

Town of Northport  
Select Board Meeting  
June 26, 2023 @ 6:10 pm

Chair: Jeanine Tucker  
Vice Chair: Breanna Pinkham Bebb  
Municipal Officer: Molly Schaufler  
Town Administrator: James Kossuth

Finance Director: Vicki Eugley  
Town Clerk: Amy Eldridge  
Road Commissioner: Amon Morse  
NVC Representative: Jeffrey Wilt-Not Present

**Present:** Jeanine Tucker, Breanna Pinkham Bebb, Molly Schaufler, James Kossuth, Vicki Eugley, Amy Eldridge, Amon Morse, Mark Lynch, Dana Kennedy, Ann Frenning Kossuth.

**Select Board:** Election of Chair and Vice Chair.

***Pinkham Bebb motioned to elect Jeanine Tucker as Select Board Chair, seconded by Schaufler. Board voted 2-0, Tucker abstained, motion passed.***

***Tucker motioned to elect Pinkham Bebb as Select Board Vice Chair, seconded by Schaufler. Board voted 2-0, Pinkham Bebb abstained, motion passed.***

Pinkham Bebb suggested changing the Board meeting start time to 6:15 pm instead of 6:00 pm. After further discussion, ***Pinkham Bebb motioned to change the start time for Select Board meetings to 6:15 pm, seconded by Schaufler. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.***

**Citizen Concerns:** Kennedy reported to the Board on the condition of Horse Jockey Lane. While working on a property located on Horse Jockey Lane he observed the road conditions frequently. With the Boards approval he would like to repair the end of Horse Jockey Lane, from the eastside cemetery to Route 1. A new culvert is needed and Kennedy has discussed with Morse his vision and plans. He has also spoken to Code Enforcement Officer Toupie Rooney and they both feel it needs to be repaired. The location in question is almost out of the Town right of way, but Morse stated it was in the Town's best interest to get it fixed. Morse was planning on grading this area because plow trucks turn around at this area when they are plowing.

Kennedy stated he would be able to repair the road at a reasonable price. Tucker informed him of what insurance coverages he would need for this project. Kennedy gave the Board a quote of \$800.00, which includes grading, gravel, labor and crushed stone. The Town would purchase the culvert. The Board agreed to have Kennedy complete the repairs to Horse Jockey Lane upon purchase of the culvert and evidence of insurance documentation to the Town.

Pinkham Bebb reported a complaint she received about the Transfer Station not staying open until 4:00 pm. Multiple residents have arrived at the Transfer Station slightly before 4:00 pm and the Transfer Station has been closed. The Board wants the Transfer Station to stay open until 4:00 pm as posted. Kossuth will inform the Transfer Station attendants that they need to stay open until 4:00pm.

**NVC:** Not present.

**Road Commissioner:** Morse reported he spoke with Bill Paige, Northport Village Corporation Agent, about 31 Broadway. The owner has put up white stakes to repair her lawn, which are in the Town right

of way. Parking on Broadway is limited; and additional parking is at Merithew Square. The property owner parks on the road, which limits the accessibility of the road by other motorists. The Board decided no action was needed by the Town. Morse will report back to Paige with feedback.

Tucker reported that people are parking on Bayside Road, close to the stop sign, at The Hoot. Tucker is worried about pedestrians walking through that area and feels it's unsafe. Cars parking in this area are obstructing the site lines in and out of Bayside Road. From the corner of Bayside Road and Route 1 to the front door of The Hoot should be marked no parking. Tucker suggested putting "no parking from here to corner" signs in the area of concern. Tucker stated she has spoken to John Poto once before about the situation. Kossuth will reach out to the owners of The Hoot to get feedback on the situation.

Morse reported on the gate at the Transfer Station. The post for the gate has shifted and he had to pull it back so it would close. He feels the gate looks nice but is too heavy. He provided the Board with a few options but stated if the Board decides to keep the current gate, it will need to be reset. Tucker suggested contacting Midcoast Fence Company to see if they could provide the Town with options.

Pinkham Bebb reported that she spoke with Paul Robie about paving on Upper Bluff Road. He was wondering how the property owners would be informed about road construction. Pinkham Bebb advised him that the Town would inform residents in the area of construction when scheduled.

#### **Town Administrator:**

Community Resilience Partnership Resolution and Grant Application- Kossuth provided the Board with a draft of a resolution for the Town with the list of Community Actions and Community Self-Evaluation that the Town will need to submit to the State in order to join the Community Resilience Partnership and be eligible for this and future grants. He also reported Gartley and Dorsky provided a quote for engineering and design study of \$7,000 for Auditorium Park.

***Tucker moved to accept the resolution as written, seconded by Pinkham Bebb. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.***

Butters cottage update: Kossuth reported that Town Attorney Bill Kelly heard from James Butter's lawyer, and they want to push the Dangerous Building Hearing out until August because Butters's lawyer will be out of town. Kelly suggested August 14, 2023. The Board wasn't in favor of changing the date but agreed to reschedule since it worked for Kelly as well.

Recycling planning: Kossuth reported he spoke with Karen Gleeson about reconvening the Recycling Committee to determine options and recommendations for the Town. He also reported he received a suggestion from Patricia Gardner about putting a compactor up at the transfer station.

