813 Shore Road   **Phone (207) 338-0751**
Northport, Maine 04849

Notes of Governance Committee Meeting

The Governance Committee met on Thursday, September 14, 2023 at 4:00 p.m**.** The meeting was held by Zoom. In attendance were committee members Judy Metcalf (chair), Beverly Crofoot, Elaine Moss, and Dan Webster.

The Committee discussed:

1.   Continue review and development of communication recommendations to address encroachments on Village property.

The committee members affirmed the priority for removal of encroachments will be those encroachments which impede and interfere with safe travel on the public roads, protection of the village's plow equipment, and encroachments which interfere with parking on public lands. Even though those are the priorities, the committee also confirmed that the Policy for Preservation of Public Land requires that the public land not be co-opted for private use or exclusion.

Elaine will draft a proposed communication for review at the next meeting and then to present to Overseers for approval.

Judy will follow up with the NVC President to develop the list of known encroachments as identified by the Village Agent.

2.   The Committee discussed the goals expressed in 2022 by the community to learn more about design review options for buildings, including what that might look like and whether it has a role to play in preserving the historic character of the Village. A plan will be developed to solicit community input.

3.   New Business:

a.   The Committee discussed the need to regularly review each policy and ordinance in place to confirm their clarity and appropriateness and whether they comply with existing law. The goal would be to review each on a three-year cycle.

b.   There was discussion regarding what resources or tools are available to the Village to secure the safe removal of debris and detritus left by catastrophes like the fire on Bayside Road. Coordination with the town's Code Enforcement Officer may be an option.

Next Meeting: October 5, 2023, 4:00 p.m. via Zoom only.