: Unanimous**

Request for Community Hall wifi access for Genealogy Workshop.

Brady B. noted that there would be no additional cost to the Village for “guest” wifi access.

**Michael T. moved, seconded by Celine B., for the Village to set-up “guest” wifi access. Voted: Unanimous**

Brady B. will be setting up the “guest” wifi access.

**Parks & Trees Committee/Tree Warden – Vicky Matthews**

The Committee determined that there would be no significant impact on the view of residents in upper Bayview Park. Pictures mapping the garden were given to the Overseers.

The Committee recommended to approve the gift from the Kazilionis family of a garden in upper Bayview Park. A thorough and lengthy discussion ensued with input from Overseers, the Treasurer Wendy Huntoon and Finance Committee Chair and Overseer Fred Lincoln regarding the pros and cons of the proposed garden installation.

**Judy M. moved, seconded by Michael T., to approve the Proposal for the garden on the following conditions: 1) that the Kazilionis family comply with the Donation Policy that will be adopted at the next Overseers meeting, 2) that the Kazilionis family sign a written contract including their commitment to plant and maintain the garden for ten years and to pay to remove and resod the area if they decide not to maintain the garden after ten years, and 3) that the Kazilionis family agree to work with and be subject to the guidance of the Parks & Trees Committee. Voted: Six in favor, (Bewsher, Brim-Deforest, Matthews, Metcalf, Tirrell, Wilt) ; one opposed (Lincoln).**

The Governance Committee will work with Parks & Trees Committee to prepare draft documents for their signature.

Recommendation to authorize removal of invasive plants at the Bayside Library.

**Vicky M. moved, seconded by Brady B. to authorize removal of invasive plants at the Library. Voted: Unanimous**

Recommendation to approve the purchase of soil and mulch.

The mulch and soil are for the six trees the Committee has been taking care of. The estimated cost is between \$350-\$400.

**Brady moved, seconded by Jeffrey W., to approve the purchase of soil and mulch. Voted: Unanimous.**

Vicky M. also noted that the Green's Tree Service will be removing the tree on Griffin and George and the tree in lower Auditorium Park, weather dependent. They will also be looking at other trees in the Village brought to the Committee's attention.

Shore Road & Bluff Road connector deeded to the Village by the Samway family. The Committee has sent letters to the abutters, and is in the process of trying to define the boundaries before any work/clearing is started.

#### **Town Liaison – Jeffrey Wilt**

The Town of Northport dangerous building hearing regarding the Butters cottage in Merithew Square Park has been rescheduled to August 14, 2023.

#### **Nordic Update – Michael Lannan**

To date, Upstream Watch has petitioned that the permits issued to Nordic be revoked, rather than suspended, as requested by Nordic. Upstream Watch and Harriet Hartley have filed briefs with the DEP however, the case continues to remain in the court system. The NVC's interests continues to focus simply on not polluting our drinking water, not polluting the Bay, as it impacts the village, and protecting our air quality and available energy. DEP has agreed to continue to require water quality testing.

#### **Finance Committee – Fred Lincoln**

Referred the Overseers to his written report.

#### **Governance – Judy Metcalf**

The Committee will be posting a meeting for Sunday, July 16, to look at the changes to the Zoning Ordinance and will be reviewing the Donation Policy to be presented to the Overseers at their August meeting.

#### **Utilities – Jeffrey Wilt**

There were no exceedances in June. The numbers for BOD and suspended solvents are trending down with the use of all three tanks for pumping. This trending will impact the Committee's decision to remove or not remove the sewer moratorium in October.

#### **Infrastructure – Celine Bewsher**

The Committee met on Sunday, June 25 on the dock for a "walking tour" of Village infrastructure to develop the Committee's Mission Statement.

Celine B. continues to work with the Town and rewriting drafts for the Community Resilience Partnership Grant. Also included in this grant application are parts of Shore Road/Kelly Cove. It is a no-match grant of up to \$50,000. If we receive the grant, these funds will help finance the engineering work, which is the first step in any shoreline stabilization project. The engineering work is the primary focus for the coming year. The grant was submitted on Friday, July 10.

**Safety Committee – Michael Tirrell**

The Committee has been asked to reinforce the understanding of the state law prohibiting drinking alcohol in public parks. The Committee will put out an announcement reminding folks of various safety issues and Maine law regarding drinking alcohol in public parks.

**Waterfront – Brady Brim-Deforest**

The Committee is focusing on new signage on the boat float that are specific to the use of dinghies. “No Wake” buoys are on schedule and arriving at the end of the month. The Committee will continue to look at mooring fees that are set by the Town of Northport and Northport Harbormaster.

**Communications – Michael Tirrell**

The Annual Report will be going to the printer at the end of the week. Work continues on the Village website for measures to enable everyone to be able to navigate the site easily.

**Technology – Brady Brim-Deforest**

GWI has connected the Village Office to fiber optic internet. A video conferencing system has arrived which will improve audio and visual on Zoom meetings, etc. and will be installed in the next few weeks.

**Executive Session**

The Overseers went into Executive Session at 10:04 a.m.

The Overseers returned from Executive Session at 10:09. There was no action to report out.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:09.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen “Beanie” Einstein, Clerk

/s/

Janae Novotny, President

/s/

Approved by the Board of Overseers August 13, 2023.