Legislative update: Kossuth reported updates to LD88 (an act to provide qualifying municipalities a percentage of adult use cannabis sales and excise tax revenues). The percentage discussed is 12% and if the bill is passed, Kossuth estimated the Town could receive around \$5,000.00 a year. Kossuth also stated there is a new law to increase Agent Fees for ATV and Snowmobiles registrations from \$4.00 to \$5.00.

Kossuth reported that the Legislature is considering a bill, LD130 that would repeal the Senior Tax Stabilization Program which was enacted last year, and in its place amend the State's Senior Citizen Property Tax Deferral Program and the Property Tax Fairness Credit. This new bill would provide the property tax benefits to the most vulnerable senior population. To help pay for these benefits, LD130 would also reduce the state's reimbursement to municipalities for Homestead Exemptions from 79% to 76% for the next two years.

Revaluation planning: Kossuth reported he reached out to other municipalities about RFPs for revaluation. He received 10 RFPs from various towns along with recommendations for firms to contact. Kossuth will provide the Board with a draft copy when available.

Kossuth requested authorization to pay \$75.00 for flowers that were provided to Shelly Patten at the Town Meeting, as recognition of the 6 years of service on the Town of Northport Select Board.

***Tucker motioned to approved paying \$75.00 for flowers for Shelly Patten that was given at the Town Meeting, seconded by Pinkham Bebb. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.***

Town Clerk: Eldridge provided the Board with a list of Northport residents willing to be reappointed to Town positions. See Appendix A.

***Pinkham Bebb motioned to accept the list of individuals provided by Eldridge to be appointed for Town positions, seconded by Tucker. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.***

Finance Director: Eugley provided the Payroll & Accounts Payable warrants to the Board for review and approval. The Board approved the Payroll & Accounts Payable warrants.

Waldo Community Action Partners (WCAP): Eugley spoke with WCAP, who asked to confirm the donation amount from the Town. The Board confirmed with Eugley that \$3,500.00 was approved to be donated to WCAP in the new fiscal year.

Eugley reported she spoke to Vanguard, who requested Articles of Incorporation of when Northport was formed in order to open the Town's account. Pinkham Bebb suggested discontinuing business with Vanguard due to the difficulty working with them, and to deposit the designated funds into our Fidelity Investments account.

Frenning Kossuth, Investment Committee member, provided reasons why the Town may want to still provide Vanguard with the needed information. Discussion was had about how the Town is currently doing with investments. The Board will delay the discussion of discontinuing business with Vanguard until after the Investment Committee has met.

Old Business: None at this time.

New Business: Pinkham Bebb provided ideas for the Town to think about going forward. Suggestions included having an Engagement Committee set up to get more people in Northport involved in Town affairs, having Links for upcoming agenda or minutes on the Town email list, and connect with the Business group in Northport. The Board discussed options about what the Town can do to get more participation from residents to help with Town and school events.

***Adjourn: Tucker motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 pm, seconded by Pinkham Bebb. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.***

Respectfully submitted by,

Amy Eldridge

## Appendix A

The following positions shall be appointed:

- Addressing Agent – Term of one year – Toupie Rooney
- Animal Control Officer – Term of one year – Heidi Blood
- Attorney for the Town – Term of one year – Bill Kelly
- Code Enforcement Officer – Term of one year – Toupie Rooney
- Deputy Animal control Officer – Term of one year – Herman Littlefield
- Deputy Town Clerk – Term of one year – Robin Coombs
- Deputy Registrar – Term of one year – Robin Coombs
- Election (ballot) Clerks – Term of two years appointed on even years  
(Robin Coombs, Paul Sheridan, Amy Eldridge, Sandy Wallace)
- Emergency Management Director – Term of one year – Peter Simpson
- Excise Tax Collector – Term of one year – Robin Coombs
- Finance Director – Term of one year - Vicki Eugley
- Fire Chief – Term of one year – Paul Rooney
- General Assistance Administrator – Term of one year – James Kossuth
- Harbor Master – Term of Two Years effective December 1 – Scott Monroe
- Health Officer – Term of three years – (Title 22 451(4)) – Peter Simpson
- Inland Fisheries Agent – Term of one year – Robin Coombs
- Motor Vehicle Agent – Term of one year – Robin Coombs
- Plumbing Inspector – Term of one year – Toupie Rooney
- Registrar of Voters – Term of two years – Amy Eldridge
- Tax Collector – Term of one year – Amy Eldridge
- Town Clerk – Term of one year – Amy Eldridge
- **Planning Board Members – Staggered Terms of three years –**
  - Richard Coleman – Term until 2024
  - W. Reeves Gilmore, Chair – Term until 2026
  - Al Grimshaw – Term until 2026
  - James Nealey, Vice Chair – Term until 2025
  - James Mike Parker - Term good until 2025
  - Open position (Alt) – Term for one year
  - Open position (Alt) – Term for one year
- **Zoning Board of Appeals Members (ZBA) – staggering Terms of three years -**
  - Bryan Field – Term until 06-30-2025
  - Dan McCarthy – Term until 06-30-2024
  - Pegi Miller – Term until 06-30-2025
  - Kenneth Kornfield – Term until 06-30-2025
  - Open position – Term for three years
  - Open position (Alt) – Term for one year