

**State of New Hampshire  
Town of Northumberland**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Northumberland, Coos County and State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in Town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Northumberland Town Office, Selectmen's Meeting Room, 10 Station Square on the second Tuesday in March next, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013, to act upon the subjects hereinafter mentioned. You are hereby warned that on said date and at said place the polls will be opened at **9:00** in the forenoon and will remain open until **7:00** in the evening for the reception of your ballots under the Non-Partisan Ballot System. You are also hereby warned that on Saturday, March 16, 2013 and at the Groveton High School Ryan's Auditorium in said Town, at **1:00** in the afternoon, the matter of appropriations and such other business properly coming before said meeting will be taken up for your consideration and action.

The Annual Town Election for the Town of Northumberland and the Northumberland School District was opened at 9:00 AM Tuesday, March 12, 2013 to act upon the subjects hereinafter mentioned. The polls were declared open for the reception of ballots. Moderator Young announced that the absentee ballots would be opened at 1:00 PM. At 7:00 PM Moderator Young announced that the polls were closed.

Moderator Young opened the business meeting at 1 pm on Saturday, March 16, 2013 with the Pledge of Allegiance. Barry Colebank presented Officer Aaron Gibson with Employee of the Year for 2012. Officer Gibson was unable to attend to Chief Platt was available to accept this award for him. Moderator Young made reference to the list of officials in the Town Report and recognized the Vietnam Veterans who were present as requested in a letter from Senator Ayotte. Moderator Young went over his rules of the meeting.

**Results:**

**Election Day ballots for Town 268 + 41 Absentee=309**

\***Article 1:** To choose by ballot the following Town Officers for the ensuing three years: one Selectman, Library Trustee, Trustee of Trust Funds, and Cemetery Trustee.

**Selectman:**

James Weagle 209

William (Willie) Wilson 87

**Library Trustee:**

Linda Caron 280

**Trustee of Trust Funds:**

Jim Tierney 216

Michael Morris 75

**Cemetery Trustee:**

Thomas Covell 287

\***Article 2:** To choose by ballot the following Town Officers for the ensuing one year: one Auditor.

**Auditor:**

Kim Deblois 290

**Article 3:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$217,350 for renovation of the former Groveton Paper Board Office Building located at 19 Main Street in Northumberland. \$67,350 to come from the Municipal Office Building Capital Reserve Fund, of which Board of Selectmen are agents to expend, established 2010, with the remaining \$150,000 to come from a combination loan/grant from USDA Rural Development already applied for. If the grant/loan package is not received, the money will not be raised and appropriated. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0) (2/3 Ballot Vote Required)

Motion made by Barry Colebank and seconded by James Weagle to accept article as read.

Discussion: Barry Colebank explained the financial side of the article. He explained that the money was for renovations to move from 10 Station Square to Main Street by Town Meeting of 2014. He said that there was \$30,000 in capital reserve and the remaining would be from grants and a loan package and that this is not a request to increase taxes but a request to be okay with taking out a loan. Selectman Colebank added that the interest right now is 3.125% on a 30 year loan and if the town borrowed \$130,000 the payment would be \$553.00 monthly, which is less than half of the rent we currently pay. Barry included that he felt that this would be a very good move. John King asked where the \$217,000 number came from and also inquired as to who on the building committee would have construction background. Barry Colebank answered that several members of the committee had construction background. Arnold Tilton inquired about the details of acquiring the property. Jack Bernard asked if due to cost could we move to the new office with just slight renovations and asked if this article got voted down could we still move. He also added that he was very much for the town office moving to this location on Main St. Barry Colebank answered that if the building was going to be full used than a lift would be needed to get to the second floor. Mr. Colebank added that the Police Department would be moving to the building to keep us all in the same general area. Colebank said that there needs to be a new roof put on, a handicapped accessible bathroom put in, the ramp needed renovations and that we could do this project for less money if no elevator was needed. Tracey Morrill asked how long it would be before we had an answer on all of this. Barry Colebank answered that it all mattered as to what happens with this article and USDA was reviewing things this week. Barry added that he wants to be in that building by town meeting of next year (2014). Claire Prosper asked about the building that we were currently in and how much the selling price was on it. Barry Colebank said he didn't know what the current price was. Norm Cotter asked if renovating all at one time would be a better idea and Barry answered that there was not enough man power at this time. Norm asked if the police department was going to be there and Barry answered that it was. Amanda King asked if there was going to be an impact on taxes. Barry Colebank explained that moving would cost us less in the long run. Susie Bathelder commented that the phase 1, phase 2, etc would be \$217,000 to start and wondered how much that the town was looking at in the long run for expenses after the first step. Michael Phillips answered Arnold Tilton about the plans for the town office. Phillips explained that the town has rented office space for town hall for 200 years. He added that his question was what could the town afford and in 2010 no one at this location was paying the taxes. He said that when Groveton Acquisitions acquired it we made a proposal that got that building and about \$360,000 worth of land for \$130,000 of back taxes abated. If we had taken it for tax deed we would have ended up with it anyways and this one on of 4 lots and others. Phillips felt that the town gained by doing this and the town office will now be on Main Street. Michael also added that there were 6-8 meetings in 2012 with the public and the select board chose to move ahead and do this. He added that the building committee is taking a look at everyone's wish list for the PD, ambulance, etc and that there is an architect draft person due the the grant process of needing an architect. Phillips explained that phase 1 was to get in there, phase 2 was the design process of the hall, police department, ambulance, looking ahead at time and deadlines and as of right now there was no design. Mr. Phillips then answered Susie Batchelder by saying that he didn't have a number for her and it depended on how

