

**MINUTES OF THE TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-SECOND
NORTHFIELD TOWN MEETING
2012**

Polls were opened at the Pines Community Center, Dearborn Road, on the 13th day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand and twelve at 10:00 a.m. by Moderator Scott McGuffin. The polls were closed at 7:05 p.m. with 450 votes cast.

ARTICLE 1 To choose all necessary Town Officers, Tilton-Northfield Fire District Officers and Winnisquam Regional School District Officers for the ensuing year.

450 votes were cast. Election results for Town offices:

For Selectman:	Lisa Swancott	177
	Margaret Shepard	264
For Moderator:	Scott McGuffin	392
For Supervisor of the Checklist:	Terry Anne Steady	381
For Treasurer:	Roland C. Seymour	379

ARTICLE 2 To see if the town will vote to remove Article 7 Table 3 (Parking Standards Applicable to all Districts) from the Northfield Zoning Ordinance and change Article 7.5 to read "Parking shall conform to the Site Plan Regulations adopted by the Planning Board. **ARTICLE PASSED**
Yes: 248 No: 117

The 2012 Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. on the 17th day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand and twelve at the Pines Community Center, Dearborn Road, Northfield by Moderator Scott McGuffin to act upon the following subjects:

ARTICLE 3 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire from the State of New Hampshire title to a portion of Bean Hill Road from its intersection with Rt. 132 continuing in an easterly and southerly direction 1.2 miles following completion of improvements by the State and the Town and that such improved portion of road shall be accepted and maintained by the Town as a Class V town road.

The Article was moved by Glen Brown, seconded by Steve Randall. Road Agent Robert Southworth asked Town Administrator Glenn Smith to provide background on this project. Mr. Smith explained this is a SAR (State Aid Reconstruction) project. The first 1.2 miles is owned by the State of NH; they provide two-thirds of the cost to reconstruct the road if we accept the road as a Town road after completion of reconstruction.

The State wants a guarantee we will accept before the project is begun. Catherine Ferreira asked how much money is already set aside for this project. Mr. Smith answered \$387,000. After the bid openings we will need about \$80,000 more. The state will provide \$945,000 for reconstruction.

Catherine asked if the citizens or the State are responsible for drainage. The Moderator ruled the question out of order as that is not what this Article is about. Donald Stevens asked who is going to monitor the construction work on the project. Lisa Martin, a resident and employee of Quantum Construction stated that they follow DOT guidelines for the bid process and construction. They will be on site every day.

ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE 4 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand dollars (\$75,000) to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of replacing Highway and Sanitation Department equipment as needed. *This Article is recommended by the Selectboard and the Budget Committee.* (Majority vote required)

The Article was moved by Leif Martinson, seconded by Glen Brown.

Bob Southworth explained this Article is brought forth to add \$75,000 to the Fund each year to prepare for purchase of the next major piece of equipment when needed.

Catherine Ferreira asked why we are always buying more equipment when property owners are constantly more responsible for more of the work.

Bob explained the equipment is for maintenance of the roads.

Kevin Waldron asked what is the current balance of the fund and what is the next big ticket item.

Glenn Smith, Town Administrator, responded the current balance is \$42,351 in the fund, if this is approved the balance would be \$117,351, and then if Article 5 passes the balance would be reduced to \$85,351. The next expected purchase would be to replace the oldest six-wheeler.

Gail Meinhold asked how the expense is spread out. Steve Bluhm responded that \$75,000 is the amount the Capital Improvement Program Committee suggested to ease the ebb and flow of the budget. This is to save for larger expenditures when needed. The plan has been in effect for several years.

PASSED

ARTICLE

ARTICLE 5 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Thirty-Two Thousand dollars (\$32,000) to replace a 1997 Ford F250 4x4 with plow with funding to come from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. *Article is recommended by the Selectboard and the Budget Committee.* (Majority vote required)

Article moved by Steve Randall, seconded by Glen Brown.

Bob Southworth explained the Ford F250 has 94,000 miles on it and needs a lot of work. It was purchased in 2005 for \$5000 and will barely pass inspection.

Josephine Nichols asked why we are raising another \$32,000 when we just put \$75,000 into the Fund. Glenn Smith responded that our Auditor at the Department of Revenue provided the wording. This is part of the \$75,000, not new money.

Deb Shepard asked if we are trading in the old truck. Bob stated the trade-in has already been deducted. The price of the 2012 truck is \$28,000, with the add-ons \$34,000. The trade-in value is approximately \$2,000, leaving a net price of \$32,000.

