

**2007 TOWN MEETING MINUTES**

**March 13, 2007**

**The polls were open for voting at 10:00 am, March 13, 2007 by Moderator Scott McGuffin.**

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

For Selectman: (3 years)

Ed Bezanson	185
Denny French	44
Linda Pardy	204
Debra Shepard	215

For Town Clerk/Tax Collector: ( 1 year)

Cindy Beaulieu	137
Cindy Caveney	249
Judith Dupuis	157
Jacalyn Hamilton-Zajak	116

For Library Trustee: (3 years)

Barbara Converse	210
Tom Fulweiler	229
Ginny Timmons	164

**ARTICLE 2:** To see if the Town is in favor of re-adopting the Town's Growth Management Ordinance and extending until the March 2010 Annual Town Meeting. The Planning Board recommends this article.

*(Explanation: This ordinance was adopted at the March 2004 Town Meeting and is due to expire March 2007 unless it is re-adopted by Town Meeting. The Planning Board recommends that the ordinance be extended until March 2010 to manage orderly growth and provide Town services to such growth in an efficient and effective manner. The complete text of this ordinance is printed in the Annual Report).*

**YES 444                  NO 150**

**ARTICLE 3:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB2) to Allow official ballot voting on all issues before the Town of Northfield on the second Tuesday of March. (This article was submitted by petition). A 3/5 majority vote is required for adoption.

*Explanation: The NH Department of Revenue Administration Technical Release Assistance for SB2 (Official Ballot Referenda) is printed in the Annual Report.*

**YES 289                  NO 350**

**Due to inclement weather, the March 17, 2007 annual meeting was postponed to March 20, 2007 at 7:00 PM where the meeting was called to order by Moderator Scott McGuffin.**

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a two (2) year Lease/purchase agreement for a replacement cruiser for the Police Department and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 as the first year's payment. This lease/purchase agreement contains a non-appropriation clause. The Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this article. (Majority vote required for adoption).

Article moved by Steve Bluhm and seconded by Steve Randall. After lengthy discussion relative to the pros and cons of purchasing the vehicle outright rather than in 2 payments, Kevin Waldron moved, seconded by Greg Hill, to amend the article to read:

“To see if the town will raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Two Thousand One Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars (\$22,165.00) for the purchase of a replacement cruiser for the Police Department.” **Amended passed by a show of hands, 72 yes, 24 no. Article 4 as amended passed.**

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 for the purchase of a replacement skid steer (bobcat) at the recycling center. The Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this article. (Majority vote required for adoption).

Article moved by Mike Summersett, seconded by Steve Randall. Mike Summersett explained the need to replace an old skid steer and that there may be a grant available to cover 50% of the cost of this equipment. **Article passed.**

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for the purpose of constructing Phase II and Phase IV drainage improvements on Zion Hill Road and Hodgdon Road. A complete description of the scope of work, phases and cost estimates is included in the Annual Report. This is a special, non-lapsing warrant article and the funds shall not lapse until the entire project is completed or by December 31, 2009 whichever is sooner. The Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this article. (Majority vote required for adoption).

Article moved by Steve Bluhm, seconded by Dave Liberatore. Jamie Knowlton moved, seconded by Bill Simmons to amend the motion to read \$90,000. Lisa Martin explained the phases of this project showing what has been completed and what is scheduled. This article is for funding of Phase II. **Amendment passed.** Joyce Fulweiler moved, seconded by Linda Pardy to delete “Phase IV” from the article. Amendment passed. **Article 6 as amended passed.**

**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 for the purpose of designing and permitting drainage and road improvements for Twin Bridge Road. This is a special, non-lapsing warrant article and the funds shall not lapse until the entire project is completed or by December 31, 2008 whichever is sooner. The Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommends this article. (Majority vote required for adoption). Article moved by George Corliss, seconded by Linda Pardy. **Article passed.**

**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$105,390 for improvements to Oak Hill Road from Fiddler’s Choice Road to the Canterbury Town Line. The Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this article. (Majority vote required for adoption). Article moved by George Corliss, seconded by Steve Bluhm. Mike Summersett explained that Oak Hill Road is being re-done in phases. The surface material will be re-ground, rocks removed, culverts replaced, etc. **Article passed.**

**ARTICLE 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000 to be deposited in the SAR (State Aid Reconstruction Projects) Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of making improvements to Bean Hill Road. The Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee recommend this article. (Majority vote required for adoption). Article moved by Glen Brown, seconded by George Corliss. After lengthy discussion and questions about the ownership of Bean Hill Road, the obligation of the State to fund 80% of the cost, etc., **Article passed.**

**ARTICLE 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,705,631** 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 Budget Committees recommendations in Warrant Articles #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, and #9.** (Majority vote required for adoption).

