



<b>Fire Chief for one year</b>	
<b>Brian Moser</b>	<b>183</b>
<b>Brian Moser declared elected</b>	
<b>Trustee of the Trust Funds for three years</b>	
<b>Laura Gilbert</b>	<b>178</b>
<b>Laura Gilbert declared elected</b>	
<b>Planning Board for three years (two positions)</b>	
<b>Nan Schwartz</b>	<b>134</b>
<b>James Crandall</b>	<b>122</b>
<b>Dennis Kelly</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Nan Schwartz declared elected</b>	
<b>James Crandall declared elected</b>	
<b>Supervisor of the Checklist for six years</b>	
<b>Mary Krygeris</b>	<b>179</b>
<b>Mary Krygeris declared elected</b>	
<b>Library Trustee for three years</b>	
<b>Lynn Hendrickson</b>	<b>179</b>
<b>Lynn Hendrickson declared elected</b>	

Write-in candidates receiving fewer than five (5) votes are not recorded here. Of the registered voters in Washington 194 cast their votes in this town election.

ARTICLE 2. Guy Eaton moved to hear reports of any and all officers, committees and agents of the Town and take any action in relation thereto. Larry Gaskell seconded the motion. The following comments/corrections in the Town Report were presented:

<b>Page:</b>	<b>Should be:</b>	<b>As printed:</b>
6	New state representative elected 1/10 Steve Cunningham 351 Old Springfield Rd Sunapee, NH 03782	Anthony Maiola PO Box 553 Newport, NH 03733 (603) 863-3307
8	Welfare assistance/food pantry phone -0262 fax -0261	Welfare Assistance -3521
8	Supervisors of Checklist phone -3116	-3422
8	Where to get Cemetery lot: Town Hall	omitted
22	Article 29, Twin Bridge Rd	Twin Bridges Rd
84	Deputy Wardens and Issuing Agents include Robert Ostertag, John Corrigan, Scott Dumeny	omitted
105	Percentage in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> paragraph 70%	7%

The handout provided by the trust fund committee is not complete and a new one is available.

**Voice vote: passed as moved and corrected.**

**The results of the Planning Board Special Ballot are as follows:**

**Definitions:**

**Because the definitions to be voted on were not printed on the same page as the ballot, Moderator Jager found the process unacceptable. This ballot was declared null and void with no results to be reported.**

Moderator Jager invited Chairman Guy Eaton to review the warrant articles presented at this year's meeting and the state of the budget. Chairman Eaton noted that our tax rate went up 1.58 per thousand for several reasons: the State kept the generated meals and room tax; the County tax increased; the school district tax went up; and last year's warrant articles added a lot of money to the budget. The Assessors said that property values in town increased minimally and did not offset tax rate increase. The Selectmen made an effort to keep the operating budget down 1.74%. The total budget is down 34.8%. There was money left over in the fuel budget and the Selectmen used it to pre-buy diesel fuel for the highway garage. Michelle Dagesse investigated new options for the health care plan for Town employees and found one which saved the town \$44,000. Notable warrant articles include Article 7 which discusses an LCHIP grant for planning efforts for the Meetinghouse and Article 15 which proposes the creation of a circular driveway around the elementary school for which there is a drawing available for view at today's meeting. Article 28 proposes the creation of secure and separate office space for the Town Clerk and Tax Collector within Town Hall. Article 11 describes portions of roads currently maintained by the State that may be turned over to the Town for future maintenance. The Revaluation of town properties will take place this year. And it has been 11 years since the Town has hosted Old Home Days so we will have one in July/August. Chairman Eaton noted the photo of new bridge on Half Moon Pond Rd. which is featured on the cover of this year's Town Report and added that this year's report is dedicated to the memory of Kevin Hanscom, the best damn road grader operator ever!!!

Lynda Roy noted that the Town did receive a distribution for rooms and meals from the State but no shared revenue as noted on page 62 of the Town Report.

