

**MINUTES FOR THE TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-SIXTH
NORTHFIELD TOWN MEETING
2016**

Polls were opened at the Pines Community Center, Dearborn Road, on the 8th day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand and sixteen at seven o'clock a.m. by Moderator Scott McGuffin. The polls were closed at 7:00 p.m. with 390 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.

TOWN ELECTION RESULTS

Selectman: 3 Years	
Dennis Allen	298
Kevin Waldron.....	81
Library Trustee: 3 Years	
Thomas Fulweiler	355
Moderator: 2 Years	
Scott McGuffin	361
Supervisor of the Checklist: 6 Years	
Roberta J. (Bobbie) Bacon.....	195
Greg Hill	174
Trustee of Trust Funds: 3 Years	
Christine Raffaelly.....	358
Trustee of Trust Funds: 2 Years	
Maureen Bouchet.....	336

ARTICLE 2 To amend Article 6 of the Northfield Zoning Ordinance to change the designation of Location 1 of the Multi-Family Residential District: “R2” to *Areas easterly of the railroad from Winnepesaukee River to Sargent Street, then easterly of Park Street and Westerly of Summer Street and Granite Street to the Winnepesaukee River* and the designation of Location 1 of the Commercial/Industrial District: “C/I” to *Areas Westerly of the railroad., Northerly of Sargent St., Northerly of Scribner Rd. and Easterly of Cross Mill Rd.* (Approval of this amendment would change the west side of Park Street to R2, the same as the east side) *(Recommended by a majority of the Planning Board)*
PASSED YES 279 NO 65

ARTICLE 3 To amend Article 7 Table 1 (Uses by District) to change “Light Manufacturing” and “Research and Development” from N (not permitted) to E (allowed by special exception) in the R2 District. *(Recommended by a majority of the Planning Board)*
PASSED YES 280 NO 78

ARTICLE 4 To amend Article 7 Table 1 to change “Bed & Breakfast” from N (not permitted) to P (permitted) in the Conservation District *(Recommended by a majority of the Planning Board)*
PASSED YES 283 NO 74

ARTICLE 5 To amend Article 17.5 of the Northfield Zoning Ordinance to require that a Septic Leach Field be *50’ from poorly drained soils and 75’ from very poorly drained soils.* *(Recommended by a majority of the Planning Board)* (Current zoning requires septic leach fields be 75’ from any wetlands – The purpose of this amendment is to conform to the current NHDES regulations)
PASSED YES 294 NO 62

At 9:03 a.m. on the 12th day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand and sixteen at the Pines Community Center, Dearborn Road, Northfield, Moderator Scott McGuffin called for a moment of silence to honor those serving in the Military. Selectman Kevin Waldron presented a gift of appreciation

to Police Chief John Raffaely in recognition of his twenty years of service to the Town of Northfield. The Moderator thanked Kevin Waldron for his service as Selectman for the last three years.

And at 9:10 a.m. the 2016 Town Meeting was officially called to order to act upon the following subjects. Results of the Town Election and Ballot questions, **ARTICLE 1 through 5**, were read.

ARTICLE 6 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. (Majority vote required) *This article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee (6-0-1).*

Article 6 was moved by Wayne Crowley and seconded by Steve Randall.

Selectman Crowley explained this is to replenish the Highway Capital Reserve Fund. There is about \$127,700 in the fund now. We generally add \$75,000 per year, and some of this will be requested to be spent in later Articles. **ARTICLE PASSED**

ARTICLE 7 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand dollars (\$100,000) to be deposited in the Sandogardy Pond Road State Aid Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund. (Majority vote required) *This article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee (6-0-1).*

Article 7 was moved by Wayne Crowley and seconded by Steve Randall.

Selectman Wayne Crowley explained this is a Capital Reserve Fund set up for the purpose of reconstructing Sandogardy Pond Road. The State will share in 80% of the cost with the Town paying 20%. After the project is completed the Town will take over the road. The current estimate for the whole project is \$2.5 million. There is \$202,000 in the fund, this will add \$100,000. A later Article will ask to remove \$100,000 to pay for the required engineering this year, with the rebuild planned for 2018. We must pay for the engineering up front and will be reimbursed for the state portion later.

ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE 8 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred and Forty One Thousand Four Hundred dollars (\$241,400) to the Road Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of funding major road and bridge repair and reconstruction projects as needed. (Majority vote required) This article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee (6-0-1).

