

**MINUTES FOR THE TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-EIGHTH
NORTHFIELD TOWN MEETING
2019**

Polls were opened at the Pines Community Center, Dearborn Road, on the 12th day of March, at seven o'clock a.m. in the year of our Lord two thousand and nineteen. The polls were closed at seven o'clock p.m. with 409 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: three years
 Scott Haskins 259
 Robert Loder..... 19
 Kevin Waldron..... 124
Supervisor of the Checklist, three years (remainder of vacated term)
 Rose-Marie Welch (unopposed) 379
Library Trustee, three years
 Tom Fulweiler (unopposed) 374
Trustee of Trust Funds: three years
 Christine Raffaelly (unopposed) 382

ARTICLE 2: To amend the Northfield Zoning Ordinance Article 6 Districts, section 6.3 Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) to change subsection f to read ADU can be attached or detached to the principal dwelling unit and subsection j to read If an ADU is attached, an interior door shall be provided between the principal dwelling and the ADU, but is not required to remain unlocked and to add subsection l to read Mobile Homes are not allowed as ADU's. *Recommended by a majority of the Planning Board.*

PASSED: YES 285 NO 95

ARTICLE 3: To amend the Northfield Zoning Ordinance definition of Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) to read a residential living unit that provides independent living facilities for one or more person, including provisions for sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation on the same parcel of land as the principal dwelling unit it accompanies. *Recommended by a majority of the Planning Board*

PASSED: YES 318 NO 63

ARTICLE 4: To amend the Northfield Zoning Ordinance changing the definition of Campgrounds as follows:
A plot of ground upon which two or more campsites are located, established, or maintained for occupancy by camping units as temporary living quarters for recreation, education or vacation purposes and not for permanent year-round residences. Associated infrastructure such as camp store, sanitary facilities, recreation hall similar structures, and a year-round caretaker residence are allowed. *Recommended by a majority of the Planning Board*

PASSED: YES 320 NO 70

ARTICLE 5: To amend the Northfield Zoning Ordinance to adopt the addition of a Waterfront Recreation "WR" Zone proposed by the Planning Board as follows: Amend Article 6 to include the location, and purpose of the new zone, Article 7 Table 1 to add the Uses allowed, and Article 7 Table 2 to add the Dimensional Requirements allowed and update setbacks from bodies of water in all other zones. *Recommended by a majority of the Planning Board*

PASSED: YES 304 NO 77

At 9:05 a.m. on the 16th day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand and nineteen at the Pines Community Center, Dearborn Road, Northfield, Moderator Scott McGuffin called the Annual Meeting to order to act on the following:

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to convey the Town's one-half ownership of Island Park to the Town of Tilton. This article shall take effect only if the Town of Tilton votes to accept full ownership. No amount to be raised by taxation. *This article is recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.*

Article moved by Glen Brown, seconded by Linda Luedke. Wayne Crowley said the Selectboard reviewed the legal perspective for a transfer of ownership, and met with the Tilton Selectboard. There would be no transfer of funds except fees for drawing of legal documents. Currently liability and repairs are shared by both towns. The island is in need of extensive repairs expected to be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. The conveyance would only occur if approved by both towns at respective meetings. **PASSED**

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand dollars (\$350,000) to the Road and Bridge Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of funding major road and bridge repair and reconstruction projects as needed. This article would result in an increase in the amount to be raised by taxes. *This article is recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.*

Article moved by Wayne Crowley, seconded by Linda Luedke. Wayne Crowley explained a similar article is on the warrant every year to build the fund for repairs. This is a higher amount than in recent years as no additional funds need to be raised separately for Sandogardy Pond Road. Our roads are in poor condition and we need to set aside additional money toward repairs. **PASSED**

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Six Hundred Thirty-six Thousand Dollars (\$636,000) to fund road and bridge reconstruction and repair projects with Four Hundred Nine Thousand Dollars (\$409,000) to come from the Road and Bridge Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund, and One Hundred Twenty Seven Thousand Dollars (\$127,000) to come from the Road Repair Revolving Fund monies and One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance and no funds to come from taxation. This shall be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until December 31, 2020. *This article is recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.*

Article moved by George Corliss Jr., seconded by Wayne Crowley. The Capital Improvement Program Committee determines which roads need most improvement based on use and condition. Money is coming from three funds, including a revolving fund of money received annually from the state. Some roads will be receiving a top coat after the base being done last year. **PASSED**

