

MINUTES OF 2004 NORTHFIELD, NH ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The 2004 annual Town Meeting of Northfield, NH was called to order by Moderator Scott McGuffin at 10:00 a.m. at the Northfield Town Hall. The ballot box was inspected the warrant was read and ballot clerks were sworn in. Voting was terminated at 7:00 p.m. with 518 ballots cast. The results of the voting were:

Article #1 To choose all necessary Town officers and School District Officers for the ensuing year

- For Selectman
 - Drina Harbour..... 91
 - James Knowlton.....220
 - Linda Pardy..... 186
- For Moderator
 - Scott McGuffin..... 446
- For Treasurer
 - Roland Seymour.....436
- For Trustee of Trust Funds
 - Write-in's selectmen will appoint
- For Supervisor of Checklist
 - Elaine M. Lamanuzzi..... 438
- For Library Trustee
 - Scott E. Herman..... 418

Article #2 To see if the Town will vote to adopt proposed amendments to the Town of Northfield Zoning Ordinance on a separate ballot prepared for same. (The complete text of the amendments is available at the Town Clerk's Office and is printed in the Annual Report.)

Amendment# 1.....	Yes	320	No	160
Amendment# 2.....	Yes	309	No	178
Amendment# 3.....	Yes	315	No	169
Amendment# 4.....	Yes	194	No	288
Amendment# 5.....	Yes	211	No	269

Amendment# 6.....	Yes	189	No	265
Amendment# 7.....	Yes	241	No	226
Amendment# 8.....	Yes	245	No	200
Amendment# 9.....	Yes	297	No	168
Amendment#10.....	Yes	194	No	227
Amendment#11.....	Yes	223	No	161
Amendment#12.....	Yes	266	No	125

The annual Town Meeting was called to order again by Moderator Scott McGuffin at 10:12 a.m. on Saturday March 13, 2004 at the Pines Community Center to act upon the following articles.

Article #3 To see if the Town of Northfield will establish a non-petroleum powered watercraft policy on Sandogardy Pond. This article was submitted by petition. Mark St Cyr spoke in favor of the petition as he was the one to initiate the petition. PaulWilson spoke against the restriction. Leroy French stated that it has been brought before the State and the request was denied Steve Randall pointed out that due to the acreage of water

it is governed by the State not by the Town. Motion by Leroy French to table the article seconded by Paul Wilson. **Article #3 Tabled.**

Article #4 To see if the Town will vote to modify elderly exemption amounts (RSA72:39-b) in accordance with RSA 72:27-a, effective April 1, 2004 as follows:

Age 64 to 74 Increase from \$25,000 to \$50,000
Age 75 to 79 Increase from \$30,000 to \$60,000
Age 80+ Increase from \$45,000 to \$90,000

Income Limitations to remain at \$18,500 for Single, \$26,500 for married. Asset Limitation to remain at \$35,000, excluding the value of the resident and up to two (2) acres. (Majority vote required for adoption).

Motion made by Joyce Fulweiler seconded by Glen Brown. Mike Murphy asked what effect this would have on the tax rate? Lana Dearborn explained that this should not have an effect, this was recommended by the assessor due to the market analysis the Town is currently doing. Florence Dawson asked when the Town would have town wide re-assessment. Joyce

Fulweiler explained that a full revalue would cost \$200,000 and that by completing a market analysis yearly the Town is in compliance with the State. **Article #4 passed.**

Article #5 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$65,000 for an assessment update for the 2004 tax year; and to withdraw the sum of \$60,000 from the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund (created in 1986) to offset this cost. The balance of \$5,000 to be raised through taxation. (Majority vote required for adoption). This article is recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

Motion by Scott Hilliard seconded by Arlow Stanley. No discussion, question was called and seconded. **Article #5 passed.**