Ted Woodard asked about possibly fixing the old truck.

Bob explained the truck needs a new bed and other items. The old plow will not fit the new truck and is quite worn out.

ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE 6 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred and Sixty One Thousand Two Hundred dollars (\$161,200) to the Road Reconstruction Fund for the purpose of funding major road reconstruction projects as needed. *This Article is recommended by the Selectboard and the Budget Committee.* (Majority vote required)

Article was moved by Steve Bluhm, seconded by Steve Randall.

Bob Southworth explained the Road Reconstruction Fund is to set aside money for future reconstruction projects. Donald Stevens asked if we would be able to vote on these projects.

Greg Hill asked for an explanation of the amount of \$161,200.

Steve Bluhm explained we currently have a balance of \$67,102; after paying for Article 7 we will be left with a balance of \$3,302.

Hal Beyor asked why we have both Article 6 and Article 7.

Steve Bluhm explained that last year the Capital Improvement Program Committee put together these funds so we can bring large expenditures to the taxpayers in pieces, avoiding tax rate spikes.

Leif Martinson explained that a couple years ago the Budget Committee decided to start saving to fully reconstruct roads rather than shimming and patching constantly.

Hal Beyor asked if Keasor Road which has been closed wouldn't be higher on priority list.

Bob Southworth said we are doing a road assessment in May to determine the priorities.

Catherine Ferreira said that in 2006 an ordinance was passed making taxpayers responsible for their own maintenance so what is this money for.

Steve Bluhm explained this Article is to put money aside to cover the big projects. It is up to the CIP Committee to bring the projects forward.

ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE 7 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Two Hundred and Twenty Five Thousand dollars (\$225,000) to fund the reconstruction of Fiske Road with funding to come from the Road Reconstruction Fund. This shall be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until December 31, 2013. *This Article is recommended by the Selectboard and the Budget Committee.* (Majority vote required)

Article moved by Glen Brown, seconded by Steve Randall.

Bob Southworth said this funding is to reconstruct Fiske Road, which needs complete reconstruction as it is sinking.

David Court said Fiske Road has been reconstructed twice since he has lived there thirty years. He would like a clearer description of what “total reconstruction” means. It has already been chewed up and replaced. It is a heavily used road and a lot of work is needed.

Lisa Martin explained there is a big difference between reconstruction and shimming/patching. If you don’t fix the drainage and subgrade you will have to re-do again in a couple of years.

Jared Hebert said there were two quotes for the project. He explained what the quotes entailed for construction.

Leif Martinson said Article 7 restricts us to only pave Fiske Road this year. He is against this Article until the road assessment is completed.

Deb Shepard dated she agreed with Leif, an assessment should be done first.

Kevin Waldron said he is also opposed. Many other roads also need repair.

Catherine Ferreira asked if this included drainage, she again stated there is an ordinance saying residents are responsible for their own drainage.

Steve Bluhm said there is a difference between total reconstruction of the road with drainage versus doing maintenance or repairs in part.

Steve Randall asked if we do not pass Article 7 can we still repair other roads. Can money in the budget be used for other projects. Steve Bluhm responded this is a one-project only fund.

Jared Hebert answered there is still money in the budget to do some other projects already scheduled including Bean Hill and to topcoat Oak Hill Road.

David Court asked for clarification of the term “total reconstruction”. Fiske Road changes constantly and is definitely in need of fixing. Asked if there has been a traffic study.

Bob Southworth replied there has been no recent traffic study for Fiske Road.

Albert Carlisle asked for clarification of Article 6 vs. Article 7.

Steve Bluhm explained this article is specifically to reconstruct Fiske Road only. We would be left with \$3302 in the fund after completion. The budget also includes a general fund for town road repairs for general maintenance, overlays, etc. and includes money from State road block grants.

Jared Hebert said on page 21 of the Annual Report has a list of other projects and how much each will cost. Article 7 is set up for major road reconstruction.

Hal Beyor asked if Article 7 fails will Fiske Road be done under Article 6.

Steve Bluhm responded no. **ARTICLE FAILED**

ARTICLE 8 To see if the Town will vote under the provisions of RSA 35:3 to discontinue the Salt Shed Fund established in 2000 for the purpose of constructing a new Salt Shed upon the conclusion of the engineering and construction of a new Salt Shed, with the remaining funds and accumulated interest to be transferred to the General Fund as per RSA 25:16. (Majority vote required)

Article moved by Steve Bluhm, seconded by Keith Murray.

