

**Northport Village Corporation
Village Agent Report
October 9, 2022 Board of Overseers Meeting**

Parks

- Ruggles Park
 - New playground and basketball signs have been installed.
 - 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: Farley wanted the grass cut shorter and more often. Farley and our contractor have been mowing shorter and 2x a week. Farley has aerated the lawn. I have not seen them reseeding. We have had our first frost that limits what else can be done now.
- 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.
- Bayview Park: Contractor completed the gazebo repair. Beverly Crofoot donated new fasteners to strengthen the structure.

Wharf, floats and seawall

- Float hauling:
 - A recent storm from the NW with high winds and swells broke the safety chains holding the swim float ramp on the float deck. The ramp fell off the float and rested on the bottom. The dock and the ramp were not damaged, but we will need new fasteners. Scott Munroe used yacht club floatation devices and hauled out the ramp, swim float and two yacht club floats at the same time.
 - I asked Dan Webster and Michael Tirrell to post notices on baysidemaine.com and nvcmaine.org that all small watercraft (dinghies, kayaks, paddleboards, etc.) must be removed from NVC property by the end of the day on October 10. As soon after the holiday weekend that the tides and schedules permit, the remaining floats will be hauled out.
- 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.
- Water: The water at the dock will be turned off on October 10. The missing hose and broken bracket will need to be replaced.

- Light on end of dock: The light is flickering on and off and probably needs to be replaced.

Roads

- Brush cutting: We're starting to work on cutting back brush overgrowth into village streets. The Town will also be trimming overgrowth into Town roads in the village.
- North Avenue: before fuel costs skyrocketed, estimate to cut out curbing, dig out and fill in with gravel and hot top new area was \$5,000. Oil truck wheels may deteriorate the new hot top, and there is no guarantee about how long this "fix" will last.
- Streetlights: At least 5 streetlights are out on village streets. I have notified CMP for the second time. Any village resident can report street light outages on the CMP website. Maybe if more people report them, we will get some attention from CMP.
- 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: After recent storms, the roots of the big tree are lifting and the tree needs to be removed before it falls into the pond.
- Fence around the fire pond: The frost has picked up the concrete posts and the fence is falling over. Replacing the fence was on a "10-year plan" that was never funded. Looking at temporary fix to reset the posts, but longer-term fix is needed soon.
- Truck and sander: When the sander is removed from the truck and cleaned up, I have identified someone who will try to repair it. If we can't repair, we will have to replace two chains for the slide tray. In addition the snowplow needs new blades (estimate \$800) and needs to be serviced this year.
- 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.

Parking Ordinance Implementation

- 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.

I was pleasantly surprised that lots of folks used this parking option this summer.

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:**
 - Hammond Lumber informed me that the hardware for the new double door is still backordered. I said that the new door needs to be installed before the cold weather sets in. They proposed a plan to install the door with different hardware that can be used until the planned hardware arrives.
- **Inshore mooring block for the boat float:** The block is near the end of its life and needs to be replaced.
- **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. Working on refining a cost estimate.

Other Activities

- Effective the end of August, assumed temporary responsibilities of Treatment Plant Operator until Ferne returns from medical leave.
- Interim Office Manager work.
- Wastewater and water department work with new connections.
- Fall seasonal water shut offs have begun. Cottage owners should let the office know when they have drained and closed up their cottages. Some cottage owners have been letting 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. Still looking for casual labor help with this work and other projects.
- Seasonal water shut off issues: Peter Simpson's decision to no longer do water shut offs requires some communication with many customers who do 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.
- Shore Road hot top: The trench across the road will be filled with hot top in a few weeks. We are waiting to complete another water job and then both road trenches will be filled in. Until the hot top work is done, people should just slow down.
- Outfall pipe buoy: The sewer department's outfall pipe buoy is missing and must be replaced. Have asked Scott Munroe for a cost estimate for a new buoy and installation.

Submitted by Bill Paige, Village Agent.