

VILLAGE OF NORTHPORT
Infrastructure Committee
116 W. Nagonaba St.
Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at 1:30pm
Draft MINUTES

Note: upon request a Zoom recording is available for this meeting.

Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Cavendish called the meeting to order at 1:33pm.
Members present: Cavendish, Harper, Cook, Arbury.

Staff Present:

Department of Public Works Superintendent (DPW) - Chris Holton
Community Liaison - Cindy Edmondson

Public Present:

Multiple members of public attended in person and via Zoom

Additions/Revisions to the Agenda:

Agenda were accepted as presented.

Public Comment:

Cheryl Myers on 4th Street - asked that the Infrastructure Committee consider taking the Mill Pond Dam under its wings. She feels Parks & Trails has been discussing it, but has not been taking care the fiscal or maintenance aspects which are critical to the safety and wellbeing of the village.

Correspondence:

None

Welcome New Member:

Welcomed Chair Cavendish to the committee

Discuss Meeting Day/Time:

Members agreed to move Infrastructure meetings to the 4th Wednesday of the month at 12:30pm. This can hopefully allow for any infrastructure needs to be discussed at regular council meetings sooner than the previous Infrastructure meeting date.

Street Light Update:

Chris Holton reported that the lights are still a work in progress, and is currently technical issues, for getting into the digital system to control them. There are 20 lights and 4 different systems to control them, depending on which ones you're looking at. The window that Consumers gave Chris to get into the system was so short, that he missed the window and had to work to get a new password to get in. He has now been able to get into one system to control it, but then the next morning it was back to normal. He has contacted Susan Och (Leland Township Supervisor) and Dorothy Petroskey (Suttons Bay Township Treasurer). Dorothy has turned this issue over to their DPW Dave Miller. He is going to get with Dave at Suttons Bay and see what they can work out and hopefully find better success.

Rose Street Culvert Update:

Chris Holton reported that we have received a cost estimate from Prein & Newhoff, \$245,565 as initial

total project cost. Therefore it is slowly moving forward. Need council to agree to contract with Prein & Newhoff to go after grant funding, either internally or hire Prein & Newhoff to assist with securing grant funding.

Fourth Street Drainage Update:

Chris Holton reported that phase one of the project is slowly progressing. Soil borings are completed, and that there were not any surprises in those results, which included substantial and supportive soils with quite a bit of sawdust and slabwood. Clerk Scott updated that Eric from Prein & Newhoff has shared that they are getting close to having the design finalized and then that can be sent to the state for review.

M-201 - MDOT vs. Village Management Discussion Update:

Chris Holton summarized that MDOT has come to the village asking if we would be interested in taking over ownership and maintenance of the M201 corridor. MDOT is looking to do this all over the state, with a number of corridors. Chris feels there are pros and cons to the decision:

- DPW concern is that the road is in rough shape, and that they would like to see MDOT bring the road to a better condition, before the village consider any ownership changes. There is also the box culvert that is in decent shape, but would be a big cost if repairs or replacement were ever needed. Committee agreed to ask council to hire a firm to evaluate the box culvert and ascertain the condition and possible costs if/when repairs are needed.
- Liaison Edmondson shared that MDOT has explained that they would pay \$68,000 a year to the village for maintenance of the road, if the village took over ownership. Chair Cavendish will follow up on this and confirm how this number is calculated, where the funds come from, and if they will potentially change over time.
- Liaison Edmondson also shared that she was aware of some people in Northport and in other communities that are concerned that the change would create additional safety concerns.
- Chris Holton shared that a conversation with the Leelanau County Road Commission would also be needed to verify what their role and obligations would be.
- Chair Cavendish shared that the planning commission has also been discussing this topic, in regards to the new Form Based Code zoning discussions that are underway in the zoning revisions. Those discussions were leaning towards switching to village ownership, to have full control over the design and flow of the corridor, as well as the ability to shut it down as and when needed, without requiring MDOT permit approval.
- Chair Cavendish asked if the conversion was a permanent decision, or if it could be reversed. The consensus of members felt that it probably could be reversed, but that this should probably be confirmed with MDOT directly. Chair Cavendish will follow up on this aspect.

Chair Cavendish is going to work to compile a summary of the discussion, including known pros and cons, and supporting documents, for infrastructure to review at a future meeting, and possibly then present to council for discussion.