Steve Bluhm explained this is a “housekeeping” article. In 2000 it was voted to start the Salt Shed Fund. The object of this Article is to close the account after we build the new salt shed this year.

Don Stevens said we voted years ago to buy land by the Transfer Station. Why would we spend the money to build a salt shed when we are talking about moving all down by the Transfer Station.

Steve Bluhm responded the Salt Shed is portable and can be moved when the time comes.

Peg Shepard asked how much money is in the fund, and what the cost of the shed is.

Steve Bluhm responded \$92,650 in the fund, and a cost of \$59,000. The extra money would go back to the General Fund.

Sid Barton asked if there is money for cleanup after we construct and tear down.

Bob Southworth stated the price includes the cost of cleanup.

Deb Shepard asked if this is being cleaned up to State standards and is this additional cost.

Bob Southworth replied he has researched with DES and the price includes any abutter cleanup.

Don Stevens asked if there were any restrictions to build in the old stump dump.

Bob Southworth said DES has no concerns with this area. Glenn Smith said they are monitoring wells, etc. as required.

Greg Hill asked if we put this through, can we put this money towards the truck.

Glenn Smith answered the closing of this fund has already been deducted from the budget as presented.

ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE 9 To see if the Town will vote to adopt a Pay-As-You-Throw trash collection system effective July 1, 2012 under the provisions established in RSA149-M17 II 9(a) and to adopt an Ordinance Relating to Collection of Residential Waste enacting such a system.

Article moved by Steve Bluhm, seconded by Peg Shepard.

Glenn Smith gave a video presentation to explain the options to be discussed. It reviewed our current waste disposal process and proposals that the committee looked at as ways to lower costs and increase participation in recycling. Reviewed the pros and cons of Pay-As-You-Throw.

Motion to Table was made by Mike Murphy, seconded by Joe Demello. **MOTION FAILED**

Further discussion Article 9:

Kevin Waldron said he sees this as an opportunity to spend less. He is in favor.

Laurie Hill noted the price presented to purchase bags is less than other towns. How can we guarantee the price won't go much higher.

Glenn Smith explained the profit on the bags goes to the Town to offset taxes currently spent for waste disposal, the taxes would go down.

Deb Shepard said she was on the Recycling committee when they first looked into PAYT.

The voters can require that any increase in bag prices go before Town Meeting for approval. At a future time we can also start a Capital Reserve Fund for the revenues to go into, possibly allowing us to buy our own truck for pickups. She is in favor of PAYT, but not curbside pickup at this time.

Valerie Kehr asked if there was any analysis on what a family currently recycling would save.

Glenn Smith pointed to page 25 of the Town Report where there is an example using an average value home. You can use that to compare to your family's situation to estimate cost or savings.

Jon Fisher thought we need to consider illegal dumping on back roads as a negative side effect.

Glenn Smith said everyone is concerned about this but it has been rarely found.

Ken Gorrell spoke in opposition to PAYT. He is concerned with the numbers and the effect on young families.

Kent Finemore said there is an immense issue of landfilling and dealing with waste. We must work at ways to reduce the waste stream. He is in favor of PAYT as a step to managing waste.

Jon Cilley said they have started recycling and have cut their curbside waste but their cost would go up under PAYT.

Mark Seavey stated they recycle but he questioned the revenue numbers in the town report, he asked if there is any accountability for the scrap, etc. that is sold by the Town.

Glenn Smith responded that on page 84 is the information from NRRRA(Northeast Resource Recovery Association) which reflects the market prices throughout the year.

Mark asked if the big scrap metal bin was part of this.

Bob Southworth said the big container is taken away by CM Whitcher and they give us a slip.

We do not have a scale to be able to verify what is taken.

Scott Haskins said he is concerned with the cost to his family under this system.

Elaine Bouchard said they recycle and she is looking for ways to save money for her family, she thinks recycling is easy and good for our future.

Leif Martinson said it is not just the recycling. If you recycle and compost as well you can have almost no waste to dispose of.

Steve Randall asked if they had considered some type of stickers system versus bags.

Glenn Smith said this would be difficult to implement and enforce if we enact curbside pickup.

Catherine Ferreira asked if we did curbside, would we have two separate trucks coming around.

