

NORTHFIELD TOWN MEETING MINUTES

2020

The polls were opened at the Pines Community Center, Dearborn Road, on the 10th day of March at seven o'clock a.m. in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty, the polls were closed at seven o'clock p.m. with 447 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:

Selectman – 3 Years -----	Wayne Crowley	138
	Manuel Pimentel Jr.	59
	Kevin Waldron.....	238
Supervisor of the Checklist – 6 Years ---	Margaret “Peggy” LaBrecque	385
Moderator – 2 Years-----	Scott McGuffin	393
Town Clerk/Tax Collector – 3 Years----	Cindy Caveney	421
Trustee of Trust Funds – 3 Years -----	Michael J Murphy.....	380

ARTICLE 2. To amend the Northfield Zoning Ordinance to add Non-commercial Storage. The definition is to read: A building for the enclosure and/or storage of residential property, vehicles, animals or personal goods, and to update Article 7 Table 1 (Uses by District) to add “*Non-commercial Storage*” as Permitted (P) in the R-1, C/I, CONS District, and as Special Exception (E) in the R2, and WR District.
Recommended by a majority of the Planning Board.

Yes 291 No 126

ARTICLE 3. To amend the Northfield Zoning Ordinance Article 10 (Manufactured Homes, Manufactured Home Parks & Camping Trailer Parks) Section 10.1 (Individual Homes) (*letters a, d, e, f, and g*) to read as follows...
Subsection (*a*) changes to allow *the Selectboard to designate someone to approve temporary manufactured housing on individual lots and to change the allowance of one year to 180 days to be consistent with the National Building Code currently adopted by the State of New Hampshire.* Subsection (*d*) is deleted in its entirety. Subsection (*e*) now becomes Subsection (*d*) which will now read *All manufactured homes installed on individual lots shall be installed according the National Building Code and State of NH Regulations.* Subsection (*f*) and (*g*) now become Subsection (*e*) and (*f*) with no changes. *Recommended by a majority of the Planning Board.*

Yes 299 No 118

ARTICLE 4. To amend the Northfield Zoning Ordinance Article 6 (Districts) Section 6.1 to change the designation of areas to the west side of Johnson Road, north side of Sargent Street/Scribner Rd, east side of Cross Mill Rd, and south side of the Winnepesaukee River Trail. From Commercial/Industrial: “C/I” to Residential “R1.” *Recommended by a majority of the Planning Board*

Yes 292 No 116

ARTICLE 5. To amend the Northfield Zoning Ordinance Article 6 (Districts) Section 6.1 to change the designation of an area in a 500' foot band along the south side of Hodgdon Road from East Pleasant Street to Peverly Road from Conservation Zone "CONS" to Residential "R1." *Recommended by a majority of the Planning Board*
Yes 258 No 151

On the 14th day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty at nine o'clock in the forenoon at the Pines Community Center, Dearborn Road, Northfield, the Annual Town Meeting was called to order by Moderator Scott McGuffin to act upon the following:

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) to be added to the Road and Bridge Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. This article would result in an increase in the amount to be raised by taxation. *Recommended by the majority of the Selectboard and Budget Committee.*

The Article was moved by Kevin Waldron and seconded by Robert Ivon.

Wayne Crowley explained this is a routine article adding money to the fund. This will be a portion of the total needed. Adding funds from other Articles and State funds will give us the total we need to implement the Capital Improvements Program plan. There was discussion about the schedule for upgrading particular roads which will be up to the CIP committee to determine.

PASSED

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety-one thousand Three Hundred Forty Dollars (\$91,340.00) for road projects said amount to come from the State of New Hampshire Municipal Aid Fund. No amount to be raised from taxation. *Recommended by the majority of the Selectboard and Budget Committee.* Article was moved by Glen Brown and seconded by Wayne Crowley.

Wayne Crowley advised these funds were part of additional funds earmarked by the State for towns to use as desired in the second year of the program. After a public hearing, it was determined the funds should go to roads. This Article moves money into the fund. The CIP committee has planned to spend about \$600,000 per year, still only a small portion of repairs that are needed. This \$91,340.00 will be added to \$300,000 from Article 6, a block grant, and \$100,000 from the unassigned fund balance to go toward the CIP recommendations.

