



NORTH HAVEN NEWS

March, 2023
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Letter from Mayor Chris Fiore

Hello North Haven neighbors –

Been a busy couple of months for the North Haven Board – big news from February is the removal of the structures on the Lovelady property – (my letter to you in January explained why this needed to be done). The property has been cleared and the vista is nothing short of magnificent, IMHO. Here's a shot of the parkside on Sunset Beach Road. We will seed the area soon, and look to add native shrubbery to the south side of the pond – there is a log bench next to the pond as well as a lovely granite sitting bench dedicated to former Mayor Macnamara. There are additional cut log benches to be placed this spring. Jackson Dodds is creating a stone path now on the north side of the pond, which will be connected to the existing path by a flat bridge near the Ferry Road side. It is heartwarming to see so many people – even in the cold weather – enjoying the path with kids, pets, friends – or just a solitary stroll.

One development is the resignation of three members of the LLPark 501 board. Jim Vos, who had been appointed President of the board when his wife, Stephanie, stepped aside just a few weeks ago, told our Trustees at last month's meeting he wished to resign, along with his wife and one other member. I am told the presidency was offered to another board member, Rob Remkus, and I would hope Rob is confirmed soon. He will lead that charity board with strong and creative leadership. As a 501, the board is independent, and does not report to the Trustees or myself. It is charged with ideas and suggestions for the park (only the Village Board of Trustees can approve those), then fundraising to support those approved suggestions. Thus far, there has only been the north path suggested, and that was really the result of Tr. Skilbred's advisory

committee's suggestion. Hopefully new leadership will generate more ideas the community supports.

The tree protection code that Tr. Peter Boody has introduced has gotten a good bit of updating. Please read my Constant Contact letter to you all explaining it in non-legalese terms. It will be in your inbox Saturday morning. We feel it is fair, straightforward and empathetic to your desire to keep our Heritage trees a vibrant part of this community. We can vote at the meeting on March 15.

Deputy Mayor Abraham has been leading the Accessory Living Committee along with Tr. Dianne Skilbred, and the concept is moving along nicely. More to come.

He has also spearheaded the 4 poster program than was extremely successful in reducing the tick population. We almost abandoned the program due to DEC regulations a few years ago, but thanks to his relentless approach, we will be back in action by spring and should see very impressive results within the next year.

I have been working with the Village of Sag Harbor on a few issues and will be able to announce a new partnership at next week's BOT meeting. Please either attend in person or by zoom – Lots happening!

I asked for volunteers to work on cell service – especially any developments to access 911 – there are 3 volunteers, who will be led by Tr. Abraham. Their first meeting is upcoming. Hopefully they will uncover some solutions we can investigate without putting a huge tower in your backyard. My thanks to the volunteers for the donation of their time and talent.

That's plenty for now – hope you are all as ready for Spring as I am! Hopefully see you at the Board meetings.

Stay well—

Chris Fiore
Mayor

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This month's newsletter edition will recap the highlights from the February Village of North Haven Board of Trustee meeting, the February Board of Trustees Work Session was cancelled. We will also preview agenda items of interest for the March Village Board Meeting.

Recordings of the Village meetings can be found on the Village website or by clicking [HERE](#).

Going forward, if you have any questions or if there are any other topics you would like to read about, please contact Terie Diat (Village Trustee) at tdiat@northhavenvillage.org.

Upcoming Board of Trustees Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 15th at 5 p.m. at

Village Hall and via Zoom. All residents are welcome and encouraged to attend. The agenda for this meeting will be posted on the Village website (northhavenny.us) under Minutes and Agendas the Friday before the meeting date. The Zoom meeting link can be found on the home page of the Village website under the calendar entry for the Board of Trustee meeting.

Public Hearings Scheduled for March 15th at 5 p.m.