7th Street Access, Haserot Beach, and South Beach Erosion Management Update:

Chris Holton explained that the 7th Street Access needs sand fill to help transition from the eroded earth from the previously very high water (above the high water mark), and the beach sand. He has confirmed with EGLE that anything above the high water mark, we don't need a permit, if all we're doing is adding sand for the transition. DPW has not yet completed this work because Chris was waiting to hear back from the Army Core of Engineers, but has not yet heard from them. He sent them photos and a sketch of the work to be completed, which should require a maximum of 15 yards of sand. Harper shared that if the army core hasn't responded in over eight months, then he felt DPW could proceed, particularly since none of the work being completed will be in the water, and therefore they don't really have jurisdiction. Chris Holton is going to reach back out to the Army Core of Engineers after the holidays, to try to get a definitive answer from them, prior to proceeding with any work.

Haserot Beach has a major issue. Chris has discussed this informally with an engineer and have discussed the possibility of installing a perimeter French drain around the beach. Without re-grading the entire park to remedy the soil drainage issues currently there, this approach seemed logical. Work could be completed within DPW, so cost estimates are anywhere from \$3,000-5,000. Chris would like to complete this work soon, so that it is during the winter season. Chris will work on getting permits filed with EGLE and Soil & Erosion for this work. getting more accurate/current numbers on drain tile and gravel costs.

South Beach NYSS sidewalks have had sections removed due to erosion and shifting sand, there is another section that needs removed for safety. This beach also has a significant drop from the grassy earth, to the sand. As with the 7th Street access, DPW would like to bring in sand, just to smooth that drop-off. Chris will follow up on a permit with Soil and Erosion and EGLE for this work as well. He will work to have information for the January Infrastructure meeting, so that a decision can be made and council can discuss for approval at the February 2023 meeting.

DPW Report - DPW Superintendent Chris Holton:

The diver contracted to work on the bubblers for the marina was scheduled to complete work today, but did not show up. Chris will be following up to find out what happened and get him rescheduled.

DPW is still waiting on their new plow truck, we are currently 3rd in the list. Build date is scheduled for January 2023. He doesn't expect to see it until sometime in 2023, but looks forward to it.

They have been working on some water issues and repairs. On North Shore there's a new home/studio being built and they wanted to get the water service line hooked in and they have bored a line in, but the road will still require cutting/digging to get it connected. The village ordinance states that there's no digging from December 1st to April 15th due to the weather conditions, temperatures, and water. Those dates are to protect the village roads and therefore we need to stick to our policy, and will not be able to get this connection done until after April 15th.

There is not an update on the North Shore Road sewer repair. We are still waiting for word back from any contractors for estimating the first phase of inspection.

Chair Cavendish relayed a message from Trustee Gale that one of the electric car chargers in the public parking lot on Waukazoo Street is flashing and seemingly not working properly. Harper volunteered to contact Joe DeFors and follow up on what may need done to address this.

The GIS system that they use out in the field is lagging behind with all the new builds. He would like to see about contacting Prein & Newhoff to update that GIS mapping, so that we have an updated and accurate map. Chris was going to work on getting a cost estimate for completing that work, council needs to discuss and approve that work.

Planning Commission (PC) Report - PC Chair Arbury:

Arbury ran through her report highlighting the tree committee, zoning revision progress, 7th street property discussion progress, master plan revisions, and Capital Improvement Plan.

Public Comment:

Anne Harper on 4th Street. She wonders if the village should track the hours being spent by DPW employees dealing with Consumers streetlight issues. She thinks that it seems this may become a burden with how much time is being spent monitoring four systems, and she thinks Consumers should

know and understand how much time their decisions and problems are costing the village. She also still doesn't feel the dimmers are the necessarily the answer to the lighting problem. Additionally she feels there is too much light at the end of Nagonaba Street and that we don't need that much light there.

Committee Member Comment:

Harper congratulated Cavendish on a well-run first meeting.

Arbury shared that the light at Tom's that was to be removed, has finally been removed, pole coming out soon.

Adjournment

2:43pm Motion to Adjourn - moved by Harper, seconded by Cook, motioned carried

Next Regular Meeting - Wednesday, January 25th, 2023 at 12:30pm

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Cavendish, Chair

** we are working to get Infrastructure meeting packets online, in the meantime please contact the village office or Chair Cavendish for any documents or reports for this meeting.*