Article 8 was moved by Wayne Crowley and seconded by Steve Randall.

Selectman Crowley explained this is another Capital Reserve Fund we move funds into every year, in addition we received a block grant from the State for about \$120,000. The beginning balance is \$275,000, with the addition of this \$241,400, the total will be \$637,000. The majority of this will be used for work on Zion Hill Road in 2017. The object is to keep the tax rate as level as possible and still be able to complete these projects. **ARTICLE PASSED**

ARTICLE 9 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred and Sixty Thousand dollars (\$160,000) for the purpose of replacing a model year 2000 International 4900 10 yard truck with funding to come from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund with no amount to come from taxation. (Majority vote required) This article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee (6-0-1).

Article 9 was moved by Wayne Crowley and seconded by Donny Stevens.

Selectman Crowley explained this is to move money out of the Capital Reserve Fund to replace Truck #4, a 15 year old International truck. The new six-wheel truck will be complete with sander, plow and wing plow. That truck was lost in the fire at the highway garage the week prior to the meeting, and was the likely cause of the fire. No specific brand has been chosen yet. There is no tax implication from this Article because the money is coming out of the Capital Reserve Fund. Jeffrey Brewer asked if there will be insurance money available to assist with the purchase. Selectman Crowley said we will receive the actual cash value of the truck at the time of the fire. Greg Hill asked if the plow and sander are included. Mr. Crowley responded we can keep the plow and wing-plow as back up on any of our trucks. The sander was too old to be of value. **ARTICLE PASSED**

ARTICLE 10 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate One Hundred and Eight Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$108,400) to fund the following road and bridge reconstruction and repair projects: Bay Hill Road Drainage Project (estimated \$68,400) and Zion Hill Road Reconstruction engineering (estimated \$40,000) to be offset by the Highway Block Grant and any remaining amount to come from the Road Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund and no amount to come from taxation. This shall be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until December 31, 2017. (Majority vote required) This article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee (6-0-1).

Article 10 was moved by Donald Stevens and seconded by Steve Randall.

Donald Stevens gave explanation of the work and engineering to be done. Kevin Waldron pointed out that in case of an emergency situation, the money would be limited to only the specific road as voted. Wayne Crowley advised the Board of Selectmen has the ultimate authority to determine where the money is spent within the fund. At Town Meeting two years ago the Board was given authority to be the agents of the fund. Paul Blaisdell said he drives Zion Hill Road every day, the road is a mess and drainage is a problem. It is very important the engineering be done in order to fix the entire road correctly. David Court wanted more details about the engineering, and said we will always need to continuously repair our roads, there is no permanence in repairs. Bob Southworth said over the years there have been a lot of drainage problems in that area and the best solution is to have an engineer do a hydration study.

ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE 11 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) to fund a Town-wide road assessment and engineering feasibility study by available Highway Block Grant funds and any remaining amount to come from the Road Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund and no amount to come from taxation. This shall be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until December 31, 2017. (Majority vote required) This article is not recommended by the Board of Selectmen or Budget Committee (3-4).

Article 11 was moved by Kevin Waldron and seconded by Steve Randall.

A Motion to Table the Article was made by Kevin Waldron, seconded by Donald Stevens.

MOTION TO TABLE PASSED Yes 62 No 28

ARTICLE 12 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) to fund engineering services for the Sandogardy Pond Road Reconstruction project with funding to come from the Sandogardy Pond Road Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund and no amount to come from taxation. This shall be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until December 31, 2017. (Majority vote required) This article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee (6-0-1).

Article 12 was moved by Wayne Crowley and seconded by Mike Murphy.

Wayne Crowley explained this Article is to take funds out of the Capital Reserve Fund. The funds will go toward engineering costs for this \$2.5 Million project. The Town will pay for the engineering, with 80% to be reimbursed later by the State.

ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE 13 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to purchase and outfit a police cruiser and to raise and appropriate Thirty-nine Thousand Dollars (\$39,000) for this purpose. (Majority vote required) This article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee (6-0-1).

Article 13 was moved by Bob Southworth and seconded by Bob Ivon.

Bob Southworth explained this will replace the 2009 four wheel drive Ford Expedition. It will be a front line pursuit vehicle. We will purchase a similar four wheel drive Expedition type vehicle, brand not yet determined.

ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE 14 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand One Hundred Eighty-Eight Dollars (\$3,188) for the purpose of providing a 5.5% salary increase for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector. (Majority vote required) This article is recommended by the Budget Committee (6-0-1).

Article 14 was moved by Don Stevens and seconded by Steve Randall.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Cindy Caveney explained she requested this increase to place her salary at the mid-range of the pay grade assigned to the position in the recent salary study completed by the Selectmen. Greg Hill questioned why we do this as a separate warrant article, and whether an increase should apply after the next election cycle. Eliza Conde said she supports the article but disagrees with the process used to bring this to the voters. Wayne Crowley explained the Town Clerk/Tax Collector is an elected position that does not report to the Board of Selectmen, only to the townspeople, so the Board felt the salary should be approved by the voters. Laurie Hill inquired if a new person were to enter the position, would the same salary apply to them whether or not they had the same qualifications and experience. Wayne said the Board would recommend a salary to the Town Meeting based on the range of the pay grade and the qualifications of the new person.

ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE 15 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty-One Thousand dollars (\$51,000.00) for the following items:

Purchase of Mobile Lifts for Highway Garage:	\$34,000
Complete Town Hall exterior Repairs:	\$17,000

(Majority vote required) This article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee (4-1-2).

Article 15 was moved by Wayne Crowley and seconded by Steve Randall.

Michael Witzgall proposed an Amendment "To separate Article 15 into two expenditures for the purpose of discussing and voting individually upon the merits of each expenditure. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$51,000 for the following items:

Purchase of mobile lifts for the Highway garage	\$34,000
Complete town hall exterior repairs	\$17,000"

Motion was seconded by David Court.

Kent Finemore questioned the legality of the Amendment, we may need guidance from DRA on whether the separation is appropriate. Dave Court inquired why these were put together on one Article. Wayne Crowley said they were put together because both are capital items.

AMENDMENT #1 FAILED.

Wayne Crowley described the proposed town hall repairs:

Replace wood siding with vinyl, replace eight windows in the annex portion, Remove T-111 siding that has deteriorated on the north side of the annex, replace that with sheathing and vinyl.

He further described the proposed lifts for the Highway Department:

There will be a quantity of four portable lifts for both inside and outside use. Each has the capacity for 12,000 lbs., which will accommodate vehicles up to the six wheel dump truck. The lifts would enable a higher level of maintenance to be completed including steam cleaning underneath vehicles. The price also includes a battery option capability.

Paul Blaisdell asked for clarification that each lift has a 12,000 lb. capacity, for a total of 48,000 lbs. when used on all four corners of a vehicle. He asked if they might be made available to the Fire District for light equipment maintenance. Wayne said it could be discussed.

Lisa Swancott proposed an Amendment (#2) to amend Article 15 to read:

"To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$17,000 to complete Town Hall exterior repairs."

Motion was seconded by Gretchen Wilder. Lisa explained this gives voters the opportunity to only approve the town hall repairs, and removes the money requested for the lifts. Bill Dawson said the amendment does not make it clear that the money for the lifts should be zero dollars.

Dave Court asked if there was the potential with repair or replacement of the highway garage due to the recent fire, to incorporate the lifts at that time. Wayne Crowley said no determination has been made on what will happen with the garage. We could lose the portability option if built into the building. Scott Hilliard called the question, seconded by Steve Randall. Vote to terminate debate on the Amendment passed.

AMENDMENT #2 FAILED.

David Court said he was concerned with the practicality of the lifts. Fred Shepard Jr. said the State of New Hampshire uses theirs every day and they do the job. **ARTICLE PASSED.**

ARTICLE 16 To see if the Town will vote to establish a Computer Replacement Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA35:1 for the purpose of replacing computers, servers and related equipment as they reach the end of their life expectancy to appoint the Selectmen as agents of such fund and to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand dollars (\$3,000) from the Unassigned Fund Balance to be deposited in this fund. (Majority vote required) This article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee (6-0-1).

Article 1 moved by Mike Murphy, seconded by Deb Wheeler.

Eric Sutphen asked who determines the maximum life of such equipment.

Glenn Smith, Town Administrator, responded that in the past we have worked on a replacement schedule with about a five year rotating schedule. That is currently under discussion.

Scott Tupeck asked how many computers and servers we currently have.