PASSED

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Five Hundred Twenty-three Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$523,800) to fund road and bridge reconstruction and repair projects with Two Hundred Ninety-three Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$293,800) to come from the Road Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund, One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) from unassigned fund balance, and One Hundred Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$130,000) to come from the Road Repair Revolving Fund. No amount to be raised from taxation. This shall be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until December 31, 2021. *Recommended by the majority of the Selectboard and Budget Committee*

Article was moved by Wayne Crowley and seconded by Glen Brown. Wayne advised we are not expecting any additional funds from the State at this time. Kevin Waldron said there is fluidity in the plan and changes may be made as time goes on and our needs change.

PASSED

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy Five Thousand dollars (\$75,000) to be added to the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. This article would result in an increase in the amount to be raised by taxation. *Recommended by the majority of the Selectboard and Budget Committee.*

Article was moved by Wayne Crowley and seconded by Linda Luedke. Scott Haskins said this is a routine Article to put money aside annually for equipment needs as listed in the town report. Donny Stevens inquired what happened to the skid steer bought a few years ago. Wayne Crowley responded our last purchase, two years ago, was a trackless machine for plowing sidewalks and brush cutting. The skid steer was sold, and money added to the Highway Equipment Fund.

PASSED

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate One Hundred Four Thousand dollars (\$104,000) to purchase new municipal equipment for the purpose of plowing and road maintenance with Ninety-two Thousand Dollars (\$92,000) to come from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund and Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000) to come from the sale of replaced equipment. No amount to be raised from taxation. *Recommended by the majority of the Selectboard and Budget Committee*

Article was moved by Kevin Waldron and seconded by Glen Brown. Andy Buteau proposed an Amendment (#1) to the Article to read as follows:

AMENDMENT #1: *“To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate One Hundred Four Thousand dollars (\$104,000) to purchase new municipal equipment for the purpose of plowing and road maintenance with Ninety-eight Thousand Dollars (\$98,000) to come from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund and Six Thousand Dollars (\$6,000) to come from the sale of replaced and surplus equipment. No amount to be raised from taxation.”*

Amendment #1 was seconded by Kevin Waldron. Andy Buteau explained the total amount requested has not changed, just the distribution of where funds will be coming from. Mark Hebert inquired what would happen if we do not get \$6000 for the sale of equipment. Wayne Crowley responded that the Selectmen are agents of the fund and can vote to add funds to cover any shortage.

AMENDMENT #1 PASSED.

ARTICLE AS AMENDED PASSED.

ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000) to be added to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. This article would result in an increase in the amount to be raised by taxation and to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund, previously established in 1986. *Recommended by the majority of the Selectboard and Budget Committee.*

Article was moved by Glen Brown and seconded by Robert Ivon. Glen said the goal is to add to the fund so monies will be available in 2022 when we need to spend about \$25,000 for the town-wide revaluation. Carl Bartlett asked why we are just now naming the Selectmen as agents of the fund. Wayne Crowley explained when the fund was established in 1986 they were not named, thus limiting spending to the town meeting vote. Steve Randall stated that without the naming of agents of the fund, a change to amount needed would require a special meeting. Gretchen Wilder added that laws and times are changing, and this is a clarification that is necessary.

PASSED

ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) to be added to the Cemetery Repair Expendable Trust Fund, previously established. This article would result in an increase in the amount to be raised by taxation *Recommended by the majority of the Selectboard and Budget Committee.*

Article was moved by Kevin Waldron and seconded by Linda Luedke. Scott Haskins explained the fund was approved in 2019 and has a current balance of \$10,000. We maintain six cemeteries. This is to build the fund which was originally set up to address the one on Hodgdon Road. Wayne Crowley said we currently are not spending any money on repairs. We would like to build the fund to \$20,000 so we can begin restorations one cemetery at a time. Only Arch Hill cemetery is currently active. Our Highway Department performs mowing, clean up and brush removal. Granite walls and repairs to gravestones will need to be done by professionals for proper restoration. Steve Randall added this was established as state law requires us to take care of cemeteries within town borders.