**ARTICLE 3. Jane Thayer moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$5,500.00) for the planning and preparation of Old Home Days in 2010. The motion was seconded by Guy Eaton.**

Jane said that the organizers are looking for more input for activities. John Pasioka asked who should be contacted to include a float in the parade and Jane said she is the one to contact.

Jim Hofferford requested a review of proposed events. Jane referred to a handout provided. Some activities are free, others will include a cost from the clubs sponsoring them. A logo is being designed for keepsakes. Gwen Gaskell asked if there will be fireworks. Jane said it was unlikely due to the liability and cost.

Dorothy Thompson asked that speakers use a microphone for benefit of those in the back.

Lionel Chute asked how volunteers should sign up. Jane said to look at the Town web page, and noted that there will be a meeting at the end of the month. The meeting time will appear on the Town web page and in the Selectmen's minutes. Vivian Clark and Jane Thayer are the co-chairs of the event.

Chief Marshall will create a presentation of old pictures of the Town, so if anyone has old photographs to share, please forward them to Steve Marshall.

Charlene Eastman said Vivian Hunter and Gretchen Collins will be displaying quilts at the church, and need quilts to borrow. Phil Barker suggested a "remember when" get together for the event.

**Voice vote: passed as moved**

**ARTICLE 4. Guy Eaton moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Seventy Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty One Dollars (\$377,731.00) to defray the costs of General Government for the ensuing year. Charlie Fields seconded the motion.**

Jim Gaskell asked if an employee raise is included and was told yes there is a 1.5% merit raise for town employees. Allan Treadwell questioned the 10% increase for the town administrator on page 30 because he had been told that creating this position would save the town money. The Selectmen explained the increase was due to full time employee benefits. Treadwell asked if there are other areas in the report where those benefits for the administrator are reported and was told there are not.

**Voice vote: passed as moved**

**ARTICLE 5. Guy Eaton moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Sixteen Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Nine Dollars (\$116,399.00) for the operation of the Police Department for the ensuing year. Charlie Fields seconded the motion.**

**At this point Guy Eaton made a motion to permit non-residents to speak at Town Meeting. Aileen Chute seconded the motion.**

**Voice vote: passed as moved**

Chief Marshall said that he tried to lower the budget but the department was busier last year than in 2008, because residents wanted more police exposure, which required more part-time officer hours. He also mentioned maintenance to the Police cruiser, which will require new tires. Aileen Chute asked when we will get a new cruiser. Marshall replied that there is no set time frame, but because the current vehicle is getting more use than expected he will look to see if there are any good year-end deals. Jim Hofford asked what the total increase in the budget was over last year and was told it was \$5,000.

**Voice vote: passed as moved**

**ARTICLE 6. Guy Eaton moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to be added to the Police Cruiser Replacement Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Seconded by Ken Eastman.**

Chief Marshall noted that this is the annual contribution for the eventual replacement of the Police Cruiser. Ron Max asked how much there is in the fund now and was told by Arline France, Trustee of the Trust Funds that there is \$30,000.

**Voice vote: passed as moved**

**ARTICLE 7. Guy Eaton moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) for the purpose of a two-year planning phase to develop building plans for the future preservation and rehabilitation of the Meetinghouse. Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) to be raised by taxation and Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) to be accepted from a secured LCHIP Grant. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until the building plans have been completed or by December 2015, whichever is sooner. Seconded by Ken Eastman.**

**At this point, Moderator Jager noted that it is 10:00 AM and the polls are open.**

Chairman Eaton began by reviewing a handout to accompany this article. This article prompted many referrals to Article 3 of last year's Town Meeting where the down voted not to appropriate \$79,200.00 to create plans to renovate the Meetinghouse. The Selectmen emphasized several times that their intention is to create a new committee that will start the planning process from scratch, with no preconceived ideas

about what renovations should be done. Residents asked questions about whether the grant and match money would be adequate to create the needed plans, and the Selectmen admitted that more money would likely be needed. There were also questions about money that had been pledged to the project and it was noted that acceptance of pledge money would be contingent on the Town voted to accept the matching LCHIP grant. Residents questioned the specifics of the LCHIP grant application, but the Selectmen assured the group that no specific plan has been decided and that planning itself was the objective of the grant. Some residents felt voting on the Article should be postponed until later in the day, and one suggested that it be amended to require most of the matching funds be raised by donation. Neither of these suggestions was accepted.

