

# Town of Northumberland State of New Hampshire

## Town Meeting Minutes:

To the inhabitants of the Town of Northumberland in the County of Coos in the State of New Hampshire qualified to vote in Town affairs: You are hereby notified that the Annual Town Meeting will be held as follows:

Date: Saturday, March 14, 2020

Time: 10:00 am

Location: 65 State Street~ Groveton High School Ryan Auditorium

Details: Ballot Vote on Articles 1-4 held Tuesday, March 10, 2020 ~ 11:00 am to 7:00 pm at the Northumberland Selectmen's Meeting Room ~ 10 Station Square

The Annual Town Election for the Town of Northumberland and the Northumberland School District was declared opened at 11:00 am, Tuesday, March 10, 2020 to act upon the subjects hereinafter mentioned. The polls were declared opened for the reception of ballots. Moderator Young announced that the absentee ballots would be processed by the election officials at 1:00 pm. At 7:00 pm Moderator Young announced that the polls were closed and the counting process began. 173 ballots were cast. (25 absentee, 148 Election Day)

### **School Ballot Results:**

Moderator: Keith Young (Write in)

Clerk: Kathy Wiles 165

Treasurer: Melody Barney 169

Board of Education: Tina Lunderville 146 and James Weagle 118

The business meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM on March 14, 2020 by Moderator Keith Young at the Groveton High School gymnasium. Moderator Young and the Boy Scouts of America led the attendees in honoring our nation's colors with the Pledge of Allegiance. Moderator Young went over the common sense guidelines of his meeting. There were 93 registered voters in attendance with approximately 125 citizens in total attendance.

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#### Article 01 Election of Officers

To choose by ballot the following Town Officers for the ensuing three years: one Selectman, Town Clerk & Tax Collector, Town Treasurer, Library Trustee, Trustee of Trust Funds and Cemetery Trustee.

#### Results:

Selectman: Chris Wheelock 153

Town Clerk & Tax Collector:

Melinda "Min" Marshall Kennett 167

Town Treasurer: Melody Barney 169

Library Trustee: Nancy Merrow 163

Trustee of Trust Funds:

Gail Rossetto (Write-in)

Cemetery Trustee: Terri Charron 158

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#### Article 02 Election of Moderator

To choose by ballot the following Town Officer for the ensuing two years: one Moderator.

Results:  
Moderator: Keith Young 171

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Article 03 Election of Supervisor of the Checklist

To choose by ballot the following Town Officer for the ensuing six years: one Supervisor of the Checklist.

Results:  
Supervisors of the Checklist:  
Nicole McMann 169

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Article 04 Zoning Amendment

Are you in favor of adopting an amendment to the Town Zoning Ordinance Article III Section 3.5, as proposed by the Northumberland Planning Board, to move single family dwellings and remote camps from the requirement of a special exception from the Zoning Board to be permitted uses while meeting the area requirements of the residential low density zone (thereby only requiring a building permit)?

Results:  
Yes: 132  
No: 20  
Skip: 21

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Article 05 Operating and maintaining water department

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$393,912 dollars for the purpose of operating and maintaining the water department. Said funds to be offset by the water user fees. Any shortfall in the water user fees will be made up from the accumulated surplus in the "regular water account". (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Motion: James Weagle  
Second: Michael Phillips  
Hand held card vote. Article 5 passed as read.

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Article 06 Operating and maintaining sewer department

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$352,220 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 Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Motion: Michael Phillips  
Second: James Weagle  
Hand held card vote. Article 6 passed as read.

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Article 07      Operating Budget-Town

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,530,263 dollars for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Motion: Michael Phillips  
Second: Chris Wheelock  
Hand held card vote. Article 7 passed as read.

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Article 08      Appropriate to CRF

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$135,000 dollars to be placed in the following Capital Reserve Funds at the amounts shown:  
Police Cruiser CRF, established 2001  
\$10,000  
Road Maintenance CRF, established 2009  
\$100,000  
Municipal Buildings CRF, established 2010  
\$10,000  
Sludge Removal ETF, established 2011  
\$15,000  
(Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Motion: James Weagle  
Second: Michael Phillips  
Hand held card vote. Article 8 passed as read.

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Article 09      Appropriate to Transfer Station Equipment CRF

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,296 dollars to be placed in the Transfer Station Equipment

Capital Reserve Fund, with said funds to come from unassigned fund balance (this represents the 2019 scrap metal sales).(Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Motion: James Weagle  
Second: Chris Wheelock  
Hand held card vote. Article 9 passed as read.