this article went. He added that he wanted to make things better. He said that he wanted to live her and live within our means and we have the capability of that being created. Phillips said the payments need to be less than \$2200 per month, bottom line. He said that we cannot spend more than we can afford and that this was a good move. Brian Bresnahan asked when phase 1 was done would we come back and take a look at funds. Michael Phillips said that when phase 1 was done they would come back at next years town meeting with plans, a budget, etc. Arnold Tilton said acquiring the property didn't cost the town anything and both sides gained something. Michael Phillips answered that it was a tax settlement of \$130,716.00 and out of that the building was approx. \$75,000. Uldric Bernard said that now the current building we are vacating would be put back into tax revenues and Michael Phillips confirmed that. Uldric Bernard asked if the police department would be moving next year as well and Michael Phillips answered that it wasn't happening in phase 1. Kathy Wiles had three things to bring up 1. wanted to know if the architect was licensed 2. when will the loan payment take affect 3. Dupuis, we go back and ask a sale price. Michael Phillips answered 1. we have a process to go through in taking proposals for an architect 2. we vote on taking the loan out this meeting and we will vote on the rest of it next year 3. we have asked the Dupuis twice and the current building we are in got voted down twice. Amanda King asked if we were saving \$1700 a month if we moved. Michael Phillips answered that there would be no police department in phase 1 so it was a savings of \$1200 per month. Brian Sullivan addressed the board and said that he couldn't be at all meetings and wanted to hear from the chief on his thoughts for the building. Barry Colebank said that the police department wasn't moving in phase 1 and that the chief has clearly expressed what his needs were. Brian Sullivan again said that he wanted to hear from the chief. Chief Platt answered that he was part of the building committee and has expressed their needs and that it was adequate to be part of phase 2 or phase 3 and not in the current footprint.

No further discussion. Ballot vote: Yes 112 No 34 **Article 3 passed as read.**

**Article 4:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$429,231.00 dollars for the purpose of operating and maintaining the water department. Said funds to be offset by the water user fees. Any shortfalls in the water user fees will be made up from the accumulated surplus in the "regular water account". (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made by James Weagle and seconded by Michael Phillips to accept article as read.

Discussion: Uldric Bernard asked how much was in the surplus. Barry Colebank answered that Becky was going to look it up. Nancy Mellow asked if the current water rates were not adequate in funding the department and what we are raising. Barry Colebank answered first to Uldric that as of 3/15 there was \$37,512.78 in surplus and to Nancy he said no the rate does not cover the water expenses. He added that they evaluated this last year and it does cover the physical expenses but does not cover depreciation. Colebank said we maintain day to day and made a sewer adjustment in 2012 and none to the water and said he feels we bring in enough to cover and will get through the bond payments which will be paid off later this year.

