Trustee's Report to the Village Planning Commission
March 2024

The Village Council held a public hearing on the 7th Street property options on March 7. Joanne Swanson read a prepared statement enumerating her many concerns regarding environmental damage should any development be permitted. Mr. Dyer read a letter from Kristi Fischer in support of an attainable housing project on a portion of the property while protecting the wooded wetlands. Several other members of the public spoke, most in support of no development whatsoever. At the close of the hearing, trustees discussed the options and directed Mr. Dyer to further investigate options 1 and 2 and prepare a recommendation for Council consideration no later than June.

The regular meeting of the Village Council was held on March 14. 2024.

Clerk Scott and Treasurer Simons provided cash flow reconciliation statements and bill sheets for January and February.

DPW Superintendent Holton provided a written report. Highlights include:

- Received authorization from the US Army Corp of Engineers and the Leelanau Conservation District to begin the Haserot Park drainage project.
- Discussions with representatives of Leelanau Township personnel to collaborate on upgrading the parking area and road up to the Braman Hill Overlook.
- Identified the need to repair and replace the sidewalk along the Shoppers docks at Haserot Park.
- Repair of a 2" water meter at Northport Public Schools soccer field.
- Upcoming projects include moving the Marina mural panels to the Art building for restoration and repairs, per Kat Dakota, the original artist.
- The new dump truck was delivered and performance is fantastic!

The Harbormaster provided a written report that included the following items:

- Waiting List invoices have gone out and are already streaming back in.
- The Lighthouse Boat Tours that, due to mechanical issues, didn't operate last summer will be running for the first time this summer.

- June 11th marks the 175th anniversary of the founding of Northport.There is a movement afoot based at the Museum to do a little celebration that would include a“Blessing of the Fleet” at the Marina.

Manager Dyer provided updates on several items.

- He has held several meetings with representatives from New Community Visions, Housing North, Peninsula Community Land Trust and the township regarding attainable housing.
- Meetings continue concerning potential kayak floating dock. Requesting authority from Village Council to issue a Waterfront Master Plan Request for Proposal to explore the possibility of placement of the kayak dock, increased use of the waterfront parks, parking, handicap access to facilities including restrooms, and possible Marina expansion.
- Multiple meetings with local business owners who have expressed strong interest in revisiting the concept of creating a Social District in the Village.

Finance Committee is working on a new, more streamlined process for establishing and adopting the budget and a capital improvement plan annually. Responsibility for policy review and revision has been handed off to staff.

Infrastructure report will be given by Chair Cavendish.

Minutes from the February Planning Commission meeting were included in the packet. Trustee Gale encouraged the Trustees to retain the minutes and study the zoning amendment recommendations that are detailed there.

NLTUA approved contracts with the Village to provide services, rather than contracting with individuals. EGLE asked NLTUA to provide information regarding the wastewater treatment facility’s capacity to accept 39,000 additional gallons of affluent per day, should the Timber Shores project move ahead.

The following actions were taken by the Trustees:

- Approved a resolution to begin the process of establishing a Social District. Changes must be made to the boundaries to exclude establishments that sell food, but do not have a liquor license. The Management and Maintenance Agreement also needs some modification.
- Approved a resolution to explore a joint Township/Village Planning and Housing Commission to pursue workforce housing.

- Approved a resolution adopting the Leelanau County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Approved a resolution to authorize the Village Manager to issue a waterfront master plan RFP