PASSED

ARTICLE 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000) to be added to the Computer Replacement Capital Reserve Fund, previously established. This article would result in an increase in the amount to be raised by taxation *Recommended by the majority of the Selectboard and Budget Committee*

Article was moved by Wayne Crowley and seconded by Glen Brown. In 2019 we voted to replace a server for approximately \$20K. Now we need to purchase four computers throughout town departments.

PASSED

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000) to be withdrawn from the Computer Replacement Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase or replacing computer equipment. No amount to be raised from taxation. *Recommended by the majority of the Selectboard and Budget Committee*

Article was moved by Wayne Crowley and seconded by Glen Brown. Wayne explained this is to spend a portion of what was added in Article 13 for items needed this year. It leaves about \$7000 in the account at the end of 2020. We will continue to build the fund toward when we need a server upgrade.

PASSED

ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) for the purchase of Portable Radios for the Police Department. This article would result in an increase in the amount to be raised by taxation. *Recommended by the majority of the Selectboard and Budget Committee*

Article was moved by Wayne Crowley and seconded by Glen Brown. Police Chief Raffaely explained the department needs four portable radios. Six were previously acquired through grants, but there are no grant funds available at this time.

PASSED

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to establish a Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to RSA35:1 for the purpose of replacing Police cruisers as needed, to make the Selectboard agents of the fund and to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) to be deposited in this fund (Majority vote required) *Recommended by the majority of the Selectboard and Budget Committee*

Article was moved by Kevin Waldron and seconded by Steve Randall. Wayne Crowley explained

this is an approach by the CIP committee and Board of Selectmen to handle future police cruiser purchases. Residual funds from the Special Detail Fund, after salaries, will also be added. The CIP committee meets with department heads to review their current and expected needs going forward. Members are appointed by the Selectboard, and other town boards also appoint representatives to the committee. Recommendations are made to the Selectboard for items to be put onto the Town Warrant.

PASSED

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Thirty Thousand (\$30,000) for the use of completing the Sandogardy Pond Road Project with said funds to come from the unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. *Recommended by the majority of the Selectboard and Budget Committee*

Article was moved by Glen Brown and seconded by Robert Ivon. Wayne Crowley explained this was a \$3.125 Million project to rebuild approximately two miles of Sandogardy Pond Road. The Town's portion is 20%, approximately \$625,000. We have raised to date \$590,000. We had hoped to not spend the full estimated amount. These funds are needed in order to get the 80% State portion needed to complete the project. After the final drainage is completed, the top coat should be done this year. The \$3.125 Million included construction, engineering, implementation, and all costs including purchase of land for the retention pond. The Contractor will be paid after remaining final work is completed.

PASSED

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of Three Million Four Hundred Eighty-eight Thousand Eighty-eight Dollars (\$3,488,088) for general municipal operations with One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) to come from the unassigned fund balance and Three Million Three Hundred Eighty-eight Thousand Eighty-eight Dollars (\$3,388,088) to come from taxation. This article does not include special or individual articles listed above. *Recommended by the majority of the Selectboard and Budget Committee*

Article was moved by Kevin Waldron and seconded by Linda Luedke. Mike Witzgall inquired about the merit pool listed in the budget. Wayne Crowley explained that is used by Department Heads and the Selectboard for employee salary increases as warranted for job performance. There are no cost of living increases. We have used a merit only system for the past several years.

PASSED

ARTICLE 19. To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting. Scott Haskins spoke about the Open Space Committee that was formed in 2018. A survey was done to gather resident's opinions of what they would like to see done with the open spaces in Northfield. They are hoping to acquire grants to cover the cost of future projects.

A certificate of appreciation and gift were presented to Wayne Crowley to acknowledge his six years of service on the Board of Selectmen. Stephanie Giovannucci was recognized for her work in town administration and support of town operations. The Highway and Police Departments, and those serving on town boards were also commended for their hard work and dedication. Meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy L. Caveney, Town Clerk