No further discussion. Hand held card vote. **Article 4 passed as read.**

**Article 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$383,667.00 dollars for the purpose of operating and maintaining the sewer department. Said funds to be offset by the sewer user fees. Any shortfalls in the sewer user fees will be made up from the accumulated surplus in the "regular sewer account". (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made by James Weagle and seconded by Michael Phillips to accept article as read.

Discussion: Uldric Bernard asked how much was in this surplus and Barry Colebank answered that there is \$16,706.25 as of 3/15/2013. Susie Batchelder said that last years budget was \$362,000 and \$325,000 was spent and they are asking for \$383,000 this year and wondered why. Barry Colebank said that the town cannot exceed the budget amount and this number was based on what we appropriate along with 2 projects that have been delayed and have to be done this year. Reggie Charron said that this was all part of the maintenance and operating manual which is state required. Barry Colebank added that this was delayed in past years but it has to be done now.

No further discussion. Hand held card vote. **Article 5 passed as read.**

**Article 6:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,886,135.00 dollars which represents the operating budget of the Town, said sum exclusive of special or individual articles addressed. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made by James Weagle and seconded by Barry Colebank to accept article as read.

Discussion: Tracey Morrill asked when the mill would be providing any income to the town since they were not paying now. Barry Colebank answered that the income from taxes will never go away. Tracey Morrill asked when the mill was gone how much their taxes would go down. Barry Colebank answered that he thinks the land will be worth more with the building gone and that they do pay taxes on the land and was hopeful that someone would buy it. Colebank added that the reassessment is this year and that in the long term he thinks the building gone will be a quicker turn around. Uldric Bernard said that he's guessing that the assessment has gotta go down on it without the building and everyone elses will go up. Susie Batchelder said that this amount was more than last year and people can't pay their taxes now so why is this more. Barry Colebank said he wanted to clarify the back tax number given at the school meeting as being untrue and wanted to clarify that some is water and sewer. Susie said that the town needs to generate revenue. Sharon Benoit asked why the tax impact numbers were no longer included with the articles like they used to be. Barry Colebank answered that the impact was a guess up unanticipated income and that DRA recommended that we drop the tax impact from the town report. Michelle Ladd asked if a plan was put into place for sidewalks and roads. Michael Phillips said that there was a road maintenance fund that we will be voting on later, \$15,000 included in this budget in article 6 for paving and such and added that this budget covered maintaining the dirt roads. Kathy Wiles said the bottom line budget with the school was down and now we increase this budget. She added that things were being taken away from the kids and now we ask for an increase just to maintain the town and it should be flat lined.

No further discussion. Hand held card vote. **Article 6 passed as read.**

**Article 7:** To see if the Town will vote to modify the current elderly exemptions from property tax in the Town of Northumberland based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 74 years of age \$10,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 79 years of age \$15,000; for a person 80 years of age or older \$20,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 consecutive years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$18,400 or, if married a combined net income of less than \$26,400; and own net assets not in excess of \$35,000 excluding the value of the person's actual residence and the land upon which it is located up to 2 acres. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made by James Weagle and seconded by Michael Phillips to accept article as read.

Discussion: Barry Colebank said this exemption is already in place and this is just asking for an adjustment in the income which needed to be reviewed. Colebank said that he went on the state website and pulled numbers off of that to come up with this.

No further discussion. Hand held card vote. **Article 7 passed as read.**

**Article 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for painting and other external stabilization repairs of the Old 1799 Meeting House located on Route 3 south in Northumberland, with \$9000 to come from a grant being applied for and the remaining \$1000 coming from taxation. If the grant is not received, the money will not be raised and appropriated. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made by Michael Phillips and seconded by Barry Colebank to accept article as read.

Discussion: Claire Prosper said that this needs to be a certified painter or there could be a big fine that the town would be responsible for.

No further discussion. Hand held card vote. **Article 8 passed as read.**

**Article 9:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 dollars to be placed in the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund, established 1990. This sum to come from the surplus fund balance from revenues collected by the Groveton Emergency Medical Services during the 2012 fiscal year. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made by James Weagle and seconded by Michael Phillips to pass article as read. No discussion. Hand held card vote. **Article 9 passed as read.**

**Article 10:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 dollars to be placed in the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund, of which Board of Selectmen are agents to expend, established 2001. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made by James Weagle and seconded by Michael Phillips to pass article as read.