Those who opposed passing Article 7 supported the work of the Planning Board Task Force and strongly opposed the proposal to create architectural plans based on sketches presented at last year's Town Meeting. They emphasized the needs of other town buildings, the lack of a comprehensive long-term capital plan, and feared that the plan described in the LCHIP proposal will be the same one that was voted down last year. They expressed concern that the Planning Board would not be adequately involved in any rehabilitation plans. They noted that there is no immediate concern with stabilizing the Meetinghouse and that the needs of other town departments should be considered that are perhaps more important.

Those who favored accepting the LCHIP matching grant noted that refusing the grant at this time would likely reduce the Town's chances for being awarded LCHIP money in the future. They felt that moving forward toward any plan is better than stopping and doing nothing. Mostly, they emphasized the need to preserve a local and State landmark. Despite last year's vote not to pursue the proposal to create architectural plans based on the sketches presented, there are many people in town who do support the rehabilitation of the Meetinghouse.

Eaton bemoaned the misinformation out there and emphasized that buildings that are occupied are better maintained. Dr. James Garvin will create a historic building assessment and preservation guidelines for the Meetinghouse.

**Ralph Otterson motioned to have paper ballot  
Seconded by many.**

While the paper ballots were being handed out, Selectman Guy Eaton read a poem he composed about the Meetinghouse.

Selectman Eaton presented a plaque and a poem to Denise Hanscom in memory of Kevin Hanscom. Selectman Eaton presented a plaque to Jack Sheehy in recognition for his service on the Planning Board. Selectman Eaton presented a plaque and a poem to Ron Jager in recognition for his service as Town Moderator.

Eaton announced that cake is available to celebrate birthdays and invited Bob Wright, Chief Marshall and Janice Philbrick to the front and led everyone in singing Happy Birthday.

**Moderator Jager announced a break for lunch until 1:00 during paper ballot vote and counting.**

**Paper ballot vote passed: Yes 77 No 61 with 138 votes cast**

Guy thanked committee for their work in applying for and obtaining the grant.

**ARTICLE 8. Ed Thayer moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Hundred Seventy Five Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Eight Dollars (\$375,498.00) for operation of the Public Works Department for the ensuing year. Seconded by Guy Eaton.**

Ed Thayer noted that the amount requested is \$2,000 less than last year.

**Voice vote: passed as moved**

**ARTICLE 9. Ed Thayer moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the Highway Block Grant Funds estimated to be Fifty Six Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$56,370) anticipated during 2010 for the use of the Highway Department for construction or reconstruction projects in addition to the regular maintenance budget. Seconded by Guy Eaton.**

Ed noted these funds will be used to maintain asphalt roads including Faxon Hill Rd. and East Washington Rd. Allan Treadwell asked where and Thayer replied all the rough spots.

**Voice vote: passed as moved**

**ARTICLE 10. Ed Thayer moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) for construction or reconstruction road projects in addition to the regular maintenance budget. Seconded by Guy Eaton.**

Ed said that this money is needed in addition to the block grant funds. Jim Hofford asked if it is standard procedure to ask for extra money. Thayer agreed and said the money would be used to buy asphalt and to truck and spread the asphalt for East Washington Rd. He noted that the costs for road maintenance have increased drastically over the years.

