

**Northport Village Corporation  
Village Agent Report  
January 8, 2023 Board of Overseers Meeting**

**Parks**

- Ruggles Park
  - Playground drainage work needs to be done this fall. I haven't received any information about this yet. Also have received no information about planned purchase of rocker.
- Ruggles Park turf condition: May be time to move on and fix any remaining issues ourselves. Based on recent conversations with Tom Farley, I do not believe he will do anything more. He thinks the turf is fine. I haven't yet found anyone to give a quote for reseeded the problem areas. Contractors are busy getting ready for snowplow work.
- Bottom of Ruggles Park: Water running down the public walkway between 3 and 5 Park Row that washes silt and rocks down the side of the Park Row extension and around the corner of the boat ramp down toward the Bay. Met with contractor to discuss installing a storm drain to capture that water. Estimate is \$5,000 for new catch basin that ties into the one further down.

**Wharf, floats and seawall**

- Christmas 2022 storm damage
  - Dock: Only damage noticed so far underneath the dock – waves delaminated the composite fender pilings. The “minimum mean low tide” sign on the front of the dock may need to be replaced. Railing loosened and must be repaired. Planking to the side of the grate ripped up and must be replaced.
  - Seawall and causeway area: Gravel and dirt on the causeway, along the face of the seawall and on the boat ramp washed away. Waves washing out gravel moved large rocks at end of causeway. Brown's Excavation has put in new gravel and reset the rocks on the causeway; added 1"- gravel along the face of the seawall/parking area; and temporarily filled the boat ramp. Will need to add loam in the spring so grass can grow.
  - Seawall beach area: Sand has washed away from the beach, uncovering boulders, and new boulders have rolled in. Some sand should return during spring storms.
  - Bayview Park and Auditorium Park: We lost some shoreline embankment at the bottom of these parks. Will need to assess.
  - Sewer Department buildings: Wastewater Treatment Plant appears fine. During the power outage, the generator did its job, but a couple of fuses in the generator blew and it did not turn off when the power was restored. Generator has been repaired and tested. Generator at pumping station

worked fine. Propane tanks at both locations have been topped off and are ready for the next power outage.

- Signage: Safety Committee and Wharfmaster have requested new signage regarding swimming safety and fishing rules. Will get estimates when I receive final language from Safety, Waterfront and Wharfmaster. Dock activity this year shows that new signage is needed. Also need to repaint the white line marking where jumping off the dock is ok.
- Light on end of dock: The light is flickering on and off and probably needs to be replaced. I am still looking for an electrician willing to work on this.
- Alfred J. Keith sign on the wharf: Art Hall replaced the damaged sign. He volunteered his time and his available materials and made a new sign for the cost of the remaining needed materials. Thank you, Art!

## Roads

- Pleasant Street: Recent heavy rain resulted in “normal” washout. Plan to repair in the spring.
- Roads, generally: Other than the “normal” Pleasant Street problem, we had no road wash out problems from the Christmas storm. Cobe Road ditches were filled with leaves.
- Streetlights: CMP repaired all but one of the lights, and now we have one that is on 24/7.
- 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. I suggest that we figure out some other ways to communicate this information. Website? Zoning ordinance?

## Miscellaneous

- Tree by fire pond: The tree came down across the fence and into the pond during the Christmas storm. Matt Brown hauled it away as part of our storm repairs.
- 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 to prevent kids from attempting to skate and play on the partially frozen pond.
- Fire hydrant on Shore Road: Someone ran into it and it will need to be repaired.
- Truck and sander: Sander has been repaired. I have ordered new blades for the snowplow (estimate \$800), and the plow will be serviced when the new blades arrive and are installed. The truck needs service and new tires now (new tires were included in the 2023 budget.)

- 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: Need a plan, money and new signage for planned future Cradle Row/Grove Street use.
  - Grove Street/Cradle Row Preparation for Parking: Working with Brown's Excavation on an affordable solution. (1) First option, although better, is too expensive: 4' wide trench by 140' long filled with rock tailings; 12" of -2" gravel over everything, except first 40' from Clinton in because that area is in better shape and needs less gravel. \$9,000. (2) 4' x 140' 2' deep trench, filled with rock tailings and 6" of -2" gravel, except 4" of gravel over first 40' in from Clinton. \$6,800. (3) Same as option 2, except only 4" of -2" gravel throughout. Cars may sink down and this option may not last as long as other options. \$6,200. All options will direct water to the Pleasant Lane ditch.
  - Dead Beech Trees: I'm looking for a cheaper option than an arborist to remove all of the dead beech trees in the Cradle Row area. Tree Warden and I will examine and identify dead trees.

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

- **Basketball court**: Resurfacing will need to be done in the near future. The crack(s) is widening and will present a hazard at some point. Jim and Cathy Ross decided not to organize pickleball until the crack is repaired.
- **Community Hall**:
  - Because the new door arrived so late and the ground is too cold, the door will not be installed until spring.
- **Inshore mooring block for the boat float**: The block is near the end of its life and needs to be replaced. Rough estimate of replacement cost is \$3500.
- **Floats replacement**: It is time to begin setting aside and saving money to replace the swim float. Replacement cost ballpark: \$25-45, 000. Then, it will be time to save for a new boat float.

## **Other Activities**

- Ferne should be released to full-duty soon. I continue to help as needed until he is released without restrictions.
- Interim Office Manager work – transitioning to Jim Mays.
- Fall seasonal water shut offs. Cottage owners should let the office know when they have drained and closed up their cottages. Some cottage owners let us know when they are ready for us to shut off the water at the street, and this helps us stagger the shut off work. Paul Overgaag has volunteered many hours of service this past month helping with water shut offs and meter reading.

- Seasonal water shut off issues: Peter Simpson's decision to no longer do water shut offs required some communication with many customers who did not understand the process. I talked to Janae about a notice posted on websites and added to utility bills to cover the basics:
  - Seasonal water shut off starts Oct 15 and all seasonal water needs to be off by Nov 1.
  - 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.
- Outfall pipe buoy: The sewer department's outfall pipe buoy is missing and must be replaced. Anticipated cost of \$3500 is in the department's 2023 budget.

Submitted by Bill Paige, Village Agent.