Discussion: Amanda King asked how much was in this fund. Barry Colebank said that we bought a new cruiser this year and in the past we put \$15,000 into this fund but the way we rotate now we are just asking for the \$10,000 and on page 59 of the town report it says that there is \$2800 left in this fund. Amanda King asked how many cruisers we have and Barry Colebank answered that there were 2. Uldric Bernard asked how long we have had 2 cruisers and not only 1. Chief Platt answered that he doesn't know an exact date but that it was some time in the 1990's or early 2000's. Harry Lee Rice, Jr. said that it was 2000.

No further discussion. Hand held card vote. **Article 10 passed as read.**

**Article 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$68,000 dollars to be placed in the Municipal Office Building Capital Reserve Fund, of which Board of Selectmen are agents to expend, established 2010, said funds to come from fund balance. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made by Barry Colebank and seconded by James Weagle to table the discussion and vote on Article 11 after the vote is totaled for Article 3. Hand held card vote. **Vote to table Article 11 until after Article 3 ballot votes were totaled passed**

At 2:55 the motion made by James Weagle and seconded by Barry Colebank to accept article as read.

Discussion: Barry Colebank said he'd like to leave this money in there for the next phase and it was money left over from the fire. Uldric Bernard asked for clarification of raising or funding. Barry Colebank answered that this article was to put more money into it.

No further discussion. Hand held card vote. **Article 11 passed as read.**

**Article 12:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$61,000 dollars to be placed in the Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, of which Board of Selectmen are agents to expend, established 1982, said funds to come from fund balance (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made by James Weagle and seconded by Michael Phillips to accept as read.

Discussion: John Robbin asked what we needed the money for because we just got 2 new trucks. Barry Colebank said this was just putting money away so that there was no spike in taxes. Barry added that if folks would turn to page 61 in the town report the report of the fire was there and how the money was expended. Barry said that there was \$61,000 left over to put this money in now and articles 11, 12, 13 were all from this. Sharon Frizzell asked if there was any plan to tear the old town garage building down. Barry Colebank said that there were tests being done now for environmental reasons to be sure it's not full of lead and asbestos. He added that they sought bids but they all came in too high but they are bringing it down.

No further discussion. Hand held card vote. **Article 12 passed as read.**

**Article 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 dollars to be placed in the Water Pump Capital Reserve Fund, established 2011, of which Board of Selectmen are agents to expend, of which \$15,000 of said funds to come from fund balance with the remaining \$5000 to come from taxation. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made by James Weagle and seconded Michael Phillips to accept article as read.

Discussion: Michael Phillips asked Reggie Charron to correct him if he was wrong and went on to say that we have 2 really big pumps and we need to build this up and with the gift of insurance money we would have \$32,000 in this fund to rebuild a pump. He added to replace a pump is about \$30,000. David Hurlbutt said that he has his own water so wanted to know why his tax dollars were paying for something in the water department and felt that he didn't understand the fairness. Michael Phillips said that it took him a long time to absorb why the water fee wasn't set up for this. He added that the general infrastructure is the town as a whole like we do to support the school. David Hurlbutt asked if this money was allocated to maintain the pumps. Tom Grimes said that if anyone's house caught fire we all support the water system for the fire department and this is why all pays for it. David Auger asked if the water pumps could be rebuilt like they used to do in the mill and if we were doing that. James Weagle said if the pump goes down the plan is to get it rebuilt and to have one to switch it out.

No further discussion. Hand held card vote. **Article 13 passed as read.**

**Article 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 dollars to be placed in the Sludge Removal Expendable Trust Fund, established 2011, of which Board of Selectmen are agents to expend, said funds to come from taxation. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made by James Weagle and seconded by Michael Phillips to accept article as read.

Discussion: Susie Batchelder asked what is in the fund now and was it expendable. Debbie Weeks answered that there was \$20,000 in this fund as stated on page 59 of the town report. Michael Phillips said that it cost \$1,000,000 so when it hits it'll be like a tidal wave. Kathy Wiles asked when we were doing this. Reggie Charron said that the profile was going to be done this spring to check the level of sludge. Reggie added that the last time it was done was in 2007 and 2 others have never been done and figures this will be within the next 5 years and it cost between \$750,000 and \$1,000,000.

