



Town of
Northumberland
Office of Selectmen
19 Main St
Groveton NH 03582
Phone (603) 636-1450
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www.northumberlandnh.org

**Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes - Draft**

Date: Monday, May 15, 2023

Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Board members present: Jim Tierney, Acting Chairman, Jim Weagle, Bill Caron – via phone
Others present: Tammy Letson, Pete Marshall, Norm Cotter, Al Rossetto, Sean Durkin, Bill Daisey, Brian Jenkins, Nancy Merrow, Jeremy Monahan, Melinda Kennett, Judy Fox, Kathy Frechette, Amanda Anderson, Ryan Shannon, Krystal Meehan, Andre Brasseur, Mike Humphrey, Rebecca St. Cyr-Minute Taker

1. Chairman opens the meeting: J. Tierney opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

2. Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion to accept the 05/01/23 minutes by: J. Weagle
2nd by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0

3. Department Head Business: Ambulance and Police Dept.

Ambulance – J. Tierney read the EMS Chiefs Report

1. 2023 as of this printing, we have had 151 calls to date (Print out included).
2. 2022 at this time we were at 178 calls (Print out included).
3. Comstar collected to date \$60,638.82. (Print out included).
4. A3 has recently been serviced for brake issues and will be in que for new tires this year. Requests for prices have been submitted to agencies and we are awaiting a response.
5. The State is offering another free EMR course, information is on the State of New Hampshire Bureau of EMS website. Life Safety Institute is also holding an EMT class in Colebrook, it is \$1500.00 for the class. We have one EMR enrolled in this class to upgrade her license to a higher level. If you would like help acquiring any information for these classes, feel free to stop by our office for assistance.
6. Groveton Ambulance, Groveton Fire and Northumberland PD joined with a Senior at Groveton High School to help her film a project she was working on regarding impaired driving. The short film can be viewed at the following website, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q43VW5TmSsQ>. Please stop by and leave Brookelyn a comment.



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T. Letson said it's on YouTube and if someone wants the link, they can stop by the Town Office. M. Kennett and Liz Ball have also shared it on Facebook and the Town's website.

7. May 21st to May 27th is National EMS Week. This year's theme is EMS: Where Emergency Care Begins. Please take a moment and thank those that commit themselves to helping others.

P. Marshall commented re: tires for the ambulance. When he was at the college they got all the trucks tires through the State with a discount. J. Weagle said they will compare the prices. J. Tierney said if someone wants to give the Town a good deal, we will accept that over the State.

Police:

Officer B. Daisey was present for the report.

Since the last meeting we have responded to 287 calls for service; had 95 MV stops, 4 arrests, 4 crashes and 14 new investigations. Business as usual.

A. Anderson asked if there has been problems with the phone lines at the PD. She had tried to call and was getting a Verizon message. She emailed Pete about it. This was on May 5th. B. Daisey said the phones are working ok now; if there was an issue it must have been resolved.

P. Marshall congratulated Rick Ball for a very professional job at Riverside Speedway last Saturday. A. Anderson seconded that. Welcome back Rick!

4. Requested Agenda Matters:

- a. Parking on Main St. and in front of businesses – Ryan Shannon said it's public parking in front of the businesses, but he wants to be sure they are getting adequate parking for their customers. J. Tierney said there is parking out here where the old Eagle Hotel was. To reserve spaces in front of a particular business; there are also apartment dwellers above them that need parking. Lynn's Salon has approx. 25 ft and the public parking area between her and the Sign-Post. There is also parking behind Ryan's building. R. Shannon explained there is only one way in and out and it's a right of way between him and Jerry Desautels, so he would say no. When he gets his business open, he will need parking too. Looking at other towns; can we work with the businesses in Town? J. Tierney said we can look at that and suggested that he speak with Chief Pelletier about the parking ordinance. Then we can talk about it at another meeting. B. Daisey said he spoke with the Chief today about his views. 1) There is the municipal parking across the street and 2) it would be impossible to enforce if it's granted and if someone parked in a NCFR parking space they would need to spend time trying to track them down. The Chief indicated that he wouldn't be inclined to grant it at this time.