Article #6 To see if the Town will vote to increase from 20% to 50% the placement of the revenues of future payments collected under the Land Use Change Tax in the Northfield Conservation Fund. (Majority vote required for adoption). This article is recommended by the Selectmen and recommended by the Budget Committee. Motion by Steve Randall seconded by Eliza Conde. Kevin Fife, a member of the Conservation Committee explained with the rising cost of property by increasing the revenues it would save the Town money in the long run. Chris Hunt pointed out that the Zoning amendments just passed pointed out that the residents want to preserve land and keep the Town as a rural area. No further discussion. **Article #6 passed.**

Article #7 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a two (2) year lease/purchase agreement for the purpose of a lease/purchase of a replacement cruiser for the Police Department and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,000 as the first year's payment. This lease/purchase agreement contains a non-appropriation clause. (Majority vote required for adoption). This article is recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

Motion made by Arlow Stanley seconded by Scott Hilliard. Scott Hilliard explained that this was an annual item of replacement. George Flanders asked why they were not purchased in 1 year. Scott explained that it was a way to save the Town money. No further discussion. **Article #7 passed.**

Article #8 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$17,000 for the purpose of purchasing a Vibratory Roll for the Highway Department. (Majority vote required for adoption). This article is recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee. Motion made by Lana Dearborn seconded by Scott Hilliard. Albert Cross, Road Agent explained the uses of the roll. Hal Beyor asked if this was new item. Albert explained that this was a rental purchase and the Highway Dept. has had this since last June. Paul Wilson questioned if this would be used on just dirt roads or paved roads also. Albert stated yes on both. **Article #8 passed.**

Article #9 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 for the purpose of making improvements to Knowles Pond Road. (Majority vote required for adoption). This article is recommended by the Selectmen and not recommended by the Budget Committee. Motion made by Joyce Fulweiler and seconded by Glen Brown. Joyce Fulweiler explained that this is an item in the Capital Improvements Program. Dave Liberatore asked the Budget Committee why they did not recommend. Steve Randall explained that they felt the budget was too high and they needed to cut certain items. Alice Thompson questioned why if the Town put money into Knowles Pond Rd last year why is the Town spending money on the same road this year and not a different one. Albert explained that this was a different section of the road. **Article #9 passed. Count: Yes – 76 No – 72 Mike Murphy made a motion to protect his vote, seconded by Walter Hall. Motion passed.**

Article #10 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 for the purpose hiring an engineer to design improvements to Elm Street (Majority vote required for adoption). This article is recommended by the Budget Committee. Motion made by Albert Cross seconded by Lana Dearborn. Albert explained that there was a request from Elm Street residents to make improvements. Scott spoke of the safety issues they have had on this section of road. Hal Beyor asked if this appropriation was for engineering only. Joyce Fulweiler explained that it was. Leroy French questioned if this was going out to bid. Albert explained that it was. No further discussion. **Article #10 passed.**

Article #11 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 for the purpose of making improvements to a portion of the former Surette Battery Site to construct park/trail head for the Winnepesaukee River Multi Purpose Trail. This expense to be offset by a \$15,000 U.S. Park Service Grant. (Majority vote required for adoption). This article is recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee. This is a non-lapsing warrant article. Motion made by Dave Liberatore seconded by William Nickerson. Question moved. **Article #11 passed.**

Article #12 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 for the purpose of making additional improvements to the Sandogardy Pond Town Beach Project. (Majority vote required for adoption). This article is recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee. This is a non-lapsing warrant article. Motion made by Glen Brown seconded by Arlow Stanley. Dick Maher asked if there were any grant monies available for this project. Lana Dearborn explained that the Town has received a \$65,000.00 grant. Mark St. Cyr questioned the cost of the boat ramps and could they be eliminated. Lana Dearborn explained that it would change the character of grant which would eliminate it. Joyce Fulweiler explained that the items that gave us the most points for the grant where the boat ramp and launch. Lisa Swancott asked when the project would be started. Joyce said hopefully this spring. **Article #12 passed.**