No further discussion. Hand held card vote. **Article 14 passed as read.**

**Article 15:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 dollars to be placed in the Road Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund, of which Board of Selectmen are agents to expend. (established 2009). (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made by Michael Phillips and seconded by James Weagle to accept article as read.

Discussion: Michael Phillips said that this was the article about paving. He added that in 2012 Wemyss Drive and Craggy Road were done and that we are far short from our goal. He said that \$100,000 was the goal which is \$40,000 more than last year and he strongly considered making this article \$60,000 so not to absorb a tax impact. Phillips added that in some of these roads the water and sewer pipes need to be redone under many of the roads and that they were deciding on the roads that need to be replaced the most. He said that there was progress made last year and he wants to see it continue. Bev McFarland said that she was handicapped and need to use the sidewalks as did all carts, walkers, etc did and they were terrible and asked if any of this money was going to be used on this. Michael Phillips said that \$5000 in the operating budget was for this. Alan Holmes asked how long it had been since the state had repaved Lost Nation Road. Barry Colebank said that it was a long time ago. He added that he went to a DOT meeting just the previous day and Lost Nation Road ranked as 13<sup>th</sup> worst and Brown Road was rated 33<sup>rd</sup> worst in Coos County so it wasn't coming any time soon and added that Lost Nation Road was a state road. Barry said that he didn't know when it was going to be done and asked Brian Schutt to help answer. Brian Schutt said that he was a resident and engineer from Lincoln to the Canadian border. He said that he could feel their pain and it took about \$500,000 to a million dollars to repave and renovate roads. Michael Phillips asked what they do to make the road the top of the list. Brian Schutt said to let log trucks, etc go over them and that Lost Nation was 13<sup>th</sup> worst on the list. Uldric Bernard said that we should get a reduction in taxes. Becky Craggy said that she was working on a sidewalk grant for safer routes and there are travel plans for the sidewalks from DK garage to the high school developing to make that better. She added that she had been working with North Country Council on this. James Tierney said that he was on the same committee and that they were looking at every sidewalk in town and 90% were on the hill and walking distance from school. Sam Oaks asked what roads were done last year. Michael Phillips answered Wemyss Drive, Craggy Road, and Bearce Street.

No further Discussion. Hand held card vote. **Article 15 passed as read.**

**Article 16:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,703 to be placed into the Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, of which Board of Selectmen are agents to

expend, (established 2009), with \$9,703 to come from fund balance (of which \$9,703 is from 2012 steel sale proceeds). No amount to be raised in taxation. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made by James Weagle and seconded by Michael Phillips to accept article as read.

Discussion: Brian Sullivan asked what this money was being spent for. Michael Phillips said this is a fund for improvements to the transfer station not necessarily the equipment but can include equipment. He added that the transfer station committee would start again in late March to work on the next phase of the recycling area. Debbie Weeks said she wanted to clarify that this was for betterment and didn't include equipment. Barry Colebank answered that this article was written exactly how it was when it was set up in 2009. Amanda King asked if the town was still looking into the pay as you throw. Michael Phillips said that the pay as you throw is still an option and that the goal is to recycle more. He added that we already recycle up there and if we went to pay as you throw it could save us 15 to 20 cents off of the tax rate and the option was there if the people would understand it. Harry Lee Rice, Jr. said that he thinks the selectmen should move to amend the article to strike of the word equipment. Barry Colebank stated that it was written exactly like previous years. Barbara Wheelock asked how many years do we pay a fee to ARVAARD. Michael Phillips said that we were one of the towns who is a member of ARVAARD and we paid a fee for a number of years and that this year was the first year the fee was zero. Barbara Wheelock asked if this would continue. Michael Phillips said that he thought so, but that there was no guarantee. Devin Atkinson said that he did recycle but he watched the folks that picks up our garbage dump it all into the back of the truck. Norman Cotter asked if all of the steel went into a dumpster and where was that money going. Michael Phillips said this is the money that is going into this fund. Debbie Weeks said that this money shouldn't be going into an account with the word equipment on it and she doesn't think she can do it. Barry Colebank said this was worded exactly as in past years and we should be all set.