1. Proposed amendments to CHAPTER 163 ZONING- ARTICLE I SECTION 163-5 – GENERAL PROVISIONS – DEFINITIONS AND WORD USAGE AND ARTICLE II SECTION 163-20 USE AND REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS – **CLEARING LIMITATIONS.**

The proposed amendments to the Village CLEARING CODE can be viewed [HERE](#). The most significant changes proposed can be summarized as follows:

- A permit will be required to remove noxious or invasive species on undeveloped properties.
- Prior to clearing naturally occurring vegetation on undeveloped properties, approval must be obtained from the Building Inspector or the Planning Board.
- A Permit must be obtained to Remove Mature Trees
 - (1) Except for species identified as invasive by the NYS Department of Transportation, no native tree with a caliper of 19 inches or greater at a height of 4.5 feet above ground level or American holly or cedar with a caliper above 10 inches at a height of 4.5 feet above ground level may be removed without a tree removal permit issued by the Building Inspector. Tree work conducted by or for a state – regulated public utility shall be exempt.
 - (2) A permit to remove a mature tree shall be granted only if in the reasonable opinion of the building inspector or an arborist certified by the International Society of Arboriculture if:
 - (a) it is diseased, dead or dying; or
 - (b) it poses a danger to people or property or it may cause or contribute to damage to a primary or accessory structure; or
 - (c) it is within or near the building envelope of construction plans on file with the Building Department.
- Any person guilty of violating this section of the code shall be fined \$2,500 for each tree removed; also, any building permit in effect for the property will be suspended for 90 days; in addition, each tree must be replaced with one from the North Haven Village list of recommended species with a minimum caliper of 8 inches at 4.5 feet above ground level.

2. A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 163 – ARTICLE I GENERAL PROVISIONS §163-5 DEFINITIONS AND WORD USAGE AND ENACTING ARTICLE XIII – **WETLAND/COASTAL SETBACKS AND**

EXCEPTIONS

View the proposed code [HERE](#).

- It is the intent to introduce minimum setbacks for building activities, structures, and accessory structures within wetlands or coastal setbacks in order to protect and preserve environmental areas.

3. LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 151 – ARTICLE VI **EXEMPTION FOR FIRE AND AMBULANCE MEMBERS** §151-35 Section 1.

View the proposed amendment [HERE](#).

- Legislative Intent - It is the intent to reduce the enrollment period required to receive this exemption to two years to correspond with the new State ruling.

4. **LITTERING** - A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 103– Section §103-1 – Deposit of wastes on Public or Private Village-owned property within the Village of North Haven and Section §103-2 Penalties for offenses Section 1.

View the proposed amendment [HERE](#).

Legislative Intent - It is the intent to amend this code to include both private and public properties within the Village and to increase the associated fine from \$250.00 to \$500.00.

Village Updates:

Bike Drive for Charity

Mayor Fiore, thrilled with the splendid results of the coat drive, has engaged the Brookhaven Bike Co-op to benefit from a used BIKE DRIVE starting in a week. The Brookhaven Bike Co-op is an organization run by a friend of North Haven from Riverhead. It is an all-volunteer 501c(3) that repairs and refurbishes used bikes and donates them to those who are in need of one. Please scour your garage, basement, shed and barn and see what you have that might be worthy of a gift, once restored/repaired.

We will be accepting donations from March 15 to April 15. Please drop them off at: Village Hall 335 Ferry Road Monday to Friday, 9am-3pm.

North Haven Village Election

The General Village Election for North Haven will be held on June 20, 2023 at Village Hall between the hours of 12:00 noon and 9:00 p.m. To be elected are the following:

- Trustee 2 year term
- Trustee 2 year term

Application packets are now available in Village Hall for those interested in running for the two trustee positions. Please see Eileen Tuohy.

Updates from the February 15th Board of Trustee's Meeting:

Public Hearings:

