

**Northport Village Corporation
Draft Minutes of the Board of Overseers Meeting
Sunday, October 13, 2024**

Overseers, Officers and Staff present: Celine Bewsher; Fred Lincoln; Vicky Matthews; Kris Mix (via Zoom); Michael Tirrell (via Zoom); Jeffrey Wilt; President, Janae Novotny; Clerk, Maureen (Beanie) Einstein (via Zoom), Office Manager, Trish Parker and Village Agent, Bill Paige.
Unavailable: Elaine Moss.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Public Comments

Beverly Crofoot (Shore Road) requested the Board approve painting the willow tree stump near the library by local Belfast artist, David Hurley, with a scene to encourage children's imagination.

Don Webster (Upper Bayview Park) thanked Steve Kazilionis for organizing volunteers to paint the dock building. Steve and his volunteer painting crew – Gordon Fuller, Janae Novotny, Jim Facey, Jim Ross, Don Webster and Dave Leaming, all chipped in to finish this project.

Approval of September 8, 2024, meeting minutes

Janae N. asked if there were questions/comments to the September 8 Board meeting minutes distributed prior to the meeting.

Recommended Amendments to the September 8, 2024 minutes.

James Kossuth, Northport Town Administrator, recommended an amendment to the Infrastructure Report to clarify the reason we did not get funding for Bayview Park and Auditorium Park, as follows: *"Grants were available only for projects on "town ways" and because Bay Street (or Bayview Park) and Auditorium Park are maintained by the Village, those projects were ineligible". Also, the DOT representative Celine B. met with was Peter Coughlan, not Kaufman.*

Other amendments: Remove the "?" mark after Fred L. seconded the motion on page 2. Finish the last word to "car"; adding an "r" on page 2.

Jeffrey W. moved, seconded by Fred L. to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2024 Overseers Meeting as amended above. Voted – Unanimous.

President's Report – Janae Novotny

Recommendation to approve Johanna Knott's request for the use of Merithew Square Park on October 13 (rain date October 14) for a community Octoberfest event, to use 25 Community Hall chairs and one or more tables, and to waive the table/chair rental fee.

Fred L. moved, seconded by Vicky M., to approve the above request by Johanna Knott. Voted – Unanimous.

Fred L., moved, seconded by Jeffrey W., to approve placing a Christmas Tree in Merithew Square for the Christmas holidays. Voted – Unanimous.

Recommendation to allow Bayside Arts to use 813 Shore Road as their physical address. A mailing address for Bayside Arts has been established at a different address.

Vicky M. moved, seconded by Fred L., to allow Bayside Arts to use 813 Shore Road as their physical address. Voted – Unanimous.

Recommendation to replace long-missing NVC signs on NVC bulletin boards regarding the prohibition of public drinking, as defined by state law, in NVC parks and public places.

Jane N. explained that without posted signage, a prohibition of public drinking in NVC parks is not enforceable.

A lengthy discussion ensued.

Michael T. moved, seconded by Vicky M., to refer this matter to the Governance Committee. Voted – Unanimous.

Jeffrey W., moved, seconded by Michael T., to amend the above motion and instruct the Governance Committee to seek broad community input regarding this matter. Voted – Unanimous.

Janae N. – All NVC locks and keycodes have been upgraded. If an Overseers needs access to Community Hall, they should contact staff, and they will be given a temporary code for entrance.

Janae N. – Trish P. will be sending out a notice to the newspaper and posting notice of a Winter Parking Ban in effect on Village roads, November 15 through April 15. Parking on all Village roads and streets is prohibited between the hours of 7:00 PM and 7:00 AM. During a snow event, parking is prohibited during all hours on Village roads and streets. Michael T. will also post the parking ban on the NVC website.

Treasurer's Report – Wendy Huntoon

Wendy H. referred the Overseers to her written report circulated prior to the meeting. The 2022 Audit is completed. We will be starting the 2023 Audit at the beginning of December. Moving forward, the 2023 Audit will be completed quickly.

Village Agent Report – Bill Paige

Bill P. referred the Overseers to his written report circulated prior to the meeting.

Recommendation to approve Beverly Crofoot's request to paint the library's willow tree stump at no cost to the NVC.

Kris M. moved, seconded by Celine B., to approve Beverly Crofoot's request regarding painting the library willow tree stump. Voted – Unanimous.

Bill P. explained an extra \$261.25 charge from Pinkerton & Sons above the contract amount. Discussion ensued.