No further discussion. Hand held card vote. **Article 16 passed as read.**

**Article 17:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,403 dollars, to fund the following charitable organizations at the amounts shown:

Groveton Senior Meals	\$14,000
Child Advocacy Center of Coos County	\$ 1000
Northwoods Home Health & Hospice	\$12,759
Northern Human Services	\$ 3,100
Caleb Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers	\$ 2,000
Tri-County Community Action	\$ 4,225
Northern Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce	\$ 1,219
CASA of New Hampshire	\$ 500
American Red Cross – NH Region	\$ 1,000
Lancaster Community Cupboard	\$ 100
Center for New Beginnings	\$ 500

(Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made by James Weagle and seconded by Michael Phillips to accept article as read.

Discussion: Jen Martin asked why Lancaster was asking for \$100 and wondered why that money wasn't going into our own town. James Tierney said that Groveton cupboard has never asked for it. Kathy Wiles said that she works for Tri County CAP and there there are several people from Groveton that go to Lancaster each week to the pantry.

No further discussion. Hand held card vote. **Article 17 passed as read.**

**Article 18:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,970 for the Tri-County CAP, Inc, North Country Elder Program in support of the Seniors Meals Program home delivery(Inserted by petition of voters) (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made by John Normand and seconded by Paul Bouchard to accept article as read.

Discussion: John Normand explained what the program did. He said it provided 2 hot meals and 5 frozen meals a week and also supplied breakfast and milk.

No further discussion. Hand held card vote. **Article 18 passed as read.**

**Article 19:** To see if the Town of Northumberland will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500.00 (Twenty five hundred dollars) to support North Country Transit's Senior Transportation. (Inserted by petition of voters) (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made by Paul Bouchard and seconded by John Normand to pass article as read.

Discussion: John Normand said that this was the white bus that goes back and forth which is available to everyone and is free for Senior Citizens. Paul Bouchard said that he was a part time driver and that there is a huge increase in the number of trips from Groveton to Lancaster each week. Bev McFarland said that she need to go to Hanover and asked how she would get transportation. Paul Bouchard told her to call the office and that there were volunteers who might do that for her.

No further discussion. Hand held card vote. **Article 19 passed as read.**

**Article 20:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,500 dollars for the purpose of supporting the Groveton Chem-Free Graduation Fund. These funds to be used to promote alcohol and drug free youth by sponsoring a chemical-free graduation celebration. (Inserted by petition of voters) (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made by James Weagle and seconded by Paul Bouchard to pass article as read.

Discussion: Sharon Frizzell said that she thinks the party is a good thing but that the cash and prizes were not necessary. Devin Atkinson said that the prizes were an incentive to get the kids to go and that we have to offer something. He added that the prizes were dependent on what was raised and that it was very tough to get money. He added that he felt this would save lives and it works.

No further discussion. Hand held card vote. **Article 20 passed as read.**

**Article 21:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 dollars for the Groveton Cal Ripken Baseball program, to be used to cover accident and liability insurance, tournaments and registration fees. (Inserted by petition of voters) (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made by Kari Hickey and seconded by Amber Brown to accept article as read. No discussion. Hand held card vote. **Article 21 passed as read.**

**Article 22:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 dollars for the Groveton Community Christmas Organization. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made by James Weagle and seconded by Paul Bouchard to accept article as read.

Discussion: Susie Batchelder asked if someone could explain how much was lost for decorations when the old town garage burned. Joanne Paradis said that everything was lost and that PSNH would not allow anything electrical to be put on the poles and that's why the banners were put up. She added that the bridge alone was \$800 the town was \$5000 and the memorial tree was \$50. She added that the angels in the park were \$500 and the high school and friends helped her put up the nativity scene at the church. Joanne said that the big Christmas tree in town was \$4500 for the LED lights. She added that the fire department has been awesome helping out. She added that she is going to buy a star for the tree this year and that there was about \$15,000 left for that and he also salvaged the wooden snowmen and will redo them at her house. Jen Martin asked about the center of town and Joanne told her that DOT said no more.