Article moved by Glen Brown, seconded by Steve Randall. Steve Bluhm moved, seconded by Bill Simmons, to amend the amount of \$3,705,631.00 to \$3,702,796.00. This amount reflects the changes as voted in articles 4 and 6. **Amendment passed. Article as amended passed.**

Wesley DeSousa moved, seconded by Dave Liberatore to protect the vote. **Motion passed.**

**ARTICLE 11:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize Project TNS to construct an 80' x 60' fenced-in Skateboard Park at the Northfield Park (former Surette Battery site). Construction expenses to be paid by Project TNS. The Northfield Selectmen shall adopt rules and regulations for the Park's operation and maintenance in accordance with the recommendations of the Town's property liability insurance provider. (Majority vote required for adoption).

Article moved, by Lisa Swancott, seconded by Deb Tessier. Lisa Swancott reviewed the past activities of Project TNS and its search for a good location for a skateboard park. The committee has begun fundraising and has promises of further support when a location has been secured.

The town will be maintaining the park, the committee is committed to pay for repairs, etc. The town's liability insurance will cover the park. After several comments in support of the park, several questions about maintenance, etc. **Article passed.**

**ARTICLE 12:** To see if the Town will vote to establish a Recycling Committee to study alternative Refuse disposal systems. The Committee shall report its findings and present a cost/benefit analysis at the 2008 Town Meeting. (Majority vote required).

Article moved by Dave Liberatore, seconded by Dave Coulter. Dave Coulter explained that the committee would not be asking for any money, but rather would be looking for ways to save the town money through recycling. **Article passed.**

**ARTICLE 13:** To see if the Town will vote to change the hours of the business session of the Town Meeting from 10:00 a.m. on Saturday to 8:00 a.m. on Saturday. (Majority vote required). Article moved by Judy Huckins, seconded by Steve Randall. After discussion, Donna Bouchard moved, seconded by Kevin Waldron to amend the motion to "9:00 am". **Amendment passed, article as amended passed.**

**ARTICLE 14:** To see if the Town will go on record in support of effective actions by the President and the Congress to address the issue of climate change, which is increasingly harmful to the environment and economy of New Hampshire and to the future well being of the people of Northfield. These actions include: 1) Establishment of a national program requiring reductions of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions while protecting the U.S. economy. 2) Creation of a major national research initiative to foster rapid development of sustainable energy technologies thereby stimulating new jobs and investment.

In addition the Town of Northfield encourages New Hampshire citizens to work for emission reductions within their communities, and we ask our Selectmen to consider the appointment of a voluntary energy committee to recommend local steps to save energy and reduce emissions.

The record of the vote on this article shall be transmitted to the New Hampshire Congressional Delegation, to the President of the United States and to declared candidates for those offices. (Submitted by Petition). Majority Vote required.

Article moved by Glen Brown, seconded by Dave Liberatore. Bill Dawson presented information supporting this article and explained that this is an advisory article only. There was a lively discussion on whether it is appropriate to have this type of article on the town warrant. Many felt that it should be addressed through contact with legislators rather than at the town meeting. After further discussion, the **article failed with a show of hands, Yes 29 and No 80.**

**ARTICLE 15:** 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). Article moved by Glen Brown, seconded by Dave Liberatore. Steve Randall spoke against the discount and showed the actual cost impact to the town. **Article passed.** Wesley DeSousa moved, seconded by Greg Hill to protect the vote. Motion passed.

**ARTICLE 16:** To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting. Greg Hill moved, seconded by Bill Simmons to adopt and endorse the formation of a Northfield Town Education Committee. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eliza H. Conde, Acting Town Clerk