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- R. Shannon said the snow is piled up in the winter; there would need to be a different place to put it. J. Tierney said the snow would still be piled there.
- J. Monahan asked if there are any time limits for parking on Main St. or State St.
- K. Frechette mentioned it's limited near the school. Jerry asked if that could be done. J. Tierney said it could be looked at and further discussed how they used to mark a tire, which can no longer be done per the courts. B. Daisey said it was determined to be illegal. Jim said we can't do it here. J. Monahan asked if parking meters are an option. J. Weagle said part of the businesses are on the State Rd which we would need get permission for. We could do it on our streets.
- A. Anderson said she has a solution; other surrounding Towns have business parking in certain areas from 7:00 am – 7:00 pm. They are more inclined to enforce it in the winter. When there are people that live there, they can use the municipal parking. If Amanda is going by NCFR and it's packed out front she doesn't stop. She lived near the Thrift Store, and it was an issue for her. She feels that we should put up signs on 2-3 spaces; and feels people would then be inclined not to park there. It's been an issue for years. R. Shannon reiterated that it's the only restaurant left in Town. Do we want to leave that behind? We've lost the mill and others. Businesses will bring down the taxes.
- b. Megan Gibbs – North Country Family Restaurant – M. Gibbs said that tenants next door think they can all park in front of the restaurant. She has elderly that come in and she feels they should be able to park in front instead of across the street. J. Tierney asked B. Daisey to investigate the possibility of getting a handicapped space and marking some other spaces. Megan feels she should have 4-5 parking spaces dedicated to her business: in the winter, the tenants park across the street. The landlords live in California, and they don't care. K. Frechette had an idea about putting out a sign to indicate if they are full or not. Megan said there isn't time for that when there are people waiting.
- S. Durkin commented this goes back to building issues and requirements for apartment buildings to have parking spaces. To solve for the future any new buildings need to be required to have a certain # of parking spaces. Since it is a business maybe there should be some dedicated spaces in front. J. Tierney said they will talk to the landlord and/or tenants. Further discussed markings that are on the street for rights-of-way, etc.
- R. Shannon said he feels it's something that needs to be brought up. He asked if there is a buy-out for parking spaces in front of businesses? J. Tierney said to bring any ideas to the PD.
- T. Letson commented it's easy to enforce the winter parking ban as no one can be on the streets; If we put up a sign for business only, we don't know why people are parked there. J. Tierney said we could do the same as over near the



Sign Post. The residents in the apartments near there have a permit to park in the municipal parking area.

P. Marshall said maybe they could dump the snow down in the fields instead of the in the parking lot. J. Weagle said they do move it over there eventually.

J. Fox is the crossing guard and noticed that most of the tenants that are parked near the restaurant seem to leave by 8:00 am.

5. Town Administrator Business:

- a. Dedication of Snack Shack – the Board and Rec Committee approved by an email poll the dedication of the Snack Shack to Ben and Kari Hickey. The field was previously dedicated/named as Griffin D. Kenison Field.
- b. Discussion of water rates – T. Letson was reached by USDA asking if they could close the study; there are still some issues in the report.

Motion to allow the USDA to close the Water Study Report by: J. Weagle
2nd by: B. Caron; All in Favor 3-0

J. Tierney reviewed the rates agreed on – Demand Water Rate per year: Residential \$180; Commercial \$400.; Industrial \$500. This amount is for each Water and Sewer. Water rate volume will go from \$6.00 to \$8.00/thousand gallons. Until the hill project is done and we get the loan payment; then we will need to adjust. Fire Lines – Both commercial and industrial - \$3,000 per year.

The water and sewer demand fee per quarter will be \$45.00 for each. It's \$180.00 per year for Water and \$180.00 per year for Sewer.

J. Weagle said this will help us cover what we are spending, it doesn't include the hill project. T. Letson said this will give us what we're spending plus some reserves, which is mandatory when we get the USDA funding. It's a little bit of a cushion to start building up for the next project.

T. Letson said we will be closer to the State averages with what we are doing with the rates. M. Kennett said sometimes other municipalities have the flat rate higher or the usage is lower, it all averages out. J. Tierney said one thing in the report, is the cost of water per gallon in other Towns: Pittsburg - .004; Colebrook -.008; Stewartstown - .006; Lancaster - .007. With the faulty math – we were at .0009, which isn't correct. He thinks the others are probably correct. T. Letson said she thinks the base rate in Lancaster is \$90.00 per quarter plus the usage on top of that. She thinks that allows a small amount of usage. Colebrook does that as well.