No further discussion. Hand held card vote. **Article 22 passed as read.**

**Article 23:** To discontinue the right-of-way of Old Route 3 over Tax Map 227, Lot 26. (Inserted by petition of voters)

Motion made by Brian Schutt and seconded by Kelly Schutt to accept article as read.

Discussion: Brian Schutt said that this was the old Potter Farm across from the Meeting House that is being referenced and he provided the background of the warrant. He said that reconstruction was in 1954 of Rt 3 and was completed in 1956. He added that there was no physical evidence of the old road left and it became classified as a class V road. The State gave it to the town in 1956. Barry Colebank asked if this right of way extended beyond this map and lot. Brian Schutt said that it did, but he was only taking care of this lot for his in-laws. Barry Colebank said he had this warrant reviewed by an attorney and there was an issue with this article as the status was unclear and that the suggestion was to modify the warrant to proceed. Brian Schutt said that he was only looking to clear this specific parcel. Jennifer Martin asked if Brian had to get permission from the town now. Brian Schutt said that it's just a right of way and it's really all field and needed to stay a field. Susie Batchelder asked why we were addressing this at this meeting and not with a legal forum and stated that when she did this she had to do it with an attorney and DOT. Brian Schutt said that it was turned over to the town, DOT turned it over to the town so he needed to go to the town. Barry Colebank made a motion to amend article 23 and Paula Colebank seconded it. Nancy Marshall spoke up and said that the town needed more information before they voted on an amendment. Norman Cotter said that he went along with Brian Schutt and what he was saying. Paul Bouchard made a motion to be tabled until all involved was taken care of and Harry Lee Rice, Jr. seconded it. Harry Lee Rice, Jr. said that he was not apposed to this article but wanted to be sure the water and sewer right of way was taken care of. Susie Batchelder said that she wasn't sure that there were water and sewer lines under the field but the town should have done this in 1954. Barry Colebank said tabling this would only delay it so to vote it down so it didn't have to go to town meeting next year and bring it up later and took his motion away to amend for now.

Motion made by Paul Bouchard and seconded by Harry Lee Rice Jr to table this article. Hand held card vote. **Article tabled.**

At 3:30 Barry Colebank made a motion to reconsider article 23 and seconded by Harry Lee Rice Jr. (see notes in Article 29)

**Amendment to Article 23:** To authorize the selectmen to discontinue the right of way of old Route 3 over Tax map 227, Lot 26 and adjoining lots which was given to the town by the State of NH in 1956.

Hand held vote. Amendment passed.

Discussion on amended article 23: Roger Chauvette asked if there would be a money impact and Keith Young answered no money impact. Devin Atkinson asked Moderator Young to read the article again. Sharon Frizzell said she would feel more comfortable if this waited a year. Kelly Schutt said that she wants this to be giving the selectmen the power to start the process. David Auger said that he had confidence that the selectmen could handle the undertaking of this task.

No further discussion. Hand held card vote. **Amended Article 23 passed.**

**Article 24:** To see if the Town will vote to establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95-h for the purpose of the Northumberland Fall Fest. All revenues received for the Northumberland Fall Fest will be deposited into the fund, and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the town general fund unreserved fund balance. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all money in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the Northumberland Fall Fest Committee and/or selectmen, and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created. (Inserted by petition of voters)

Motion by Rebecca Craggy and seconded by Elaine Gray to pass article as read.

Discussion: James Weagle said that we cannot use the tax exempt status so this needed to be passed over.

No further discussion. Motion made by Sharon Frizzell and seconded by Barbara Weagle to pass over this article. Hand held card vote. **Article 24 passed over.**

**Article 25:** To see if the Town will vote to establish as town forest under RSA 31:110 the following tract of land known as the Watershed: being a tract of land lying on the easterly side of Lost Nation Road of 521 Acres more or less: tax map number Map 232, Lot 9, and to authorize the conservation commission to manage the town forest under the provision of RSA 31:112, II and to authorize the placement of any proceeds that may accrue from this forest management in the town's Forest Maintenance Fund, which shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year as provided by RSA 31:113.

Motion made by Ed Mellett and seconded by John Normand to accept article as read.