1. Clearing Limitations

- A public hearing was held on the proposed amendments to CHAPTER 163 ZONING- ARTICLE I SECTION 163-5 – GENERAL PROVISIONS – DEFINITIONS AND WORD USAGE AND ARTICLE II SECTION 163-20 USE AND REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS – **CLEARING LIMITATIONS**.
- Mayor Fiore opened the second public hearing on the proposed amendments to the clearing code which had been continued from the January Board of Trustees meeting and thanked Trustee Boody for his work on drafting and amending the changes to the proposed code based on the feedback from residents in the January public hearing.
- 6 North Haven residents made comments during the public hearing.
- One resident asked for clarification on the definition of “caliper” vs circumference vs inches when measuring a tree.
- A second resident indicated they were generally in favor of the changes but suggested consideration to include language that the Building Inspector should exercise “reasonable” judgement.
- Another resident expressed concern that the proposed changes could hurt property values and residents selling their properties would have to disclose that trees could not be cut down over certain calipers.
- Four homeowners spoke against the changes. One said they felt the changes were “over-reaching” and suggested a “credit” towards allowable cleared land to incentivize homeowners to keep large trees. Another speaker noted that large trees were causing damage to their home. The request was made by three speakers for a Village board to come to, in order to request to take down a large (healthy) tree(s) and potentially replace it with other trees in alternative locations or make changes to improve the property.
- The Mayor noted that based on the feedback, perhaps the Board needed to discuss and consider a process to allow residents to go to a Village Board to request to remove healthy trees over the designated calipers. Trustee Diat endorsed that process as she requested that be written into the code in January. The Board voted to carry over the public hearing into March for further revisions to the proposed amendments.

2. Wetland/Coastal Setbacks

- A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 163 – ARTICLE I GENERAL PROVISIONS §163-5 DEFINITIONS AND WORD USAGE AND ENACTING ARTICLE XIII – **WETLAND/COASTAL SETBACKS** AND EXCEPTIONS

- Trustee Diat introduced the proposed code as the intent to introduce minimum setbacks for building activities, structures, and accessory structures within wetlands or coastal setbacks in order to protect and preserve environmental areas.
- Summarized as follows:
 - Wetland Setbacks – no building, structure or accessory structure shall be erected, constructed, placed, enlarged, installed on or within a wetland, or within 75 feet of the upland boundary of a wetland.
 - Coastal Setbacks – No building, structure or accessory structure shall be erected, constructed, placed, enlarged, installed, on a beach, dune or bluff or seaward of the bluff line or dune crest. Properties situated in high bluff areas as defined in 163-98 no building structure or accessory structures shall be erected, constructed, placed, enlarged, installed within 100 feet of the bluff line, dune crest or the landward most edge of the beach. All other properties no building structure or accessory structures shall be erected, constructed, placed, enlarged, installed within 75 feet of the bluff line, dune crest or the landward most edge of the beach.
- Several residents spoke at the public hearing with questions about prior precedents and the process for variances with the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- As with other changes to the zoning code, the proposed changes to the code were held over for a second public hearing in March in order to solicit additional input from residents.

3. Boat Storage Areas

- A LOCAL LAW AMENDING VILLAGE CODE CHAPTER 50- ARTICLE V. **BOAT STORAGE AREAS**
- View the final amended code [HERE](#).
- Mayor Fiore introduced the proposed change to prohibit the storage of boats with engines on Village beaches.
- No public comments were made.
- The Board voted unanimously to adopt the amendments later in the meeting.

4. Sr. Citizen Property Tax Exemption

- A LOCAL LAW AMENDING VILLAGE CODE CHAPTER 151 – ARTICLE II **SENIOR CITIZEN TAX EXEMPTION** SECTION §151-20 INCOME LIMITS AND EXEMPTION PERCENTANGAGES
- View the final amended code [HERE](#).
- The amendment proposes changes to annual income limits for senior

citizens owning qualifying real property in the Village of North Haven, to obtain tax exemptions.

- No public comments were made.
- The Board voted unanimously to adopt the amendments later in the meeting.

Traffic Enforcement Update

Mayor Fiore noted that there were nine traffic stops recorded on the January report from the Southampton Town Police Department for the Village. Thanks to the meetings that Mayor Fiore has held, North Haven is getting more attention from the Police Department and more traffic enforcement is taking place on the roads.

North Haven Parks & Trails Association Update

Jim Vos, President of the North Haven Parks and Trails Association (501c3) provided an update of the Lovelady Powell Park activity.