A. Anderson asked if there are any other grants that we could look at to lower the water rates? T. Letson said it's a catch 22 with grants on water; if the



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granting agent sees that our rates are too low; what their reply to that is – you don't have a lot of costs so you can afford a larger loan payment. The package we got from the USDA is 25% grant and 75% loan, which comes from our rates being too low. Because we are going up on the rates, it should help us with the next project when applying for grants.

J. Monahan commented that with the taxes, water and sewer going up is anything being done to relieve some of the burden to the taxpayers. A. Anderson commented that she can barely afford her house. J. Tierney said the majority of the taxpayers at Town Meeting voted it in. They could have stopped the increases but didn't. J. Weagle said the Board has no control we have to do what we can. We are looking into things; we are looking for grants to help as well. R. Shannon said we need to look for grants, as a Planning Board member we are looking for businesses to come in. He feels more businesses will offset the taxes. J. Tierney said the type of businesses that come in to help with the taxes are those on the mill property – industrial. Ryan asked how much are the taxes that Riverside Speedway or MOM's pay? J. Tierney said no matter how much business they have, it doesn't change the taxes to the Town. Ryan said it changes the dynamics; it brings the economy up around it. He agrees we need industrial but also need to respect the mom-and-pop shops. A. Anderson said she was talking with someone about the tax rates, etc. This is not the community that she grew up in, she moved here for her kids to grow up here. It's not a community anymore, people are fighting. We need to support the little mom and pop shops.

R. Shannon said the Humphrey's have done so much for the track; it's been here 59 years. Megan Gibbs – NCFR is listed as one of the 10 "Hidden Gems" in the State. Back in the 50's he thinks Groveton had the name of Hidden Gem above the notch.

J. Tierney said we will see what we can come up with to support the businesses.

Motion to approve the W/S rates going up on the schedule as presented above by: J. Weagle; 2nd by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0

- c. St. Paul's note of thanks – T. Letson said St. Paul's isn't the first one that has sent in a thank you. This is the first one that's hit her desk, Becky Craggy apologized for not thinking to send them to the meetings to document in the minutes. J. Weagle said the Board always saw them, but we didn't bring to the meetings.

J. Tierney read the thank you received from St. Paul's in regard to the Weekend Backpack Program.

- d. Other –

- T. Letson received a call from Jamie Dow at DRA, the vote at Town Meeting to change the Veterans discount to \$350.00/year has been blessed by their legal counsel. We are good with the Warrant Article as voted on.



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- T. Letson received an email from DES, our final application with DES has been approved and we are receiving just shy of \$2.5 million in grants for the "Hill" project. Within that, \$1.5 million is for last out (contingency). It is ARPA and Drinking Water, Ground Water Trust Fund money from DES. The Board needs to vote to accept the money and appoint a person to sign all the paperwork.

Motion to approve the grant and assign the Town Administrator to sign all documents by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0

- K. Frechette asked when the Veterans discount will go into effect. It will be \$350 for the year. \$50 of it will be applied on the first issue bills and \$300 on the second issue.
- Pete Marshall said there is an event scheduled at Carter Hall by the school. Parking will be an issue. There is parking behind the church, maybe some space across from the church is the Precinct's; if there is space people can park there; there is Municipal parking at the Post office. It's open to the veterans and their families.

J. Weagle suggested making a sign for no parking in front of the church. Amanda suggested having the school staff park over by the Town Office / Meeting area for the day. T. Letson will reach out to Ronna to see if they will ask staff.

- Anderson - FYI NCFR is listed as #3 on the list of Hidden Gems in the State.
- Anderson said the lights that go off before the train comes through. They don't seem to be working consistently. J. Weagle will address with the railroad.