Glenn stated there is one server with 18 work stations (3 locations) in our network. In 2014 Microsoft advised it would no longer support any systems older than Windows 7, so we were forced to replace 14 units in one year, or our older units would have been subject to viruses, etc.

This fund would allow us to set funds aside each year for future needs.

ARTICLE PASSED.

ARTICLE 17 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell parcel R09-9 (Union Church) and parcel R09-72-B (vacant land adjacent to Union Church) at fair market value. The proceeds of such sale to be conveyed to the Tilton/Northfield Recreation Council for use in providing a community center available to the citizens of Northfield for social and community events. Such proceeds shall not be conveyed in lieu of annual funding for operating costs which may be requested by the Tilton/Northfield Recreation Council. (Majority vote required)

Article 17 was moved by Kevin Waldron and seconded by Steve Randall.

Glenn Smith gave background on the Church which was accepted by the Town Meeting in 1883 as a gift from Charles Tilton, with two conditions. First, the building would remain a social and community hall, and secondly that it be made available for use as a church to all denominations on a rotating basis. For many years a church group did have services there, and it has been rented only a few times in the last ten years. The building presently lacks running water and a septic system. The deed states the Selectmen can charge a rental fee to cover maintenance costs, the intention was to not have it be a tax burden. There is a fairly new roof and the structure is in good shape. The choices are: to do nothing and let it continue to deteriorate, to complete the necessary repairs and upgrades, or to sell the property. The market value has been estimated to be \$50,000. Steve Randall didn't feel the questions raised at last year's town meeting have been answered regarding whether the town has the right to sell the building since it was a gift, or should it be returned to the Tilton family. Glenn explained the State Attorney General's Charitable Trust Division has reviewed the matter and a petition will be sent to Superior Court to give permission for a sale. The Attorney General's office has signed off on it with a restriction that the funds to be used for a Community Center. Steve Randall asked why the town of Tilton was not involved in some of the expense, since the Center is shared by both Towns. Glenn explained the Recreation Center is the only option for placing the funds. Dave Court added that Charles Tilton was trying to unify the two towns, shown in the community spirit invoked by the deed. The Church was the first building used for community and religious purposes, there is a long heritage connected with this. Lisa Swancott said the Pines Community Center building is owned by the town of Northfield and is only leased to the Tilton-Northfield Recreation Council. Kent Finemore expressed the Church should be put to some good use. Steve Randall said he does not approve of selling the building and is concerned about the fairness that Tilton does not contribute. Leif Martinson pointed out the funds will not go to operating expenses as those are shared between the towns. **ARTICLE PASSED.**

ARTICLE 18 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a total of Sixteen Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy-Nine Dollars (\$16,779), consisting of 2016 operating cost of \$15,779 and a one-time cost of \$1,000, to implement a biweekly single stream curbside recycling program effective July 1, 2016. (Majority vote required) This article is recommended by the Board of

Selectmen and Budget Committee (6-0-1).

Article 18 was moved by Wayne Crowley and seconded by Bob Ivon.

Motion to table the Article was made by Mike Murphy and seconded by Peg Shepard.

MOTION TO TABLE FAILED.

Wayne Crowley explained the single stream curbside recycling will remove the sorting and baling at the Recycle Center. This will allow residents to put out their recyclable material out for pickup every two weeks. The cost per ton to dispose of recyclable materials is less than that for regular trash. If we increase the volume of recycling, at a cost of \$40 per ton, we can reduce the waste stream of regular trash, currently at \$66 per ton. There will be no change to regular trash pick-up. No special containers are required, any container may be used if marked for recycling. Steve Randall asked how this affects our contract with Wheelabrator. Wayne Crowley said we have exceeded our numbers by 500 to 600 tons at this time. Leif Martin clarified that this is still a voluntary recycling program, and residents can still take items to the transfer station. Peg Shepard expressed concern about the additional cost. Wayne Crowley confirmed we will pay more to have the recycling picked up, but along with that we can take about \$20-25,000 out of costs at the transfer station. Peg had additional concerns with the numbers presented, and Wayne said per DRA we can only present the costs for 2016 in this Article. Karen Wilcox asked if anyone would lose their job at the transfer station. Wayne responded that there may be some reassignments but no loss of job. Wayne said we will gain convenience for the residents, reduced labor and equipment at the transfer station. Candice Weingartner said she has been recycling for twenty years. We are spending money but also helping the environment, cutting down on our waste and setting a good example for our children. Greg Hill asked about commercial entities. Wayne said this does not include commercial recycling. Businesses are required to take their items to Wheelabrator themselves. It would be unfair for residents to pay the cost for commercial and multifamily properties. Kevin Waldron said he thought the ongoing costs are more significant. There are built-in increases in the five year contract for trash removal. Taxes will go up as a result of this and he did not believe the benefit outweighs the cost. Nancy Court thought this program would help to boost participation. Kent Finemore pointed out that in the past we were not in favor of mandatory recycling. The landfill and ash dump are filling up, the more we can recycle, the better. Disposal costs will likely continue to increase in the future.

ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE 19 To see if the Town will vote to replenish the Facility Emergency Repair Fund and to raise and appropriate Nine Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$9,600) from the Unassigned Fund Balance to be deposited in this fund. (Majority vote required) This article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee (6-0-1).

Article 19 was moved by Kevin Waldron and seconded by Deb Wheeler.

Kevin Waldron explained this fund was started a few years ago, and funds have been used for heating systems at the Police Department and town hall.

ARTICLE PASSED

ARTICLE 20 To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of Three Million Fifty-three Thousand Fifteen Dollars (\$3,053,015). This amount does not include any of the articles listed above. (Majority vote required) This article is recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

Article 20 was moved by Kevin Waldron and seconded by Bob Ivon.

Scott Hilliard introduced Amendment #1, seconded by Richard Paulhus, which would change Article 20 to read as follows:

“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,056,160. This represents adding \$3145 to the bottom line of the budget to increase the Youth Assistance Program total request.”

Scott explained the Youth Assistance Program had requested an increase of \$3,145, however the Selectmen and Budget Committee only included level funding in the proposed budget. The Program has looked into grant money, but as mostly a volunteer program it is difficult to procure funds. A like amount is being considered by the town of Tilton. This program is very important to our youth. Dave Court spoke in favor of the increase, saying the need has not diminished, and the Director of the Program is uniquely gifted in this area. Nancy Court said she and David are volunteers in the program. They want everyone to consider recent news about troubled kids, the value of this program is beyond measure. Eric Keck works in the school district. He said he cannot overstate the effect the Youth Assistance Program has had on our youth. It is a great resource and provides a support system to them. He is in full support of

the program. Peg Shepard asked for a breakdown of what the funds would be used for. Scott Hilliard said the funds will allow a 2% increase in the Director's salary, cover an increase in health insurance costs and rent for the building in Tilton. The program recently moved to a less expensive space. Kevin Waldron said no one is discounting the value of the Program and its Director. However, the Selectmen requested in the last budget cycle that they should look elsewhere for funds, including charging for services to those residents that can afford to pay. With the changes to the state education stabilization fund we will be facing higher taxes. We must consider the cost of the program even though it provides a valuable service. Pat Tucker, a substance abuse counselor, said she is in favor of these funds. If it helps one child and keeps them out of the welfare or prison system it is worth it. Dick Paulhus, a retired School Resource Officer, said he supports the program 100%, and the kids need it. Nancy Court said in the overall scheme of things, the place to reduce costs and expenses is in the school district budget.

AMENDMENT #1 PASSED

Greg Hill spoke to the \$91,000 loss of state funding from the stabilization fund for our portion of the School District budget this year. The projection is the entire pool of money will be gone in 24 years, but he believes it will be depleted much sooner. When the subsidy is gone, about \$7.00 will be added to our tax rate. He and others stressed the importance of attending the School District and Fire District meetings to consider all expenditures that must be paid for through taxes on our property owners. Leif Martinson and Gretchen Wilder both asked people to get involved and attend meetings when possible. Motion to terminate debate was made by Mike Murphy and seconded by Leif Martinson, motion passed.

ARTICLE AS AMENDED PASSED

ARTICLE 21 To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

The Moderator introduced Andy Buteau as the new Highway Superintendent.

Stephanie Giovannucci was thanked for her work on the Annual Town Report and weekly electronic newsletter "The Northfield News".

The Moderator thanked all those that volunteer for our boards and committees.

Motion to adjourn made by Steve Randall, seconded by Bob Ivon.
Meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy L. Caveney
Town Clerk/Tax Collector