

**Northport Village Corporation
Village Agent Report
December 10, 2023 Board of Overseers Meeting**

Recent activities

- Working with Tinsley Morrison, chair of the Town Climate Resiliency Committee, and Road Commissioner Amon Morse to map water runoff/flooding problem areas throughout the Town.
- Began working on project with Janae for the Governance Committee to identify where private property owners have encroached on NVC property.
- Helping locate documents and information for the 2021 audit.

Parks

- Ruggles Park playground. Playground needs more chips – in addition to what we recently put down. The cedar chips used on the playground are made in Canada. Not practical to buy them directly; we must purchase through a 3rd party. Need to fill areas under swings with crusher rock.
- Ruggles Park: Looking into removing rotten stumps at some point in the future.
- Bayview Park and Auditorium Park: We lost some shoreline embankment at the bottom of these parks. Will need to have a soils engineer assess possible stabilization. See Infrastructure Committee report and grant application activities.
- All parks: Park benches need to be repositioned (close to existing locations) because they have settled. May need to fill holes when they are repositioned.

Wharf, floats and Ruggles Park seawall

- Wharf: Still waiting for Prock Marine to schedule routine maintenance.
- Signage: Boat float and fishing signs being worked on.
- Dock Building: Looking tired. Needs scraping and new paint.

Roads

- General road maintenance: Planned maintenance has been completed. Work done on Pleasant Street working well. Rented a roller to compact the regraded streets and they have held up so well in recent rainstorms that we plan to do it again next year.
- Property owner complaints about water runoff from village roads: Whenever I have an opportunity, I advise property owners building new structures or doing major remodels to build their foundations higher than the crest of the road grade to avoid flooding. Property owners who ignore this advice then complain that runoff from the road floods their property and they want the village to do something about it.

Miscellaneous

- **Needed electrical work**: Received the following estimates for needed electrical work:
 - Maintenance building: \$1300.61
 - Lab/water shed: \$954.76
 - Community Hall (meeting room, office and hallway): \$1350.08

- Community Hall (upstairs stage area-to install proper wiring for fans added by Bayside Arts): \$936.18

If 2023 funds are available later in the year, request that the maintenance building electrical work be approved so that I will have light for maintenance work needed this fall and winter. The remaining work should be in the 2024 budget.

- Fence around the fire pond: The frost had picked up the concrete posts and the fence was falling over before the tree fell on it. Replacing the fence was on a “10-year plan” that was never funded. A temporary fix is no longer possible. The fence needs to be replaced as soon as possible for safety reasons. First estimate about \$20,000. I’m looking for another estimate.
- I continue to field calls from private contractors working throughout the Village on current and planned projects in the Village.
- I continue to deal with various villagers with issues they want addressed.
- Cradle Row: Still waiting for Overseers’ decision for a plan, money and new signage for planned future Cradle Row/Grove Street use.
 - If Cradle Row will continue to be used for parking, we need to prune trees. A villager recently notified us that a falling tree limb damaged their car when it was parked in Cradle Row.

Village projects/needs on the near and far horizon with budget implications

- **Floats replacement:** It is still time to begin setting aside and saving money to replace the floats; they are starting to show their age.

Utilities

- Usual tasks, including working with DigSafe on construction projects, including State work on Route 1.
- Seasonal water shut off issues: Seasonal water shut off starts Oct 15 and all seasonal water needs to be off by Nov 1.
 - *More issues this year with several mostly new owners insisting on having their water turned back on after it had been shut off, blown out and antifreeze added for the winter.*
 - *Also more (about 10) “regulars” who wanted to leave their water on until November 1. That does not work because of the time needed to shut off a water service; I cannot leave that many until the last minute.*
 - Shutting off the water at the street (Village property/equipment) is prohibited unless authorized by Village Agent. Only the Village turns water on/off at the street.
 - Everything from the Village shut off at the street to the house and under/in the house is the homeowner’s responsibility. The homeowner arranges with a plumber to drain the house, remove the water meter in or under the house and return the water meter to the Village for winter storage.
 - The water meters belong to the Water Department. The Village collects and stores them for the winter.
 - Seasonal water turn on for seasonal cottages begins May 1.

- The Utilities Department will be sending out more reminders about these terms of service. In the future, after water shut off has happened, we will not turn water back on. Water shut offs will happen on a schedule that allows for other Village work to be done, too.
- My cell phone: Plumbers have given my cell number to some owners, who call me at night and on weekends. My cell phone is also my personal phone. **If you have my number, do not give it out to anyone. The Village office phone is the right number to use for Village business.**

Submitted by Bill Paige, Village Agent.