

Minutes of March 1, 2025 Governance Committee Meeting

Attendance: Beverly Crofoot, Dan Webster, Jeffrey Wilt – committee members

Janae Novotny, President of the Board of Overseers

Rachel Rosa and Chris Maseychik, community members

Agenda Item #1: Approve Minutes of November 23, 2024 meeting

Approval of minutes of November 23, 2024, as corrected. J. Wilt moved, B. Crofoot second, unanimous.

Agenda Item #2: Finalize Workplace Pet Policy

Workplace pet policy approved for submittal to Board of Overseers. D. Webster moved to submit to the Board of Overseers, B. Crofoot second, unanimous.

Agenda Item #3: Use of public spaces policies

Discussion regarding the use of public parks and open consumption of alcohol. The committee recognizes that Maine law prohibits public drinking, and Belfast, Camden, Lincolnville, and Northport restrict public drinking. State statute allows for enforcement by a police officer who witnesses public drinking and/or where the public property is posted for no alcohol consumption.

Discussion regarding whether there had been resident complaints about public drinking, particularly in Merithew Square at Friday gatherings and special events. The consensus was that residents had questions rather than complaints.

The committee discussed curfews for parks, like the playground and basketball court currently have, and conditions for use. E. Moss to draft policy for consideration addressing planned gatherings, whether fees should be assessed like for Community Hall, and conditions for use.

Agenda Item #4: Update on Board Member Policy Guidelines

Discussion of the Board Member Policy Guidelines was limited because J. Novotny's comments were unavailable when the meeting notice was issued, so discussion was deferred until everyone had time to review those suggested revisions.

Agenda Item #5: Zoning Ordinance clarification process

The committee next addressed ongoing concerns with the Town of Northport's interpretation of the Village Zoning ordinance concerning the expansion of nonconforming structures, particularly with regard to height. While the committee members think the ordinance is clear, they recognize that architects, homeowners, and the Town of Northport CEO, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals may interpret the ordinance in unintended ways. D. Webster and B. Crofoot agreed to draft proposed revisions to be reviewed next meeting.

Agenda Item #6: Donation Form

E. Moss proposed that the review and possible approval of changes to the NVC Policy for acceptance of Donation, and specifically the addition of the donation form, be deferred to the next committee meeting because of limited time for the meeting.

Agenda Item #7: Template for Minutes of Board of Overseers Meetings

The Board of Overseers had requested that the Governance Committee create a template for minutes of meetings for the Board and Committees. J. Wilt and E. Moss agreed to work on a template.

Public Comments:

Rachel Rosa voiced frustration with being unable to join the meeting because Zoom information was incorrect and asked the Committee to be extra careful in disseminating meeting information. Chris Maseychik also advised he had difficulty logging into the meeting.

NEXT MEETING: March 27, 2025 at 4 p.m.