

Town of Northport

Select Board Meeting

October 23, 2023 @ 6:15 pm

Chair: Jeanine Tucker

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- absent

Present: Jeanine Tucker, Breanna Pinkham Bebb, Molly Schauffler, James Kossuth, Vicki Eugley, Amy Eldridge, Amon Morse, Sue Conard, Christine Anderson Morehouse (via Zoom), Dave Cameron, Tinsley Morrison, Celine Bewsher.

Citizen Concerns: None at this time.

Climate Resilience Committee: Kossuth provided the Board with an overview of the committee's scope, including addressing the priorities that came out of the resilience meeting in June. He introduced the Climate Committee members and each introduced themselves to the Board. Schauffler asked the Board how they would like the committee to proceed. Kossuth listed the priorities that were determined by the Community Resilience workshop in June 2023.

Pinkham Bebb suggested that Schauffler keep in mind any information that she obtains from the dual meetings she attends to include any current issues that may arise. The Town has been provided a \$50,000 Community Resilience partnership Grant to conduct an engineering study and develop a Shoreline Stabilization plan. Formation of the committee is part of the grant requirements. Schauffler provided the committee members with ideas they may want to take into considerations with coming up with the action items.

Pinkham Bebb mentioned if anyone on the committee knew of any members on the Belfast Climate Crisis committee. We may be able to take some pointers from them. Conard mentioned that she knows multiple people that was on the committee and would be able to speak to them.

Pinkham Bebb motioned to appoint Sue Conard, Christine Anderson Morehouse, Dave Cameron, Tinsley Morrison, Celine Bewsher, Gordon Fuller, Peter Spollett, and Janae Novonty to the Climate Resilience Committee, seconded by Tucker. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Schauffler stated that correspondence between Committee members about Committee business would be public records under the State's Freedom of Access Act. Schauffler will contact the Committee members to schedule a first meeting.

Northport Village Corporation (NVC): Village Overseer Bewsher reported that the Overseers held a special meeting to allow James Butters to move the cottage (9 North Ave) onto Merithew Square so that the foundation can be repaired. The dead line for completing the work is December 31, 2023. Bewsher also brought a flyer for the Trick-or-Treat event for the Town to post. The event starts in Merithew Square, runs 5:30 to 7:00, on October 31, and ends at the Yacht club.

Road Commissioner: Morse reported that the work on Bluff Road is looking good. FC Work & Sons have moved all of the blasting rocks that came from Bluff Road. He took some and put some in the ditch on Shore Road, and will be using the remaining stones in other places around Town. Kossuth reported that a resident on Bluff Road has noticed that drivers appear to be speeding past his house, now that the road is paved, and he asked for 25 mph speed limit signs to be put up. Kossuth reported that he informed the resident that the speed limit on that portion of Bluff Road is 45 mph, and that only the State Department of Transportation (DOT) can change a road's speed limit. Kossuth also reported that he invited the resident to the Select Board meeting to ask the Board to ask the DOT for a speed study.

Pinkham Bebb mentioned that property owners could put signs on their property to slow down traffic. Bebb suggested that the Town provide a speed study once the Town receives the speed sign from the DOT.

Morse reported that he noticed there is a lot more water coming out of the ground and into the ditch in the area that was blasted on Upper Bluff Road. He also replaced 2 culverts with larger diameter culverts. They have not done any shoulders yet and the ditching is almost done on Upper Bluff Road. They replaced the driveway culvert at 302 Bluff Road.

He also reported that Knights Pond Road has been paved and looks nice, and he went out and cleared as many culverts as he could before the rain started on Saturday.

Town Administrator:

Subdivision storm water management update - Kossuth reported that he and Morse spoke with Reeves Gilmore, chair of the Planning Board, after the questions arose about storm water management in new subdivisions. Kossuth explained that the Planning Board has the authority to impose storm water management requirements on applicants, including a storm water management system, designed by a registered professional engineer. The Planning Board can require multiple revisions until they are satisfied, and the Town's subdivision ordinance has the necessary provisions for enforcement.

Community Action Grant draft request for proposals – Kossuth updated the Board on the Request for conducting the shoreline stabilization study. He shared feedback from the Board on items to add to the RFP. Kossuth will incorporate the Board's comments and publish the RFP, with a submission deadline of November 22, 2023. The Board will open and review bids at the regular Board meeting on November 27, 2023.

Recycling Committee update – Kossuth reported on the committee's progress, noting that they have met three times. The committee has identified various issues, which they plan to address in due course. Kossuth also provided information on the cost of installing a power line for about 4,000 feet down to the transfer station, estimating it at \$100,000, or \$25 per foot. Schauffler suggested that Kossuth forward the information about landfill solar farms to the committee, since it may benefit their work.

GWI pole permit application – Kossuth reported GWI would like permission to install 10 poles in the Town's right of way on Rocky Road, starting at Route 1. The Board expressed concern about possible interference with a resident's water or electricity lines. The Board approved the request, with the condition that GWI address those concerns.

New Town Office/Community Center/Fire Station update – Kossuth met with Amanda Austin of 2a architects, and she had an updated design for the new town office project. Kossuth provided the plan to the Board for review and feedback.

Draft revaluation request for proposals – Kossuth provided the Board with draft RFPs for the revaluation to review. The Board reviewed the RFPs and provided feedback. Kossuth will incorporate the comments into a final draft RFP.

Scone Goddess Community Development Block Grant update – Kossuth reported Veronica Stubbs submitted the grant and mentioned they should have results in the next couple of weeks.

November Holiday hours - Kossuth asked the Board for permission to close the Town Office at noon on Wednesday, November 22, and reopen on Saturday, November 25, for regular hours. Eugley reported that because some banks are closed on Saturday, November 11, it would be helpful to move payroll to Thursday, November 9.

Tucker motioned to move payroll to November 9, 2023 and November 22, 2023, Schaffler seconded. Board voted 3-0. Motion passed.

Town Clerk: Eldridge provided the Board with a Supplement of Property Tax for Map R07 Lot 52A, Robert Elder Estate. The supplemental reflects 30% of the difference for being in Open Space less than 10 years. The request is the removal of 20,000 square feet from Open Space. The Board reviewed, approved and signed the supplemental. Eldridge provided to the Board a letter from Roger Peppard, CMA of RJD appraisal Inc. in reference to a request from Douglas Clayton about Map R08 Lot 50 -ON-1. The Board reviewed the letter and discussed abating the taxes due, but took no action at this time.

Eldridge provided the September 11, 2023 minutes to the Board to review. The Board approved the September 11, 2023 minutes with corrections.

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

Old Business: Kossuth provided more details on the Butters cottage and the plans for repairs before December 31, 2023. The Town will be requesting permission from the Village for access to Merithew Square to demolish the building in January if the work is not complete by the end of the year.

New Business: Waldo County Hazard Mitigation Plan – Waldo is the only county in Maine that does not have a hazard mitigation plan. Midcoast Council of Governments is hosting a meeting on Thursday, October 26, about working on one. Schaffler asked Kossuth if he would be able to go to the meeting on behalf of the Town, and Kossuth agreed.

Adjourn:

Tucker motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm, seconded by Pinkham Bebb. Board voted 3-0, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by,

Amy Eldridge