Glenn Smith responded if we enact curbside pickup we would go through a competitive process to choose a vendor. Pick up of recyclables would be a different day, probably every two weeks as worked out with the chosen vendor.

Mike Colby Jr. said if we want to increase recycling it must be made easier for people. His schedule doesn't allow him opportunity to get to the transfer station. In favor of curbside pickup.

Peg Shepard explained we started looking into PAYT several years ago. We are currently in a twenty year Consortium with the Co-op in Concord, we are in the fourteenth year. By 2018 the cost of solid waste could go up drastically. There is a reserve fund being drawn on by

the Consortium to keep the cost down. The easiest way to go about this is Pay-As-You-Throw. We can all put a little more effort into this and see our town tax rate go down or stay level.

We could take a portion of the profit from the bags and set aside for purchase of the bags next year.

Lee French said he is against the proposal. He wants to keep recycling voluntary and try to find ways to increase the participation level.

Bob Ivon is against Pay-As-You-Throw. Thinks we should wait another year to review curbside.

Richard Bellerose asked for information on other towns that have implemented single stream recycling. Glenn Smith provided the names of several towns.

Josephine Nichols supports the recycling effort. It is the responsible thing to conserve materials and she does not want the recycling center to be closed.

Janice Caron stated she wants curbside pickup of recyclables but not PAYT.

Polly Fife said PAYT does work and will save money. She is not looking forward to purchasing bags but feels just like she pays her own utilities we each need to be responsible for our own waste.

Mike Murphy stated he is not in favor of this Article for PAYT, but is in favor of Article 10.

Joe Demello said we have a great team at the transfer station & thinks we'll lose money on curbside when you consider the expense of the additional trucks.

Dina Waldron stated she is not in favor of either article. She feels the bags are too flimsy, the staff at the Transfer Station does an excellent job, and she is concerned about having to buy special expensive containers in the future.

Valerie Kehr asked for clarification if we lose the revenue from single stream processing.

Glenn Smith answered yes. Valerie asked if we also have added cost for single stream.

Glenn replied yes, there is a fee for transport of the recyclables, we save the expense of the transfer station.

Dennis Allen added that Bestway charges for the single stream, the fee is market driven.

David Court said he is in favor of Pay-As-You-Throw. We are currently subsidizing people who do not participate in recycling. If we have curbside pick-up it will mean additional heavy trucks on our roads. He supports PAYT but not curbside pick-up.

Motion to terminate discussion made by Greg Hill, seconded by Valerie Kehr.

Motion made by Harold Harbor, seconded by Joe Demello that the vote be by show of hands.

RESULT OF VOTE ON ARTICLE 9: Yes 70 No 102 **ARTICLE FAILED**

MOTION made by Valerie Kehr to protect the vote. **MOTION PASSED**

ARTICLE 10 To see if the Town will vote to adopt curbside collection of residential recyclables effective July 1, 2012.

Article moved by Kevin Waldron, seconded by Harry Anderson.

RESULT VOTE ON ARTICLE 10: Yes 61 No 102 **ARTICLE FAILED**

ARTICLE 11 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to replace a police cruiser in the Police Department and to raise and appropriate Twenty-six thousand eight hundred and thirty dollars (\$26,830) for this purpose. *This Article is recommended by the Selectboard and the Budget Committee.* (Majority vote required)

Article moved by Steve Bluhm, seconded by Peg Shepard.

Chief Adams explained this Article is to replace a 2008 cruiser with 109,900 miles on it. The Trade-in allowance of \$2,000 will be used to outfit the new car, a 6 cylinder AWD Ford Taurus.

We usually keep a front line car for one year then it goes to a detective.

Miles Clark asked since this is an all wheel drive vehicle, will we retire a four wheel drive.

Chief Adams answered that if this vehicle works out we should be getting rid of an SUV next time.

ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE 12 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Nine Thousand dollars (\$9,000) for the purpose of purchasing the 2010 Harley Davidson FLHTP Motorcycle currently leased from Manchester Harley Davidson and used by the Northfield Police Department. *This Article is recommended by the Selectboard and the Budget Committee.* (Majority vote required)

Article moved by Glen Brown, seconded by Steve Randall.

Chief Adams explained we have leased this machine for the last two years with the lease paid for by private citizens. The lease is now up to \$225 per month. It has only 4200 miles on it. The sticker price is \$15,500, and a new one would be \$22,500. We have the option to buy it for \$9000. If we keep it four years we can still get back what we are paying. The bike gets 42 miles per gallon.