Article #13 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for the purpose of purchasing a 12 +/- acre conservation easement with frontage on Knowles Pond. This expense to be offset by \$65,000 in donations/grants with the balance to be raised by taxation. (Majority vote required). Motion made by Joyce Fulweiler seconded by Glen Brown. Kathy Thibeault explained that a similar article was before the Town last year and the residents stated that they wanted to see the Conservation Committee raise monies in donations and grants. Leroy French questioned why the sum of \$100,000 was listed and not \$35,000. Steve Randall, Budget Committee member explained that the Town was under the gross appropriation act and the Town has to show all monies. **Article #13 passed.**

Article #14 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,080,740 which represents the Budget Committee's recommended budget on the posted MS-7 and pass any vote in relation thereto. The posted budget includes the appropriations in Warrant Articles #'s 5,7,8,10,11,12,13. (Majority vote required for adoption). Motion by William Nickerson seconded by Arlow Stanley. Steve Randall submitted an amendment for the amended budget to be \$3,155,740, which includes the \$75,000 for road construction. Joyce Fulweiler seconded the amendment. Amendment passed. Brian Watson asked how much this would increase taxes. Steve Randall responded that it would give a .12 cent decrease. **Article #14 passed with the sum of \$3,155,740**

Article #15 To see if the Town will vote to rescind the bond authorization in the amount of \$200,000 voted at the August 31, 1999 Town Meeting for the purpose of purchasing the Knowles Pond Conservation Area; and to apply up to \$180,000 in unreserved/undesignated fund balance to remove the capital project fund liability shown on the Town's Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending 2003 (Majority vote required for adoption). Explanatory Note: This action is a "housekeeping" item for recording an accounting transaction which is outside of the budget process. It is recommended by the Town's auditors in accordance with application of generally accepted accounting principles to the financial reporting for Capital Project Funds. Specifically, bonds or notes authorized to finance a Capital Project are not recognized in the financial statements until they are actually issued. Therefore, authorized but unissued bonds or notes are accounted for in the Town's Financial Statements as a Capital Project Fund deficit. The Selectmen are requesting that the authorization to borrow be rescinded because they do not need to borrow funds. There is sufficient unreserved and undesignated fund balance available for the fiscal year ending 2003 to cover this capital project purchase. In summary, this warrant article removes the unissued bond authorization amount from the Town's financial Statements by applying unreserved/undesignated fund balance. This is an accounting transaction and does not impact the budget or the amount to be raised by taxation. Motion by Bill Dawson seconded by Scott Hilliard. Hal Beyor questioned where the \$180,000 was coming from. Joyce explained that this was just a paper transfer, and if this was voted down the Town would have to go to the bank and borrow money. No further discussion. **Article #15 passed.**

Article #16 To see if the Town will vote to discontinue and relinquish all interest therein, a Class VI road known as "Terrace Road" located off of Cross Mill Road. (Majority vote required for adoption). Motion by Albert Cross seconded by William Nickerson. Joseph Demello asked if there were residents on this road. Albert stated no. William Dawson, Planning Board member explained that this is a paper road. No further discussion. Motion moved. **Article #16 passed.**

Article #17 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to discount by two percent (2%) any amount in property taxes due when said taxes are paid within 30 days of the date of billing. (Majority vote required for adoption). Motion by Albert Cross seconded by Scott Hilliard. Question called. **Article #17 passed.**

Article #18 To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting. Steve Randall pointed out that the Pines Community Center's budget was included in the Town Report for the first time. Lisa Swanscott questioned why the balance sheet for the Pines Community Center was not included in the Town Report. Dave Tryon, Member of the Board of Directors stated that they have copies at the entrance for any one that would like one. Richard Maher wanted William Nickerson recognized for his 6 years of Service as Selectmen. Joyce Fulweiler presented gifts to William Nickerson from Town employees. William Nickerson introduced James Knowlton as the new Selectmen. Albert Cross stated that Amnesty Week would be April 26, through May 1, 2004.

Meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy A. Huckins, Town Clerk