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Article 10 Charitable Organization

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$47,020 dollars, to fund the following charitable organizations at the amounts shown:

North Country Home Health & Hospice Agency  
\$12,759  
Northern Human Services \$  
3,100  
Tri-County Community Action(Energy Services)  
\$ 4,225  
Senior Meals of Coos County-Meals On Wheels  
\$ 1,970  
Tri-County Transit \$  
2,500  
American Red Cross NH & VT Region  
\$ 2,200  
Center for New Beginnings \$  
500  
Northern Gateway Regional Chamber of  
Commerce \$ 1,219  
Caleb Caregivers \$  
2,000  
Coos ServiceLink Resource Center  
\$ 2,600  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church "Backpack" Program  
\$ 825  
Project Homebound \$  
1,000  
CASA \$  
500  
Androscoggin Valley Home Care Services\*  
\$10,000  
NH North Country Veterans, Inc.\*  
\$ 500  
Tri-County Cap Homeless Intervention  
Program\* \$ 1,122  
(Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Motion: Michael Phillips  
Second: Chris Wheelock  
Hand held card vote. Article 10 passed as read.

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Article 11      Appropriate to Groveton Senior Fellowship

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 dollars for the purpose of supporting the Groveton Senior Fellowship program for 2020.  
(Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Motion: Chris Wheelock  
Second: Michael Phillips  
Hand held card vote. Article 11 passed as read.

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Article 12      Construction of Salt Shed

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$140,000 dollars for the purpose of constructing a salt shed. Funds to come from unassigned fund balance, no amount to come from taxation. (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Motion: Chris Wheelock  
Second: Michael Phillips  
Hand held card vote. Article 12 passed as read.

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Article 13      Appropriate to Ambulance CRF

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 dollars to be placed in the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund, established in 1990. This sum is to come from unassigned fund balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Motion: James Weagle  
Second: Chris Wheelock  
Hand held card vote. Article 13 passed as read.

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Article 14      Establish Ambulance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to establish an Ambulance Equipment Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of purchase and maintenance of equipment for the Town ambulances and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,800 to be placed in this fund, amount to come from unassigned fund

balance. No amount to come from taxation.  
Further, to name the Board of Selectmen as  
agents to expend from said fund.  
(Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-0)

Motion: Chris Wheelock  
Second: James Weagle  
Hand held card vote. Article 14 passed as read.

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Article 15      Radio Grant

To see if the town will vote to raise and  
appropriate the sum \$79,200 dollars for the  
purpose of a grant application for the purchase  
of a municipal radio communication system,  
with \$30,000 dollars from a USDA grant and  
\$49,200 dollars as a match from the Town. This  
appropriation is contingent on receipt of said  
grant. (Recommended by Board of Selectmen 3-  
0)

Motion: James Weagle  
Second: Michael Phillips  
Hand held card vote. Article 15 passed as read.

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Article 16      Surveying of land

To see if the Town will vote to raise and  
appropriate the sum of \$2,500 dollars for the  
purpose of paying for the surveying of the north  
line of tax map 232, lot 6. Said funds to come  
from the town Forestry Fund. This special  
warrant article will be a non-lapsing  
appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not  
lapse until expiration of the two year contract  
with the surveyor or three years from Town  
Meeting whichever comes first. No funds to be  
raised by taxation. (Recommended by Board of  
Selectmen 3-0)

Motion: Michael Phillips  
Second: James Weagle  
Hand held card vote. Article 16 passed as read.

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Article 17      Re-open Page Hill ATV Trail

To see if the Town will vote to approve the re-  
opening of Page Hill for the purpose of ATV use  
during the months of May through November.  
(Inserted by petition of voters)

Motion: Richard Cotter  
Second: Robert Barry  
Richard Cotter made a motion to vote by secret ballot. Michael Gagnon seconds it. Richard Cotter presented a hand written request for a secret ballot with 5 voter signatures on it. Ballot vote. Results: YES 33, NO 50, 10 DNV. Article 17 as written as an advisory was defeated.

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Article 18      Selectmen to appoint all other officers  
  
To see if the Town will vote to instruct the Selectmen to appoint all other officers as required by law.

Motion: James Weagle  
Second: Michael Phillips  
Hand held card vote. Article 18 passed as read.

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Article 19      Hear reports  
  
To hear reports of agents, auditors, committees or other officers heretofore chosen and pass any vote relating thereto.

Motion: James Weagle  
Second: Michael Phillips  
Hand held card vote. Article 19 passed as read.

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Article 20      Transact any other business  
  
To transact any other business that may be legally brought before said meeting.

Motion: James Weagle  
Second: Chris Wheelock  
Hand held card vote. Article 20 passed at read.

Motion to adjourn: John Normand  
Second: Melinda Kennett  
Hand held card vote.  
The business meeting was adjourned at 10:52 AM by Moderator Keith Young on March 14, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Kennett  
NH Certified Town Clerk & Tax Collector  
Town of Northumberland

