

Town of Northport

Select Board Meeting

September 11, 2023 @ 6:04 pm

Chair: Jeanine Tucker

Finance Director: Vicki Eugley

Vice Chair: Breanna Pinkham Bebb

Town Clerk: Amy Eldridge

Municipal Officer: Molly Schaufler- approved absence

Road Commissioner: Amon Morse

Town Administrator: James Kossuth

NVC Representative: Jeffrey Wilt-not present

Present: Jeanine Tucker, Breanna Pinkham Bebb, James Kossuth, Vicki Eugley, Amy Eldridge, Amon Morse, Karen Young, Paul Robie, Stephen Gesslin, Kole Martens, Sy Schotz

Citizen Concerns:

Sy Schotz, re fireworks at Knights Pond – Schotz reported that he had recently visited the beach at Knights Pond and had found the beach filled with smoke and fireworks. He is concerned about lead from fireworks getting into the pond and the noise and smoke from fireworks making it unpleasant for people to visit the pond. Pinkham Bebb agreed that the pond should be a safe space for all, but understands the challenge in monitoring the area.

Tucker suggested that Schotz speak with the other residents on Knights Pond Road and users of the pond about his concerns to see if there is support for an ordinance to regulate fireworks at the pond. Schotz thanked the Board for their time and suggestions, and the Board thanked Schotz for bringing his concerns to them.

Paul Robie and Karen Young, re paving of Upper Bluff Road - Robie explained that he had concerns about the Town paving Upper Bluff Road. He explained that it appears that the road has shifted over the years, and he presented a survey from a previous owner that shows that the traveled way “appears to encroach” on his lot. He also provided a copy of a letter to the Board from Sian Evans (the Previous owner), dated August 17, 2015, that discussed the possible encroachment (see Appendix A). Robie is also concerned about runoff onto his property if Upper Bluff Road is paved. He reported that he has spoken to the Maine Department of Transportation (DOT) and that the DOT recommended having a drainage survey conducted prior to the paving. Young also expressed concerns about runoff from Mount Percival if the road is paved.

Morse reported that he is confident that, with blasting to improve the ditching and remove some ledge, drainage should not be a problem. Morse expressed concerns about moving the road uphill and still being able to provide a ditch line for the drainage. Morse is confident that FC Work & Sons have the ability to handle this project.

Tucker stated she doesn’t want the Town to encroach on anyone’s property, and explained the reason for paving the road now, including the importance of year-round access from both sides of the Bluff Road. Robie stated he knows he doesn’t have the power to stop the project but wanted to make the Board aware.

Morse reported that the road work is supposed to be completed by October 15, 2023. Tucker asked Morse to discuss the drainage concerns on Upper Bluff Road with FC Work & Sons and get their feedback. The Town will keep Robie and Young posted on any information going forward.

NVC: Nothing to report at this time.

Road Commissioner: Morse reported he has heard from many residents who have received letters about the upcoming road work. He explained to the Board some of their concerns. Pinkham Bebb would like for the letters in the future to go out with more advance notice so that there will be more time to address any concerns. Morse also reported on his preparations for Hurricane Lee. Tucker asked Morse about the “no parking” signs for The Hoot. Morse reported the signs have been delivered, and he will install them soon.

Town Administrator:

2021 Halloween Storm FEMA update - Kossuth reported FEMA is submitting the Towns request for reimbursement for the 2021 Halloween storm for final approval and payment. Reimbursement covers 90% of the Town’s road repair expenses as well as Kossuth’s administrative time in working on the request.

New Town Office project update – Kossuth reported he met with Amanda Austin from 2Aarchitects about the building plans. She is ready to start drawing the design of a new Town Office/Fire Station/Community Center based on the feedback she received. She estimates that we will have final plans in time for approval at next year’s Town Meeting, and another six months or a year after that we will be ready to ask voters to appropriate funds for actual construction, which would be expected to take approximately two years.