6. Other Business:

7. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

- a. Non-Resident Property Owner Transfer Station Permit Application (3)-
Wicks, Jonathan – 30 Main St., Renewal
Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0

Tate, Stephen – 30 Main St., Renewal
Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0

Krohn, Diane – 28 Longview Dr., Renewal
Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0

- b. Solar Energy Systems Exemption Application – Map 214, Lot 006 – 14 Tetu Rd,
Groveton –
Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0

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Al Rossetto said he looked at the system and had an electrician sign off on it. Anthony had some cosmetic issues with it; Al will meet with the installers. It's not operational yet.

- c. Intent to Cut – Map 206, Lot 001 – Town of Northumberland; 40 acres; start date June 1; for the Conservation Commission. R. Shannon asked if we shop around for loggers; that would be up to the Conservation Commission. J. Tierney said it's approx. 40 acres and reviewed what will be cut. Richard Dupuis is the logger. J. Weagle said we don't have any say on this. A. Anderson commented that Dupuis might have a contract.

Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0

- d. Yield Tax Warrant – Map 206, Lot 001 –

Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0

- e. Sign Permit Application – Rotobec – 150 Brown Rd; T. Letson said they want to do something similar in concept to what MMG did. It would be at the South entrance to Brown Rd. Tammy said it's near the State highway and scenic byway. They need to reach out to the State and suggested approving this contingent on the State approving it in writing that it's ok to put where they want it.

Motion to approve sign permit pending an approval in writing from the State of NH by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0

It won't be signed until the approval is received.

R. Shannon asked about NSA changing their name. T. Letson explained they didn't change ownership; they took the name of their parent company Momentum Manufacturing Group. Shannon asked if they changed it with the State, Tammy said that would be a question for them. Shannon asked if that means they get 3 years on the tax credit. Tammy said NSA / MMG does not own the building. The owner can't get the tax credit again for a business name change. The owner of the building hasn't changed. J. Tierney said it's a one-time deal. Example: If Shannon wanted to sell his restaurant building to someone and he's used up his 3 years; J. Tierney explained if he sold his building now, whatever improvements had been made – a new assessment would be done. If Mr. Humphrey buys it and makes further improvements that gets stepped in on a 3-year credit if they apply for it. It's a one-time per property, per improvement.

- f. Junk Yard License Renewal – Marshall, Harold & Nancy – Map 240, Lot 007

Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0

- g. Abatement - \$606.98 – Map 246, Lot 002 – Degennaro – abatement granted; previous assessed value - \$90,100 revised to \$72,300.

Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0



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- h. Warrant Property Taxes – First issue - \$2,275,078.00 –
Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0

K. Frechette asked if we know what the rate is? It doesn't change until the fall. Unless the assessed value has changed due to a pickup, it should be half of the sum the previous two bills.

- i. Release of Lien – This is a welfare lien –
Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0

8. Public Comment:

- a. K Frechette – Kudos to the Town for getting the Veterans banners up and fixing the flags near the monuments. Asked about the parade permit on Route 3 to stop traffic. M. Kennett has the applications in the office, or you can get them online.

Motion to approve a Parade Permit if it comes through by: J. Weagle
2nd by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0

- b. N. Cotter asked about a new police officer, can we be introduced. Officer Brian Jenkins was present and introduced himself. He's been here approx. 7 months.

9. Announcements:

- a. Saturday, May 20th at 8 AM at Bag Hill there will be a memorial tree planting by Conservation Commission in Lawrence Benoit's memory.
- b. AVRRDD Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day – Saturday, June 10, 2023 - 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM – AVRRDD Transfer Station – 100 West Milan Rd. Route 110, Berlin, NH

10. Next Board Meeting Date: June 5th, 2023 – 6 PM

11. Non-Public Session: (Pursuant to RSA'S 91-A:3, II (a)(c):

Motion to go into Non-Public Session by: J. Weagle

2nd by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0

Roll Call: J. Weagle – Yes; J. Tierney – Yes; B. Caron - Yes

Into Non-Pub at 7:23 pm

Into Regular Session at 7:40 pm.

Motion to "Seal" the minutes of Non-Public Section c indefinitely by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0

Roll Call: J. Tierney – Yes; J. Weagle – Yes; B. Caron – Yes

No further business was discussed.



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12. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Minutes approved by Northumberland Select Board Members on _____

X _____
William Caron
Northumberland Select Board Chair

X _____
Jim Tierney
Northumberland Select Board Member

X _____
Jim Weagle
Northumberland Select Board Member