**Voice vote: passed as moved**

**Article 11. Ed Thayer moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) from the fund balance for the engineering, permitting and rehabilitation of the Millen Pond culvert and the East Washington Road culvert at the Freezeland Pond outlet. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until the culverts are complete or by December 2015, whichever is sooner. Seconded by Guy Eaton.**

Thayer said that this money was reimbursed to the Town of Washington following the 2008 ice storm. Auditors have told him using such money was not appropriate without town approval. Larry Gaskell asked where the Millen Pond culvert is. Thayer laughed at his inability to explain it well but said it was by Rochford's old camp. He noted that because of new DES regulations the Town now needs a shoreland permit to do the work, which increases the cost. Anne Lischke asked where the Freezeland Pond outlet is and was told that it is across from the Borey's property. Colleen Duggan wanted to know if that culvert work would deter future blockages caused by beavers. Ed said culvert needs to be larger and there may be a way to deter beavers.

**Voice vote: passed as moved**

**ARTICLE 12. Ed Thayer moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fourteen Thousand Fifty Three Dollars (\$114,053.00) for the operation of the Solid Waste Recycling Center and for the Landfill Closure for the ensuing year. Seconded by Guy Eaton.**

Ed noted that this amount is \$8,700 less than last year because he and the Selectmen decided to eliminate a yearly Hazardous Waste Collection Day. They propose having one every other year and possibly partnering with other towns to reduce the cost. Lionel Chute respected their decision but hoped people don't add chemicals to their regular trash. Nancy Tanner asked how much is collected. Thayer reported that between 40-60 households participate. Jim Hofford asked if Hillsboro has a permanent collection facility. Thayer does not know about towns with permanent collection spots. Allan Treadwell asked about the cost for water tests. Thayer reported that the tests are required by the State following the landfill closure. We test twice a year for heavy metals that may leach into the ground. So far our landfill has been clean, and we requested a reduction in the amount of testing, though the cost hasn't gone down. Sandra Poole asked if the Transfer Station would be closed one day a week. Thayer reported that there was some discussion about limiting the current hours but feedback was not supportive.

**Voice vote: passed as moved**

**ARTICLE 13. Ed Thayer moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Thousand Dollars (\$9,000.00) from the Recycling Equipment Fund for the purpose of purchasing a roll-off container for the use at the Transfer Station. Seconded by Guy Eaton.**

Ed noted that some recyclables have value as a commodity, and this fund was established to save income generated by selling recyclables and is used to purchase equipment that needs to be replaced.

**Voice vote: passed as moved**

**ARTICLE 14. Ed Thayer moved that the Town vote to accept the Class II State maintained section of East Washington Road (from the Hillsboro Town line to the intersection of East Washington Road) and the State maintained section of Bradford Springs Road (from the intersection of East Washington Road to the Bradford Town line) and to reclassify said roads as Class V Town maintained roads; provided that the State rehabilitates said sections to the standards set forth in Appendix "G" of the Town of Washington Subdivision Regulations or as agreed upon by the Board of Selectmen and the Public Works Director. Seconded by Guy Eaton.**

Ed Thayer reported that the State will reclaim the asphalt road and make it a new road before it is accepted by the Town. Though the Town currently maintains these sections of road in the winter anyway, it will cost money to maintain them in the long run. John Pasieka asked if the Town has a say outside of Town Meeting. No, the State will not want to rehabilitate the roads if the Town is not going to take them over. Ralph Otterson opposed the measure, bringing attention to the stone retaining wall on edge of road. He said the State will not maintain those stone walls or put in drainage and the road will continue to be a huge expense. Thayer said that the Town is not responsible for the retaining wall and that the State will fix the drainage on that side of the road. Otterson asked if that would include manholes. Ed said, yes, and that catch basin structures will tie the system together. Larry Gaskell asked if this should be a non-lapsing article if it takes the State longer than a year to repair the road. Eaton said no. Carolyn Bullock asked why the Class changes from 2 to 5. Thayer replied that town roads are always classified 5 or 6, and state roads are 1, 2, or 3.

