From: Susan Manson
To: manager@villageofnorthport.net
Subject: 7th street property
Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 12:11:26 PM

Dear Mr. Dyer,

My husband, Al and I have followed this 7th Street situation since it first came to the public's attention. We live at 10446 North Shore, at the corner of 7th and North Shore. I have sent emails to the PC and VC about our concerns. These are a few points that I want to bring to your attention.

I talked with Matt Heiman, the Director of Natural Land Protection for the Leelanau Conservancy last January. Here are the key points from our conversation:
The Parcel is too small for the Conservancy to become involved with.
The Conservancy works mainly with private landowners.
Matt said that it is important for the village to "protect the wetlands and the creek corridor."
I brought up the contamination of the area facing 7th where the DPW used to be. Matt said that "a buyer would have to clean it up or demand that the village do it before purchase as it may leach to the Bay."

Because the VC is well aware of this contamination, it puzzles me why they have not had it remediated because it is the environmentally right thing to do. During a heavy rain and/or snow melt, water flows from that location to the road end and our driveway and at times into our garage. I assume it continues on to the Bay as well.

Parking boat trailers in the 7th Street area and dumping large piles of sand and dirt is not in keeping with a neigborhood setting and is unsightly. Do we have a blight ordinance?

We are a designated Tree City and the VC and PC are proud of this fact. YET, at the same time there are proposals to cut down some of this environmentally critical forest. How can these 2 ideas exist together? It is not logical.

Plan #3 should be removed from the possibilities because if the village sells the area with the wetlands, we have no guarantee that they will be protected. Why would we want to sell this environmentally fragile area?

Let's remediate the contamination, reforest the section facing 7th and be proud that we are doing our part to save this area and protect the wetlands and the water that flows into the Bay.

The Leelanau Ticker had a timely article on Jan 12 that discussed Suttons Bay and their situation with wetland protection in their village.

A quote about Hatlem Creek that caught my attention and is applicable to our situation is, "Wetlands are one of the world's most productive habitats. Though they are ecological workhorses, wetlands are disappearing at an alarming rate. About 35% of the world's wetlands were lost from the 1970's to 2015. The loss has been accelerating with each passing year since 2000 due to development and climate change."

Hopefully, Northport will choose the decision to protect the environment.

Thanks for reading our ideas.

Sincerely,
Sue Manson