Meredith Hirtle asked how many of our officers are certified to drive the Harley.

Chief Adams said currently one is certified through Harley Davidson and soon there will be three. We want everyone to go through the HD certification.

Kevin Waldron said this is a good value. We can own this for the cost to lease it for three years.

We can't be sure the local businesses can continue to pay the cost of this. As more officers are certified there will be additional use. There is also a public relations value to this unit.

Dave Court asked the cost of training and where the machine is stored. Chief Adams said the fee is usually \$2500 per officer. We have an opportunity with a Harley Davidson trainer at no charge. The machine is currently kept in one of the officer's basements, where it is heated and protected. The machine is often used for radar surveillance. The officer would park and use a hand held radar gun. We recently added moving radar through a federal grant. **ARTICLE PASSED**

ARTICLE 13 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand dollars (\$15,000) for the purpose of an engineering study for repair of retaining walls and other stabilization work for the Island. Said sum represents 50% of the proposed project and shall be contingent upon Tilton raising and appropriating their 50% share of the proposed \$30,000 project. *This Article is not recommended by the Selectboard or the Budget Committee.* (Majority vote required)

Article was moved by Glen Brown, seconded by Kevin Waldron

Glenn Smith provided background information. The Article was placed on the Warrant at the request of the Tilton Selectboard. The engineering study is necessary to determine the cost of repairing mostly the walls around the island to keep it from eroding further during high water events. Actual repairs are expected to be at least in the \$250,000-\$300,000 range, the study would further determine that.

Kevin Waldron said since the Article was not recommended by the Selectboard or Budget Committee, he questioned why it is on the Warrant. Did not feel the value of the island warrants the expenditure.

MOTION TO TABLE made by Kevin Waldron, seconded by Steve Randall.

MOTION TO TABLE PASSED.

ARTICLE 14 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Five Hundred dollars (\$1,500) to partially fund a monument to the veterans of Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, Kuwait, Afghanistan and Iraq to be located at the corner of Elm Street and Cannon Bridge, as proposed by American Legion Post 49. *This Article is recommended by the Selectboard and the Budget Committee.* (Majority vote required)

Article moved by Greg Hill, seconded by Steve Randall.

Harold Harbour said he has collected \$700 in donations. Cullen Concrete has donated the concrete footing and Perry Memorials is doing the monument.

Steve Randall asked who will be responsible for upkeep and maintaining the monument.

Tom Robert said it will be maintained by American Legion Post 49.

Mike Murphy said he is not in favor of the Town contributing beyond donating the space for it.

Gail Meinhold asked where the rest of the money is coming from.

Tom Robert said he has also asked the Town of Tilton to contribute.

Lisa Martin said she is in favor of the Article, it is the Town's responsibility to respect the veterans.

Kevin Waldron asked if there is a guarantee the monument will go up and what happens to our money if it does not. Tom Robert assured him it will be completed.

Don Stevens said those opposed to this should read what is on the front cover of this year's Town Report which was dedicated to our veterans.

Nancy Brown said as a wife, mother and grandmother of service people she recommends this.

Catherine Ferriera stated those who wear the uniform allow us to be here today. She is in favor of the Article.

ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE 15 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the budget committee recommended sum of \$4,466,417.13 for general municipal operations. This article does not include special or individual articles listed above. (Majority vote required)

Article moved by Keith Murray seconded by Peg Shepard.

Steve Bluhm proposed AMENDMENT #1, seconded by Steve Randall, to read:

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,506,418.13 for general municipal operations. This article does not include special or individual articles listed above.”

Steve Bluhm asked Bob Southworth to address the change. Bob explained we used a lot more gravel than expected this year due to a bad mud season. We needed assistance from Cullen Excavation & Kip Cormier to keep up and stabilize the roads. Though we had a light winter, money saved on salt and sand will not cover it.

Steve Randall requested we also reduce the bottom line of the budget by \$10,000 to be taken from the budget line of Welfare Vendor Payments to help pay for this added expense.

The Moderator stated we must act on Amendment #1 first, and he can submit another amendment for that purpose if so desired.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT #1: Yes 45 No 83 **AMENDMENT FAILED**

Return to discussion of Article 15.

AMENDMENT #2 proposed by Steve Randall, seconded by Rich Bellerose, to read:

“To reduce the budget by \$10,000 (10K). By reduction of the line for Welfare Vendor Payments from \$50,000 (50K) to \$40,000 (40K).”

