

Town of Northport

Select Board Meeting

October 12, 2023 @ 6:16 pm

Chair: Jeanine Tucker- Approved absence
Vice Chair: Breanna Pinkham Bebb
Municipal Officer: Molly Schauffler
Town Administrator: James Kossuth

Finance Director: Vicki Eugley
Town Clerk: Amy Eldridge
Road Commissioner: Amon Morse
NVC Representative: Jeffrey Wilt

Present: Breanna Pinkham Bebb, Molly Schauffler, James Kossuth, Vicki Eugley, Amy Eldridge, Amon Morse, Tom Martinelli, Kergan Thomann, Deidre Good, Mike Parker, Elizabeth Lane, Steven Bowden, Mark Dumas, Glenice Parkinson, Marcia Ryan, Lisa Liltz, Martha Dixon, Linda Burgess, John Burgess, Tom Dwyer, Reeves Gilmore, Dan Webster, Anne Perry, Jeff Perry, Mark Lynch, Tinsley Morrison, Jeffrey Wilt, Stephanie Allen, Susan Remsberg, Kim Drinkwater, Luanne Adams, Roger Allen, Charles Gerrick, Harvey Peterson, Paul Rooney.

Citizen Concerns:

The Outdoor Sportsman: Burgess explained his concern to the Board about the shooting range noise from The Outdoor Sportsman on Atlantic Highway. He is looking for general help from the Town to see about reducing the noise. He stated he is not looking to close down The Outdoor Sportsman because he shops there too, but with more people working from home, he would like to see more quiet times. Sunday is one day that some people in the area are looking to have more quiet time. Burgess offered some ideas on how to decrease the sound.

A resident reported The Outdoor Sportsman opened in 1992, before many of the surrounding homes were built. The resident pointed out that, without the Outdoor Sportsman, many people would be shooting in their backyards instead of at one location.

Martinelli stated he has spoken with Carl Kosmo, owner of The Outdoor Sportsman, and mentioned that Kosmo has looked at acoustical blankets for the gun range, but found that they were not feasible. Burgess asked if there was funding or any grants available that would help cover the cost of noise prevention.

Drinkwater stated he lives next door to The Outdoor Sportsman, and he reported that the sound measurement from his house during active shooting is 86 decibels. Meanwhile, he has measured the noise at his house from Route 1 traffic as 87 decibels.

Pinkham Bebb expressed empathy for those living close to the gun range and inquired about The Outdoor Sportsman's operating hours, which are from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. She explained that the Board doesn't have the authority to restrict the noise and, therefore, cannot take any action at this time. Pinkham Bebb asked attendees, by a show of hands, who was concerned about the noise, the result showed an equally divided group.

Lynch, retired army veteran, reported that the gun noise he hears from his house on Bluff Road is small caliber gun-shots, which can be annoying, but is not constant. Lynch suggested finding out the cost

involved to install noise reducers, and then as a compromise see if any impacted property owners could chip in to help with the cost.

Schauffler suggested forming a group to investigate noise prevention options that may help all involved come to a solution. Burgess again stated that his purpose is not to shut down The Outdoor Sportsman, but to provide the Board with the concerns of the residents in the area, and to seek possible solutions.

Fiber-optic Internet: A resident asked when Northport residents will have fiber-optic internet service. Kossuth reported that GWI has been waiting for over a year to get permission from CMP to attach fiber to CMP's poles. Kossuth encouraged residents to contact their legislators to ask them to pass a bill that would require CMP to act promptly on these pole attachment requests. Kossuth reported that GWI is hoping to begin connecting residents in Phase II sometime next spring.

Bluff Road Storm Damage: Jeffrey Perry, 306 Bluff Road, raised concerns about the damage to his driveway after that last storm. He mentioned that Morse did a nice job with the ditching but nothing was done with the culvert. During the most recent storm, the culvert overflowed and washed out his driveway. He is wondering if the Town is going to take any responsibility for his driveway, since the Town's culvert could not handle the water.

Morse reported that most of the rain came between 6 pm and 10 pm. He stated the problem was caused by sticks that had blocked the culvert. He had checked that culvert earlier in the evening, and it was clear, but when the rain started to come down more heavily, the sticks washed downhill and blocked the culvert. He said that he has done a lot of maintenance on that hill in the past year, and it remains an issue in heavy rains.

Pinkham Bebb asked Morse if there is any way to get a deal with FC Work & Sons Inc. whom is working on the roads, so that Perry's driveway could be repaired. Morse was not sure if FC Work & Sons Inc. would be able to do that. Lynch stated that his big concern is the culvert is in the right of way, has rotted out at the bottom, and should have been replaced. Morse suggested that the driveway entrance would need to be widened and the culvert lengthened, so that trucks turning around would not dent the culvert opening.