Allan Treadwell asked why the word 'or' is used instead of 'and' in the provisions. Thayer replied that this gives leeway to work with current subdivision regulations and to use new technology. John Hyland said that if you use 'and' then the State would have to meet regulations, but Thayer implies that the State will not be able to meet them. Eaton replied that 'or' is there so we can go either way. Phil Barker asked if 'and' restricts the State to subdivision regulations with no possibility for substitutions. Jed Schwartz asked if residents would have say in how the road is upgraded. He feared that upgrades could impact the rural character of the road. Thayer said that issues could be addressed in the initial agreement with the State, but some things will have to be done. Trees that prohibit installing drainage will have to be removed. Jim Hofford commented that Thayer seems to think that there will be an advantage in the long term, so we should pass it. Sandra Poole asked if Ed would have input with what the State does. Thayer said yes, DOT seems very accommodating. There are no guarantees but he is confident that it will work. Grace Jager asked if the Town could take over only a part of the road. Thayer said no. Laurie Dube asked if the Town does not pass the Article, would maintenance go on as it has or would the State force the Town to take the roads in the future. Thayer said the State would have to continue to maintain it. Lionel Chute asked if the Town can pressure the State to improve maintenance. Thayer said that is an option but noted that the State doesn't have a lot of money nor is this section of road a priority for the State. Carolyn Russell asked how many houses are along this section of road and do the landowners get a tax break. Thayer answered there are about 25-30 houses and there is no break in taxes and no credit for living on poor roads. Bob Hofstetter noted that frost heaves heal themselves in the summer. Al Krygeris asked if the improvements will get done since the State Commissioner says there is no money to fix roads right now. Thayer replied that we have no control over that.

**Voice vote: passed as moved**

**ARTICLE 15. Ed Thayer moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum Five Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$5,300.00) for Emergency Management for the ensuing year. Seconded by Guy Eaton.**

Emergency Management	\$100.00
E911 Numbering	700.00
Elementary School Secondary Access	4500.00

Ed noted that the extra \$4,500 included in this Article is to create a circular driveway around the Elementary School parking lot to provide two exit points from the school and Camp Morgan. This would also allow school busses to exit without turning around. Phil Barker asked if Public Works will be building the road. Thayer said they would need to hire a contractor to excavate the stumps but Public Works will do the rest of the work. Aileen Chute asked why this was included in the Emergency Management warrant and not in a separate Article. Thayer said it was because the issue was identified as an Emergency Management issue. Aileen confirmed that this money would not be included again.

**Voice vote: passed as moved**

**ARTICLE 16. Michelle Dagesse moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to be added to the Health Insurance Reimbursable Account previously established. Seconded by Colleen Duggan.**

Jim Garvin asked what this account is. Michelle Dagesse replied that it covers the Insurance deductibles for town employees. Aileen Chute asked for clarification. Dagesse said that it covers the deductibles that aren't covered by the town employee health plan. Tanner asked if town employees have anything deducted from their paycheck. Dagesse replied, no. If the article does not pass the town will still pay town employee medical expenses. Lynda Roy commented that the fund was started in 1991 and has been handled the same way since. It reduces the overall cost of medical insurance. Ralph Otterson asked if it will go up next year with coverage for part time employees. Dagesse replied that part time employees pay their own portion of the insurance coverage.

**Show of hands vote: passed as moved**

**ARTICLE 17. Brian Moser moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty Five Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Five Dollars (\$85,695.00) for the operation of the Rescue Squad and Fire Department for the ensuing year. Seconded by Ed Thayer.**

Allan Treadwell asked how this budget compares to last years. Moser replied that it is lower than last year. Lionel Chute asked whether safety issues are a concern for Fire and Rescue. He asked if Moser felt the Town is vulnerable in a way that a consolidated building would solve. Moser said that Fire and Rescue is making do with the building they have but it will be a concern in the future. They would like to add showers and bathrooms and eventually the Town may have to hire full time Fire and Rescue employees because there are not enough volunteers signing up. The building would have to be upgraded to accommodate a full time paid staff.