- The Association has hired a bookkeeper.
- The Association has approximately \$131,000 in the bank.
- Three of the five members of the Association Board, Jim Vos (President), Stephanie Joyce and Stella Sands are seeking to resign from the Board.
- A request was made to the Board of Trustees to approve a path on the north side of Sebastian Pond and a bridge over the pond at a cost of \$50,000.
- Jim Vos and Stella Sands said that the reason the three members are seeking to resign is they wanted to fulfill the mission to prepare a comprehensive design for the park before proceeding with individual elements.
- Discussion ensued between Jim Vos, Mayor Fiore and the Board of Trustees as procedures that were approved by the BOT in November, 2022 require the NH Parks & Trails Association to present a final design plan for Lovelady Park to the BOT for approval before requesting approval for individual elements of the park. The procedures also require a written cost estimate and approvals to be via resolution. Neither of which were prepared with the request for the north path or the bridge.
- Mayor Fiore, and Trustee Skilbred explained that they advocated to proceed with the north path and the bridge as Jackson Dodds has time now to provide pro-bono work for the north path.
- Clerk Eileen Tuohy prepared a hand written resolution. Mayor Fiore, Deputy Mayor Abraham, Trustee Boody and Trustee Skilbred voted in favor of the resolution for the north path. Trustee Diat voted nay and strongly objected to violating the Village's procedures that were just passed in November. The bridge was not voted on as the cost exceeds

the threshold that requires bidding.

Water Quality Update

Trustee Diat provided an update from the Water Quality Committee. With the assistance of Vinnie Gaudiello, the Village Engineer, 5-7 locations have been identified to improve road water runoff by upgrading Village and County/State road sites adjacent to wetlands, creeks and bays. Trustee Diat and Mr. Gaudiello are working to submit an application to the Town of Southampton for grants from the Community Preservation Fund to help to fund the construction costs for the upgrades. The Board of Trustees will perform a SEQRA review at the next BOT meeting on March 15th for the CPF application.

Trustee Diat also reported that she held a meeting with the Peconic Estuary Partnership who have confirmed that they have offered to conduct a presentation to the North Haven community on Innovative Alternative (I/A) Septic systems and the impact on water quality importance. A date in late May/early June is being identified.

Resolutions Approved by the Board of Trustees:

- Local Law No.1 of 2023 amending Village Code Chapter 50 – Boat Storage Areas.
- Local Law No.2 of 2023 amending Village Code Chapter 151-Article 11 Senior Citizen Tax Exemption Section 151-20 Income limits and exemptions percentages.
- Approval of the Audit Report for the 2021-2022 fiscal year ended May 31, 2022 as prepared by Satty, Levine and Ciacco, CPA's P.C. The Clerk/Treasurer is authorized and directed to file same with the New York State Office of the state Comptroller. Click [HERE](#) to view the report.
- Approval for the weekly rental of a 36" wide color scanner for one week at a cost not to exceed \$800.00 from Hartford Technology Rental for large building plans, maps, schematics and other large documents that are too large for our content equipment to scan.
- Appointment of the following individuals to the Cell Service Committee: Deputy Mayor Claas Abraham, Trustee Peter Boody, John Hovekamp, Jeff Lew, Rajat Das.
- Approve a public hearing on March 15, 2023, 5:00 p.m., amending the Village Code Chapter 151 – Taxation Article VI Exemption for Fire and Ambulance Members section 151-35 Eligibility Criteria.
- Approve a public hearing on March 15, 2023, 5:00 p.m., amending the Village Code Chapter 103 – Littering Sections 103-2 and 103-2.

Other Discussions:

• Agreed to schedule a special BOT work session March on March 14th at 12 noon to review the SEQRA process and review the Budget. The regularly scheduled March BOT work session will also take place on March 28th at 10 a.m.

North Haven Code Trivia – Did You Know....

As per Village code, Chapter 61-1 that dogs are not allowed to run at large in the Village of North Haven or to be at any time on any street, park or public place in the Village of North Haven, unless fully controlled by means of a rope, leash or other similar device. Please also pick up after your pets! You can read the code section [**HERE**](#).

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North Haven Village Board of Trustees:

Mayor – Chris Fiore

Deputy Mayor – Claas Abraham

Trustee – Peter Boody

Trustee – Terie Diat

Trustee – Dianne Skilbred

