

Town of Northport

Select Board Meeting

July 08, 2019

Chairman: Shelly Patten

Vice Chairman: Zak Hollingshead

Selectman: Jeanine Tucker

Town Administrator: Barbara Ashe

Finance Director: Vicki Eugley

Town Clerk: Amy Eldridge

Present: Shelly Patten, Zak Hollingshead, Jeanine Tucker, Barbara Ashe, Amy Eldridge, Vicki Eugley, Phillip Conkling, Maryann Naell, Erik Heim and Ed Cotter all from Nordic Aquafarms, Michael Lannan and Vicky Matthews from Bayside, and Peter Bowen.

Citizen Concerns: Erik Heim from Nordic Aquafarms provided an overview of what has occurred and what is yet to come. He reported that Nordic Aquafarm experts do not show any negative impact to Northport. Heim spoke of the concerns that residents have had about the discharge and what they have been informing those residents. One concern was if fish remains would be put back into the bay. Heim explained the process of discharge and how the water and fish is handled before going back into the bay.

Heim mentioned that there would be no effect to the grass in the bay, water temperatures or lobstermen. He reported that they would be removing 99% of the phosphorus. Most of the water that they would be using would be 80 % Sea water and 20% Fresh water. Sources of fresh water would be the Belfast Water District, on site wells, and the reservoir.

Ed Cotter from Nordic Aquafarm reported on the impact to wells in the area. He informed the selectmen that they would be monitoring the wells in the area and if they start to see any affects they would look at the data of the well that is being affected. If the affect is a larger impact then they would change over to a different source for withdrawing water. Chairman Shelly Patten asked how often they would be drawing fresh water and Ed mentioned that the draw would be occurring 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Cotter also mentioned that the wells that are older they would be checking on the condition of the well with the property owner to see if the condition of the well may be impacting the change in the water levels. Heim mentioned that within 3/4 of a mile from the Nordic Aquafarm location is where the most draw and affect is going to happen.

Cotter explained were the pipe would start on the west side of Route One. The pipe would go 35 feet underground, extending under Route One and then out into the ocean until its 30 feet on the sea bed. He also mentioned the pipe is not in the mud flats of Northport and there would be two intake pipes and one discharge pipe.

Zak H. provided feedback to the Nordic representatives on appropriate business practices going forward that will assist them in future. Cotter mentioned that they realized their mistake and have since made corrections.

Cotter reported that they were aware of the mercury issue in the area. Research has been performed and the mercury levels are not a concern. He mentioned that there are some hot spots in Belfast of which they have done testing. Two out of three test samples came back no mercury and the one sample that had mercury was still under the necessary level. Heim reported that Nordic would continue to test the water to make sure the levels are at the appropriate numbers.

Cotter reported the State permits have been submitted and ready for review. The DEP accepted jurisdiction and will meet August 1, 2019 with intervenors. The City of Belfast reviewed the application and they found it complete. Nordic Aquafarms will have a walk thru with the Planning Board on Wednesday 07-17-19. Cotter mentioned that 100 jobs would be filled at the site between engineers, administration, and workers. Nordic Aquafarms would start with 60 people in the first phase followed by another 40.

Michael Lannan asked them to clarify which pipe is the intake and Ed mentioned that the longer pipe is the intake and the shorter pipe is the discharge. Zak H. asked how much of the pipe is going to be out in the water. Cotter reported that 2400 feet of the pipe would be in water and then continued to explain the construction process involved in laying the intake pipe.

Lannan is concerned about the “what if’s” with Nordic Aquafarm. He would like to see the Town of Northport become an intervenor. Lannan expressed that if the Town was an intervenor they would reserve their right on specific concerns for the property owners within the 3/4 mile radius. The Town would need to submit an intervenor application by Friday 07-19-19. Vicky E. asked what the growth time frame is for one fish. Cotter explained that it takes 2 years for a fish to weigh about 8 lbs. and that is when they harvest them.

Peter Bowen asked the selectmen for an overview of what is happening with Point Lookout. Barbara A. provided an overview to Mr. Bowen of what was mentioned and explained that the town will have to wait and see what evolves of the property.

Town Administrator: Barbara A. had a concern from a resident and they are concerned about the cost of trash stickers and will be coming to the next meeting.

Barbara A. thought that Amanda Austin from 2A Architects was going to report at the meeting. Ashley will check back with Amanda for a follow up meeting. Barbara A. spoke with Fire Chief Paul Rooney; he mentioned that they may need to get a new fire truck. Rooney was concerned about having 2 large costs for the town and a new fire truck may impede on the cost of construction for a town building. The Fire Department has approximately \$162,000 for a new truck in the Fire Truck Special Reserve Account which is half of what it would cost for a new truck.

Road Commissioner: Amon Morse, the Road Commissioner, provided an overview to the selectmen of road repairs. There have been multiple wash outs around town. The major washouts have been fixed and now they are working on the minor wash outs.

Barbara A. reported that the property owner of 539 Bluff Road is concerned that a tree on town property needs to be trimmed.

The Browntail Moth is a concern in Northport. Vicky Matthews from Bayside mentioned that some people are looking to have the trees around Bayside inoculated. She mentioned that inoculation on the trees could not be done until the spring. Matthews mentioned that the Browntail Moth are almost through their cycle. The Village Tree Committee is going to have an adviser come and let them know how to maintain the trees.

Finance: Vicki E. provided the warrants to the selectmen for review and signature. Eugley request the Board renew the Municipal Officers Policy On Disbursement of Municipal Education Costs. The Board reviewed the policy and approved the renewal.

Town Clerk: Amy E. provided the meeting minutes for 05-28-19, 06-10-19, 06-24-19 and the Annual Town meeting minutes to the selectmen for review. Upon review **Zak H. motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Shelly P. seconded the motion. Board voted 3-0.**

Adjourn: Shelly P. moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm, Zak H. seconded the motion. The board voted 3-0 in favor.

Executive session: The board began the executive session at 8:41 pm and ended at 8:44 pm. No votes were taken.

Respectfully submitted by,

Amy Eldridge

Town Clerk