**Voice vote: passed as moved**

**ARTICLE 18. Brian Moser moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) to be added to the Fire-Apparatus Replacement Fund previously established. Seconded by Guy Eaton.**

There is \$69,000 in the fund right now.

**Voice vote: passed as moved**

**ARTICLE 19. Robert Wright moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to be added to the Rescue Squad Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Seconded by Guy Eaton.**



There is currently \$30,000 in fund. \$20,000 from the ambulance billing fund will be added to that. The Rescue Squad plans to continue to add money generated by ambulance billing to the Capital Reserve fund. A new ambulance is due to be purchased in 2013. The anticipated cost \$185,000.

**Voice vote: passed as moved**

**ARTICLE 20. John Pasiaka moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand Four Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$1,450.00) for Forest Fire Control for the ensuing year. Seconded by Guy Eaton.**

John Pasiaka lowered the amount originally requested because he thinks Forest Fire Control can get by with that amount of money.

**Voice vote: passed as moved**

**ARTICLE 21. Brian Moser moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Two Dollars (\$30,972.00) of for Emergency Communications for the ensuing year. Seconded by Guy Eaton.**

Allan Treadwell noted that money for dispatch for Fire and Rescue is not included in their budgets. Radios are included here. Ken Eastman noted that money had been shifted from the previous year. Moser noted that 2 new portable radios and 11 new pagers were purchased last year. The pagers cost \$640 each.

**Voice vote: passed as moved**

**ARTICLE 22. Arline France moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000.00) to be placed in the existing Capital Reserve Fund for the Revaluation of the Town. Seconded by Kathy Atkins.**

France noted that the revaluation is this year. An outside firm will do the work. The cost will be \$50,000 and there is currently \$54,000 in fund.

**Voice vote: passed as moved**

**ARTICLE 23. Colleen Duggan moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Eight Dollars (\$42,788.00) for the operation of the Shedd Free Library for the ensuing year. Seconded by Michelle Dagesse.**

Duggan noted that Library usage has increased this year with circulation of materials up 22%. She mentioned that the Trustees had purchased three new computers for the library and the patrons appreciate having them to use. The budget amounts are up due to the pay increases and money that was cut from last year's budget for books and supplies being added back in.

**Voice vote: passed as moved**

**ARTICLE 24. Carolyn Russell moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Six Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Nine (\$46,529.00) for Health and Welfare for the ensuing year. Seconded by Guy Eaton.**

Carolyn mentioned that the new Welfare office has greatly improved confidentiality and the ability to manage the food pantry. Ken Eastman asked if any funds had been taken in. Carolyn replied that for the first time the Town has collected on liens for reimbursements. There is an increase in the salary line because of more time needed to research and process liens. Welfare has used little of its own money for emergency provisions, due to generous donations and the lien reimbursements. The Town donates money to community groups that provide services to our residents. Jim Hafford commended Carolyn for her work and outreach to residents. Al Krygeris noted that the recipients of the food baskets provided by the church

remain anonymous. Jim Gaskell said Carolyn deserves a hand. (Applause from the group). John Hyland doesn't understand the budgeting if the Town is getting reimbursed. Carolyn pointed out that reimbursement has never happened before. When asked where the money goes, Michelle Dagesse replied that it goes into the general fund. Charitable donations are kept separate and not commingled with tax money. Mike Clark said Carolyn helped his family keep his house, though they had a lien they were able to pay it off. Jean Kluk asked where the reimbursements appear in general account and was directed to page 62 of the Town Report.