Discussion: Sharon Frizzell asked if there was any difference to the way it is now. Ed Mellett answered that he was chairman of the conservation committee and a few years ago made Bag Hill this status and wants to change this status too.

No further discussion. Hand held card vote. **Article 25 passed as read.**

**Article 26:** To see if the Town will vote to have any proceeds that may be received from the management of the Bag Hill Town Forest deposited in the town's Forest Maintenance Fund as provided by RSA 31:113.

Motion made by Ed Mellett and seconded by John Normand to accept article as read.

Susie Batchelder asked if we had received any proceeds yet and if so how much. Ed Mellett said \$30,000.

No further discussion. Hand held card vote. **Article 26 passed as read.**

**Article 27:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 for the Conservation Fund, with said funds coming from the town's Forest Maintenance Fund. This is the amount of revenue received from the 2013 Bag Hill timber sale. (Recommended by Selectmen 3-0)

Motion made by James Weagle and seconded by Michael Phillips to accept article as read.

**Ed Mellett made a motion and Barry Colebank seconded to amend Article 27 to: \$30,213.58 (the exact amount).** Hand held vote. Amendment passed. No further discussion. Hand held card vote. **Amended Article 27 passed.**

**Article 28:** To see if the town will authorize the conservation commission to expend conservation fund monies to "qualified organizations" (e.g. land trust) according with RSA 36-A:4-a I(b)

Motion by John Normand and seconded by Barry Colebank to accept article as read.

Discussion: James Tierney asked why we were doing this. Ed Mellett answered that in order to do this we need a one time vote at town meeting to spend. Tracey Morrill asked how much money they would spend. Ed Mellett said that it depended on how much they asked for. Tracey Morrill asked if the whole entire fund could be depleted and Ed Mellett answered yes. Sharon Frizzell asked if the society that apposed Northern Pass could go to them and Ed Mellett answered yes. Sharon Frizzell said that she wasn't comfortable with passing this. Barry Colebank said that the town attorney looked at this and there is a RSA that allows for it but it needs a public hearing. David Auger asked if there were any political boundary restrictions. Ed Mellett answered not outside of town that it would have to pass a different article other than this. James Tierney said that if this passes we can spend money for someone else's benefit and the town would no longer own it. Ed Mellett said that it was to protect the land along the Connecticut and Ammonoosuc River. Susie Batchelder said that when she went through this and gave 10 acres to the town she had to come up with her own finances.

No further discussion. Hand held card vote. **Article 28 failed.**

**Article 29:** To see if the Town will vote to instruct the Selectmen to appoint all other officers as required by law.

Motion made by Ed Mellett and seconded by Barry Colebank to accept article as read. No discussion. Hand held card vote. **Article 29 passed as read.**

The motion was made at this time by Barry Colebank and seconded by Harry Lee Rice Jr to reconsider Article 23 (see notes Article 23)

**Article 30:** To hear reports of agents, auditors, committees or other officers heretofore chosen and pass any vote relating thereto.

Motion made by Barry Colebank and seconded by Michael Phillips to accept article as read. No discussion. Hand held card vote. **Article 30 passed as read.**

Uldric Bernard thanked Moderator Keith Young for being a great Moderator as everyone applauded.

**Article 31:** To transact any other business that may be legally brought before said meeting.

Motion by Barry Colebank and seconded by Michael Phillips to pass article as read. James Weagle dedicated our Town Report to the local responders and pointed out the pictures taken by Stephanie Dupuis. Hand held card vote. **Article 31 passed as read.**

**Motion made to adjourn by Barry Colebank and seconded by Michael Phillips. Hand held card vote. Town Meeting adjourned at 3:45 on 3/16/2013 by Moderator Keith Young.**

\*Articles 1 – 2 were printed on official ballot.

**Election Day ballots for School 268+40 Absentee=308**

**Moderator:**

Barry Colebank 192

Kent W. Holden 103

**Clerk:**

Kathy Wiles 276

**Treasurer:**

Melody Barney 293

**Board of Education: (Two three-year term)**

Sally Pelletier 199

Saran M Holden 163

Ronald G. Caron 160

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda “Min” Marshall Kennett

Town Clerk

Town of Northumberland