ARTICLE 9: To see if the town will vote to discontinue the Sandogardy Pond Road SAR Capital Reserve Fund created in 2014. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal, are to be transferred to the municipality's general fund. No amount to be raised by taxation. (Majority vote required) *This article is recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.*

Article moved by Glen Brown, seconded by Wayne Crowley. The balance in the fund is \$209.00. It has served its purpose and needs to be closed out. **PASSED**

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Cemetery Repair Expendable Trust Fund pursuant RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of funding cemetery repairs and to raise and appropriate Five Thousand dollars (\$5,000) to put in the fund and appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents of the fund. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created. This article would result in an increase in the amount to be raised by taxes. *This article is recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.*

Article moved by Linda Luedke, seconded by Glen Brown. Scott Haskins explained this is to put money aside for needed work in seventeen cemeteries in Northfield. Repairs are needed to walls, gates and gravestones. David Court has done work on the fence and gates at Arch Hill Cemetery, he advised proper preservation is very complicated and should be done professionally. Most work cannot be done by community volunteers. He urged a study be done to determine what needs to be done. Kevin Waldron proposed Amendment #1 to increase request to \$10,000, seconded by Peg Labrecque.

AMENDMENT #1: “To see if the Town will vote to establish a Cemetery Repair Expendable Trust Fund pursuant RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of funding cemetery repairs and to raise and appropriate Ten Thousand dollars (\$10,000) to put in the fund and appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents of the fund. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created. This article would result in an increase in the amount to be raised by taxes.”

Several residents stated they would like to see a plan set out for where the money will be spent. Wayne Crowley advised they may choose to not spend any money this year. The first cemetery to be worked on will likely be Hodgdon Road, some estimates have been done. In some cemeteries tree work must be done, and easements are needed for access to do the work. The fund is needed to start setting money aside.

AMENDMENT #1 PASSED
ARTICLE PASSED AS AMENDED

ARTICLE 11: 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 Public Works Department equipment as needed. This article would result in an increase in the amount to be raised by taxes. *This article is recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.*

Article was moved by George Corliss Jr., seconded by Glen Brown. Wayne Crowley explained the current balance in the fund is \$23,000, and there are no plans to spend from this fund in 2019. In 2020 we expect to replace a 350 truck for approximately \$100,000, as recommended by CIP. The purpose of this fund is to keep the budget level, without spikes when an equipment purchase is needed. **PASSED**

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand dollars (\$50,000) to purchase and outfit a police cruiser with Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000) to come from the Police Equipment Revolving Fund and Thirty-eight Thousand (\$38,000) to come from taxation. This article would result in an increase in the amount to be raised by taxes. *This article is recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.*

Article moved by Kevin Waldron, seconded by Kaitlyn Lounsbury. Chief John Raffaely explained he plans to purchase an SUV to replace one of the two cruisers which each have over 100,000 miles on them. He did not request a new vehicle last year. **PASSED**

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand dollars (\$10,000) to the Computer Replacement Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of funding replacement of computer equipment. This article would result in an increase in the amount to be raised by taxes. *This article is recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.*

Article was moved by Wayne Crowley, seconded by George Corliss Jr. The fund has a current balance of \$18,000. This will add to the fund for purchase needed under next warrant article. **PASSED**

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-five Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety-two dollars (\$25,892) to purchase new computer equipment with funds to come from the Computer Replacement Capital Reserve Fund. No amount to be raised by taxation. *This article is recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.*

Article moved by Glen Brown, seconded by Linda Luedke. Wayne Crowley stated major equipment needs to be replaced about every five to seven years. A server and associated hardware cost approximately \$25,000. **PASSED**

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Thousand Dollars (\$9,000) to the Facility Emergency Repair Capital Reserve Fund. This article would result in an increase in the amount to be raised by taxes. *This article is recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.*

Article moved by Linda Luedke, seconded by Wayne Crowley. Glen Brown explained \$9,000 was spent last year for repairs to the Arch. There is \$11,153 remaining. This will bring the fund back to \$20,000 that we want

to keep in the fund for future emergencies. Wayne Crowley said the general fund is for general municipal operations, there is no line item for this type of expenditures. The Selectmen prefer to present separate articles for specific expenditures so the voters can approve or disapprove. **PASSED**

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of Three Million Three Hundred Five Thousand Four Hundred Forty-nine Dollars (\$3,305,449) for general municipal operations. This article does not include special or individual articles listed above. *This article is recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.*

Article moved by Kaitlyn Lounsbury, seconded by George Corliss Jr. There was discussion of a clerical error in the budget printed in the town report. There were no line changes, just a formula error in the spreadsheet. Per DRA the correct budget total can be presented for vote. **PASSED**

ARTICLE 17: To see whether the town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$800 for the purpose of assuring Northfield voters that their identities have not been used to illegally request an absentee ballot.