Recommendation to approve a license and indemnification agreement with Paul and Claudia Andrews, 6 Bay Street (Tax Map U-5, Lot 123) for access to NVC property for completion of a seawall, subject to the NVC standard conditions and a \$5,000 deposit. The Andrews plan to dump large rocks or boulders on the Village road right-of-way in front of their cottage.

Utility Superintendent Chuck Applebee recommended a \$5,000.00 deposit to cover any damage that may be incurred to the water/sewer lines, storm drain and a manhole in that area. Paul Andrews plans on putting a protective metal plate over these services with extra protection as well. Bill P. explained the metal plate disperses the weight of the pile of large rocks over the area.

Vicky M. moved, seconded by Jeffrey W., to accept the above recommendation as written.

Discussion ensued.

Jeffrey W. moved, seconded by Vicky M., to amend the above motion that includes the specific details of planned mitigation factors, with Paul and Claudia Andrews, for access to Village property for completion of a seawall, subject to NVC standard conditions and a \$5,000.00 deposit. Voted – Fred L. abstained; Five – Unanimous.

The project to repairs on the Wharf, is moving forward, and will start as soon as materials arrive.

Craig Brigham (Shore Road) has donated stones for the Bluff-Shore Road pathway for the extra steps that will be needed after the culvert is installed.

Bill P. explained the extensive procedures to request new utilities service and to install new water hook-ups.

Extremely busy reading water meters and shutting off season water customers.

Office Manager – Trish Parker

Recommendation to abate interest charged various NVC taxpayers to date in the amount of \$336.07. Note that this abatement reflects interest not owed, but shown in taxpayers' accounts as a result of the recent glitch in the Town's TRIO software.

Michael T. moved, seconded by Jeffrey W., to approve the recommendation as written above. Voted – Unanimous.

Trish P. has been working on a project with Tim Samway to document the history of former and present Overseers over the years. Trish P. thanked the many folks involved in gathering this information. Kris M. will look into the price of a plaque listing all Overseers and will get back to the Board.

Governance Committee Report

As previously discussed at the Board, Vicky Webster proposes swapping approximately 7-8 feet of her property adjoining the NVC paper Sea Street for the same amount of NVC paper Oak Street adjoining her property at 15 George Street (U05-007) to make her property conforming. The Governance Committee recommends approval of the land swap with the conditions that Vicky W. secures a survey, marks the land deeded to the NVC with permanent survey markers and discontinues all use of the land deeded to the NVC.

Vicky M. moved and Kris M. seconded that the Board approved the proposed land swap under the conditions described above. Voted – Unanimous.

Utility Committee – Jeffrey Wilt

The Utility Trustees held a public hearing on a proposed extension of the moratorium on new sewer hook-ups, following by a special meeting where they extended the moratorium on new sewer hook-ups from October 7, 2024 – April 6, 2025. After the end of this extension, they hope to be able to make definitive decisions on the issues we are facing and addressing these issues in the future.

The Water Department is working with the PUC to approve an increase in our current water rates. Janae N. with Superintendent, Chuck Applebee, will be meeting virtually with PUC staff on October 28th to continue this dialog.

Town Liaison – Janae Novotny

Fire Department – They are having extensive repairs on their equipment which require a special Town meeting, this fall, as this cost was not included in the town of Northport’s Budget. The church was sold in Saturday Cove, the proceeds were intended to go to the Fire Department. However, the church trustees learned that the proceeds were required to be donated to another church.

A federal law that will take effect in 2027 requires broad website accessibility, including that any meeting recordings posted on our website must be fully accessible in a variety of formats, including full transcripts. Michael T. and Janae will be looking into what accessibility will be required of the NVC and what adjustments may be required to NVC website content.

Infrastructure Report – Celine Bewsher

Celine B. reported on the status of upcoming grant submissions planned by the Town to address the Bayview Park shoreline erosion.

Public Comments:

Dan Webster (670 Shore) thanked the Overseers for approving Vicki Webster’s request (in her absence) for approving the “land swap” with the Village and her property.

Rachel Rosa (Auditorium Park) thanked all overseers shown on the new posting for their service.

Executive Session

The Overseers went into Executive Session at 11:00 a.m. The Board resumed public session at 11:47 a.m. There was no action to report out of executive session.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen (Beanie) Einstein, Clerk

and

Janae Novotny, President