Maine Service Fellows letter of intent – Kossuth reported he submitted an application for the Maine Service Fellows (MSF) program. The program would provide the Town with an intern, for up to 24 months, to work on projects for the Town. The Town would pay \$1,800.00, and the rest of the funding comes from the State and Federal Government through the MSF program. The fellow could assist the Climate Resilience Committee and Recycling Committee in their work. The current year’s budget does not include funding specifically for this position, but the Board believes that there is room in the budget for it.

Lincolnvile joint meeting agenda – Kossuth provided the Board with the draft agenda for the meeting on September 18, 2023. Tucker provided Kossuth with additional recommendations for the agenda.

Recycling Committee update – Kossuth reported the Recycling Committee will be meeting Thursday September 21, 2023, at 6:00 pm. He will provide the Board with updates when possible.

MMA Annual Meeting voting credentials - Kossuth reported to the Board on the voting credentials for the MMA convention. Kossuth provided the Board with the proposed by-law amendments and materials to sign.

Town Clerk: Eldridge provided the July 24, 2023 and August 14, 2023 minutes to the Board to review. The Board approved the July 24, 2023 and August 14, 2023 minutes with corrections.

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. Eugley also reported November 2 -3, 2023 is when the Town is scheduled for the annual audit.

Upcoming CD maturity – Eugley reported the Northeast Bank CD is maturing next week and would like approval from the Board to reinvest the proceeds. The Board approved investing the funds into another 3 month CD. Eugley also asked the Board if they would like to transfer \$250,000.00 to Fidelity Investments and purchase another 3 month CD or Treasury bill.

Tucker motioned to transfer \$250,000.00 to Fidelity Investments and purchase an additional 3 month CD or Treasury bill. Pinkham Bebb seconded the motion. Board voted 2-0, motion passed.

Kossuth reported he spoke with Fidelity a couple of weeks ago and had a good conversation about investment options. He has reached out to Vanguard as well, but he has not been able to speak with them.

Unfinished Business:

Butters Cottage (9 North Avenue) – Kossuth reported that step one in the Order and Decision of the Municipal Officers of the Town of Northport was completed on time and the house is wrapped in chicken wire. Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) Toupie Rooney contacted the owners and reminded both of them of the other upcoming deadlines.

Drinkwater Generator specs – Kossuth reported on the specifications for the School’s generator, and the results of his research into whether the generator could power a compactor at the Transfer Station.

New Business: Reschedule October 9 Board meeting – The Board agreed to reschedule the meeting for Thursday October 12, 2023, at 6: 15 pm.

Adjourn: ***Tucker motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 pm, seconded by Pinkham Bebb. Board voted 2-0, motion passed.***

Respectfully submitted by,

Amy Eldridge

Appendix A

August 17, 2015

Dear Town of Northport Selectmen and Selectwomen,

I am writing about a concern with the shifting of the road along the roughly north/south edge of my property in Northport, at 182 Upper Bluff Road, Map/Lot U11-05-A, Acct #: 001440 RE.

Each year, in the process of maintaining the dirt road, the road has been moving downhill onto my land. The road there climbs uphill north/south, and there is also lot of pitch from the west/east direction. This road climbs up along the flank of Mt. Percival, so on two counts, because of gravity, dirt and water are moving the road downhill. Each time the road is plowed/graded, the road is moved slightly to the east/downhill towards Shore Road. With exposed ledge on the uphill side, there is also run-off draining along the road to push it along.

Dan Small first brought this to my attention when a property pin was removed inadvertently by the town road crew during winter plowing. Dan Small placed that pin a second time, and in the process he noted that the road was encroaching on my property not just at the point of the pin, but all along the Upper Bluff Road edge. He pointed out that this was a not-insignificant amount. We made this observation several years ago - it's taken me a while to get around to writing to you.

If it's possible, I'd like this noted by the town and kept on record. I'm not sure what can be done about it but this has been accruing over a number of years and it's probably not going to stop.

Thanks for your time and consideration.



Sian Evans