Outlook

RE: Northport - 1.2-acre Seventh Street Parcel

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Dear Mr. Ottenwess and Village Council Members:

It appears from your agenda for tonight's Village Council meeting that you intend to decide whether the 1.2-acre parcel of property on Seventh Street will be "developed" or allowed to return to its natural state. As an initial matter, I fully concur with the letter submitted to you by Vickie Slot. Respectfully, the resolution is poorly worded, vague, and confusing.

In addition, the resolution seems ill-timed and premature. That you are taking this action in January while many residents are out of town is concerning. Beyond that:

- as Vickie points out, I see no evidence that this Council has seriously considered the options, pros, and cons for returning this property to its natural state although that is one of the alternatives the resolution sets out. Why has no serious attention been given to allowing this parcel to be preserved with the adjoining 4.7 acres that you have (thankfully) designated as a park, consistent with the original intent of the conveyance deed?

- At the November 2025 meeting, you voted to pay for a schematic design for a housing development because you thought it would aid with PR and decision-making. Yet, you are now ready to make a decision before the renderings have been provided.

- At the October 2025 meeting, Mr. Dean questioned the Council's authority to develop the property given the restriction imposed by the original deed of conveyance. The Council seemed to rely upon the State's reconveyance of the property approximately 70 years later without the restriction. I know you have a legal opinion regarding the deed transfer but does that opinion address the statute (MCL 67.4), the chain of title, and the nature of the property?

Sincerely,

Joanne Geha Swanson