Kevin Waldron asked how this affected the bottom line of the budget.

Steve Randall said the new amount would be \$4,456,418.13.

Steve Randall stated his intent is to reduce the Welfare Vendor Payments line item in the budget.

These are payments for rent, utilities, etc. for those needing town assistance. The request in the budget is \$50,000, but only \$33,000 was spent last year on this line item. He feels there is not a necessity for this amount.

Ken Finemore pointed out his understanding is that you can only affect the bottom line, not where the money is spent.

Glenn Smith said his understanding is that which line should be changed would be considered advisory to the Board.

Steve Bluhm pointed out that even if the line were cut we still would have to pay additional funds out if there is a need. If we approve the budget as it stands the funds will stay in the general fund if not spent.

Steve Randall pointed out that if left as is, you cause us to have to raise & appropriate additional funds that may not be needed.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT #2 TO ARTICLE 15: **AMENDMENT FAILED.**

Return to discussion of Article 15 as written.

ARTICLE PASSED.

ARTICLE 16 To see if the Town will vote to ratify and confirm an intergovernmental agreement between the Town of Northfield, the Winnisquam Regional School District, the Town of Tilton, Tilton-Northfield Water District and the Tilton-Northfield Fire District pertaining to the usage, maintenance, repair management and eventual removal and disposal of an underground fuel tank containing both a diesel tank and an unleaded gasoline tank, said agreement having been approved by the Attorney General’s office pursuant to RSA 53-A:3,V.

Article moved by Leif Martinson, seconded by Glen Brown.

Glenn Smith explained the history of the tank which was put in in 1999 on land owned by the Tilton Northfield Fire District. Since 1999 many of the agreements about the operation of the tank have been verbal. Passage of this Article would create an oversight committee with one representative from each jurisdiction and which would meet at least quarterly. This would also help spread the liability. Currently NHDES shows Northfield as 100% owner. The new agreement identifies and formalizes the percentage of ownership for each jurisdiction,

liability, and how the fuel is distributed.. **ARTICLE PASSED**

ARTICLE 17 To see if the Town shall vote to adopt the Right to a Sustainable Energy Future and Community Self-Government Ordinance. *Submitted by Petition*

Article was moved by Mary Lee, seconded by Don Dudley.

MOTION TO TABLE made by Mike Murphy, seconded by Ken Gorrell.

VOTE ON MOTION TO TABLE: Yes 91 No 36 MOTION TO TABLE PASSED.

MOTION TO PROTECT THE VOTE made by Peg Labrecque, seconded by Sharon Greene.

MOTION TO PROTECT THE VOTE PASSED.

ARTICLE 18 To see if the Town will vote that all meetings of the Northfield Board of Selectmen, of whatever kind or nature, shall be electronically voice recorded and said recordings shall be made available to review by members of the public upon request. Provided that recordings shall be made in conformance with the NH Right to Know Law. *Submitted by Petition*

Article moved by Glen Brown, seconded by Peg Shepard.

Kevin Waldron said it was not within the peoples' authority to dictate policy to the Board of Selectmen. He thinks anyone should be able to read the minutes that are available.

Geoffrey Ziminsky said he would make a commitment to record.

Deb Shepard said that could change in the future. She would like a voice vote today so it is guaranteed going forward, our rights to hear what is said so it is not subject to interpretation.

Gail Meinhold asked what constitutes a meeting.

Steve Bluhm said we are looking to see if we can put the recordings on the Town website.

Deb Shepard said the Town has existing equipment. She clarified this would only pertain to published official meetings and excludes closed sessions.

Catherine Ferreira asked if this was instead of, or in addition to written minutes.

Steve Bluhm said we will do both.

Mike Murphy said he thought we should leave things as they are.

ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE 19 To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

The presentation of Certificates of ten or more years of service to the Town of Northfield to:

- Richard Maher, eleven years (2001-2012) on the Planning Board
- Francis Labranche, eleven years on Planning Board and Capital Improvements Program
- Diane Moreau, thirteen years (1999-2012) on Conservation Commission, also instrumental on the Knowles Pond Stewardship Committee
- Linda Pardy, eleven years (2000-2011) on the Budget Committee

Noting presentations of the Boston Post Cane to Northfield's oldest resident:

- Hazel Corliss during 2011
- Marjorie Norell, current holder

Recipients were honored during the year with a certificate and their names added to a plaque at Town Hall.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy L. Caveney
Town Clerk