Schauffler expressed interest in addressing some of the longer-term concerns from more frequent heavy rainstorms, in addition to the immediate problem of this driveway.

Morse agreed to replace this driveway culvert the next day with one with a larger diameter, and Steven Bowden agreed to repair the driveway gravel at the same time.

Schauffler motioned to approve purchase of a new driveway culvert for 306 Bluff Road, seconded by Pinkham Bebb. Board Voted 2-0, motion passed.

Fire Department: Paul Rooney, Northport Fire Department Chief, stated that for the last few years the department has been upgrading the air packs used by firefighters entering buildings. He has replaced eight of the MSA air packs from 1997 with newer models. Rooney asked the Board for permission to sell the old MSA air packs.

Pinkham Bebb motioned to provide Rooney authority to sell the MSA air packs, seconded by Schauffler. Board voted 2-0, motion passed.

NVC: Wilt reported the Overseers met on Sunday, October 8, 2023, and the Utilities Board met on Friday October 6, 2023. The Utilities Department has extended the moratorium on new sewer applications in

the Village. He reported the Village is exceeding the limits of the treatment plant system and they are researching possibilities that may be causing the exceedances. Wilt believes a reason for the high biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) may be from paints and other household hazardous wastes being disposed into the system without their knowledge. Wilt also reported the Belfast Water District, which provides the NVC water is going to be increasing their rates by 30%.

Wilt reported NVC received two applications to access Merrithew Square- one from James Butters and the other was from Sandra Butters. James Butters's application was approved and Sandra Butters's was denied because the application was incomplete.

Wilt also reported again this year there will be Trick or Treating in Bayside, on October 31, 2023, starting in Merrithew Square at 5:30 pm until 7 p.m.

Road Commissioner: Morse reported on the progress of the work on Upper Bluff Road. Blasting is being completed, ditching was performed, and four culverts will be installed. He made sure that extra ditching and blasting was completed before paving started. He reported the 18 inch culverts will be replaced with 24 inch culverts and FC Works & Sons Inc. will be completing the work. The paving contract specifies an October 15, 2023 completion date, but FC Works & Sons, Inc. is slightly behind schedule, which might extend the completion date beyond October 15. Morse is not worried about the delay because the forecast is for favorable weather next week. Schaufler stated the ditching looked great on Upper Bluff Road.

Morse stated the clear cutting on Upper Bluff Road has caused the water during storms to wash debris down the hill, which clogs the culverts and diverts water over the roads. Bowden pointed out the need for erosion control for new sub-divisions, to ensure that the water does not wash down onto Town roads.

Morse provided an update on the recent storm, identifying problem areas. Schaufler thanked Morse for all of his work during the storm.

Morse also reported that Knights Pond Road is currently being paved to the bottom of the hill and not all the way to the pond. Wilt stated that the new culvert on Bayside Road was appreciated by many.

Town Administrator:

Community Resilience Partnership Grant update - Kossuth reported the Town officially received the Community Resilience Partnership grant. He is now working on an RFP for the Community Resilience Partnership grant shoreline stabilization project.

Recycling Committee update - Kossuth reported that the Recycling Committee is working diligently on investigating recycling options for the Town. He stated each meeting they determine areas of focus, and each member will do their research and report back to the members at the following meeting.

Rain barrels at cemeteries - Kossuth reported the cost for a rain barrel would be about a hundred dollars each. The Town could purchase 3 barrels and locate them at the East Side, Beech Hill and Beech Ridge cemeteries. The Board agreed with the purchase and authorized Kossuth to proceed.

The MMA Annual Conference recap – Kossuth reported while at the conference he was able to speak to several civil engineers about upcoming Town needs, including the shoreline stabilization project. He was also able to sit in on the Elections session to get updates, tips and reminders for the 2023 Referendum Election.

Town Clerk: Eldridge provided the September 25, 2023 minutes to the Board to review. The Board approved the minutes.

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

Pinkham Bebb motioned to transfer \$1,423.65 from the Digital Mapping Special Reserve to the general fund for digital mapping expenses, seconded by Schauffler. Board voted 2-0, motion passed.

Old Business: Schauffler discussed her conversation with John Poto from The Hoot about the “No Parking” signs at the restaurant. Schauffler stated the pole near the entrance to The Hoot may need reflective tape. Drivers in smaller cars don’t see the sign. If there was something to make the pole stand out, the drivers would know to beware.

New Business: Kossuth provided the Board with a letter from the Town Assessor’s agent Roger Peppard CMA from RJD Appraisals Inc. about a building that is considered an “ON” at Point Lookout. Kossuth reported on the situation and the \$4,206.71 in back taxes that are owed to the Town. The Board decided to table the discussion for the next meeting.

Adjourn:

Pinkham Bebb motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm, seconded by Schauffler. Board voted 2-0, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by,

Amy Eldridge