The voters will instruct the Northfield town clerk to contact, by certified mail, only those residents who contacted the town clerk requesting an absentee ballot for the 2018 local/state/national election AND who requested the absentee ballot be sent to an address other than the address listed for that voter on the voter checklist. The letter, along with a return stamped envelope addressed to the Northfield Town Clerk, will be sent only to the address of record for that Northfield voter as shown in the Northfield checklist and will say:

The Northfield Town Clerk, as instructed by the voters at town meeting, requests that you answer two questions which will help the Clerk determine if absentee voter irregularities occurred during the November election. Specifically,

1. "Did you request an absentee ballot?" YES or NO (circle one)
2. "Can you confirm the address you requested your absentee ballot be mailed to (given that it was mailed to an address different than the one shown in the Northfield checklist)?"
 - a. Street Address _____
 - b. City/Town _____
 - c. State/Country/Zip Code: _____

1) If a person returns the letter and answers "NO" to the first questions OR if the certified letter is returned to the clerk marked "undeliverable", the Northfield Town Clerk will be required to forward that information to the NH Secretary of State requesting further investigation.

2) If the voter receives but chooses not to return the letter, that information will be recorded by the clerk and also given to the NH Secretary of State.

3) If the voter returns the letter confirming the request for an absentee ballot and confirms the address not listed on the town voter checklist, that information will also be recorded by the clerk and given to the NH Secretary of State. *Submitted by petition. This article is not recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.*

Article was moved by Arnold Graton, seconded by Laurie Hill.

Greg Hill proposed **Amendment #1**, seconded by Arnold Graton, to read as follows:

AMENDMENT #1: "To see whether the town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$ZERO for the purpose of assuring Northfield voters that their identities have not been used to illegally request an absentee ballot. *All costs associated for this project will be charged to, and paid by, Representative Greg Hill, a Northfield resident and voter.*

The voters will instruct the Northfield town clerk to contact, by certified mail, only those residents who contacted the town clerk requesting an absentee ballot for the 2018 local/state/national election AND who requested the absentee ballot be sent to an address other than the address listed for that voter on the voter checklist. The letter, along with a return stamped envelope addressed to the Northfield Town Clerk, will be sent only to the address of record for that Northfield voter as shown in the Northfield checklist and will say:

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election.

Specifically,

1. "Did you request an absentee ballot?" YES or NO (circle one)
2. "Can you confirm the address you requested your absentee ballot be mailed to (given that it was mailed to an address different than the one shown in the Northfield checklist)?"
 - a. Street Address _____
 - b. City/Town _____
 - c. State/Country/Zip Code: _____

1) If a person returns the letter and answers "NO" to the first questions OR if the certified letter is returned to the clerk marked "undeliverable", the Northfield Town Clerk will be required to forward that information to the NH Secretary of State requesting further investigation.

2) If the voter receives but chooses not to return the letter, that information will be recorded by the clerk and also given to the NH Secretary of State.

3) If the voter returns the letter confirming the request for an absentee ballot and confirms the address not listed on the town voter checklist, that information will also be recorded by the clerk and given to the NH Secretary of State."

AMENDMENT PASSED

ARTICLE AS AMENDED PASSED: YES 49 NO 20

ARTICLE 18: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Scott Haskins, Chair of the Open Space Committee, asked everyone to participate in an online survey asking for opinions regarding the future of town owned parks and conservation areas. Northfield has eight parks, five conservation areas, a boat launch and eighty acres of land.

Kaitlyn Lounsbury invited all to participate in a Community Profile event for discussion on the future of Northfield in several areas including education, resources, business and recreation.

A motion to adjourn was made by Bill Dawson, seconded by Arnold Graton. Meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy L. Caveney
Town Clerk