**Voice vote: passed as moved**

**ARTICLE 25. Michelle Dagesse moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Four Dollars (\$44,774.00) for Debt Service for the ensuing year. Seconded by Guy Eaton.**

Interest - Tax Anticipation	\$1,000.00
Interest - Long Term Notes	7,174.00
Principal - Long Term Notes	36,600.00

**Voice vote: passed as moved**

**ARTICLE 26. Guy Eaton moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Eight Dollars (\$47,838.00) for the operation of the Parks and Recreation Commission and for Patriotic Purposes for the ensuing year. Seconded by Rich Cook.**

**Jim Gaskell made a motion to amend this article to remove \$1,200 allocated for Senior Trips. Seconded by Gwen Gaskell.**

Jim Gaskell noted that the Senior original group was not meant to cost the taxpayers money. Ray Clark recently took over the Senior group and noted that it spent over \$1500 on meals, buying paper products, butter, and beverages. He said without this tax income the group would not be able to put on the senior lunches. A physical check is written by the Town to pay for the bus trip because the group doesn't have a checking account. Eventually it was realized that the tax money never pays for bus trips to gambling locations, but does fund the senior meals throughout the year. John Hyland suggested that the line item be changed to say Senior Programs instead of senior trips

**Voice vote on amended article: undecided**  
**Show of hands vote: amendment failed**

**Voice vote: passed as originally moved**

**ARTICLE 27. Ken Eastman moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) to support the Town's lake host program. Seconded by Guy Eaton.**

Ken Eastman said that this program currently involves Millen Pond and Highland Lake with assistance from volunteers from Stoddard. Ralph Otterson asked where the public access is on Highland Lake. Ken replied there is private access near the campground. Otterson commented that the money is going to assist private property. Ken emphasized that we want to keep the town clean, not just one pond. Aileen Chute confirmed that only Highland Lake and Millen Pond participate and asked how a water body can be added to the program. Eastman replied that if a water body is accepted by the NH Lakes Association, it will be added to the program.

**Voice vote: passed as moved**

**At this point, Moderator Jager called for a 10 minute break. (3:00)**

**ARTICLE 28. Rich Cook moved that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) for a construction project to address security and privacy needs in the Town Hall. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA32:7, VI and will not lapse until the construction is complete or December 31, 2015 whichever is sooner. Seconded by Guy Eaton.**

This project will create a temporary office in the front of the Meetinghouse similar to the Welfare office and will house the Tax Collector and Town Clerk. Plans show an office with windows and a relocated kitchen area. This will alleviate space, noise, privacy, and security issues. Dennis Kelly asked if town contractors will be able to bid on the project. Cook replied yes.

**Voice vote: passed as moved**

**ARTICLE 29. Tom Taylor moved that the Town vote to designate the following tracts of land as Town Forest to be managed by the Town Forestry Committee: Lot 12-194 known as the Meadow Tract, Lot 20-121-1 to be referred to as the Highland Lake (Nuthatch Way) Tract, and Lot 07-010 to be added to the existing New Road (Twin Bridge Road) Forest. Seconded by Guy Eaton.**

This article proposes to take three tracts of land currently owned by the Town taken by tax lien and to formally designate them as part of the Town Forest. They have been treated this way for years but the Selectmen asked the Forestry Committee and the Conservation Commission to formally take responsibility for these tracts. 20-121-1 was formerly a subdivision taken for taxes. 7-10, consists of ten acres that the original owner wanted to donate to the Town, but was ultimately taken by tax lien, but the lien was not held long enough and the property was purchased by a reclaim artist. The Conservation Commission ultimately bought it for the Town.

Allan Treadwell spoke about the Twin Bridge Road tract and wanted to know how people can access it because Treadwell maintains the road. Taylor noted that the Forestry Committee will need to dialogue with Treadwell about it.

**Voice vote: passed as moved**

**ARTICLE 30. Jim Hofford moved that the Town vote to approve the following resolution to be forwarded to our State Representative(s), our State Senator, the Speaker of the House, and the Senate President. Resolved: The citizens of New Hampshire should be allowed to vote on an amendment to the New Hampshire Constitution that defines "marriage". [This is a petition article.] Seconded by Ellen Hofford.**

Ken Eastman proposed a straw vote. Moderator Jager, noting the controversy linked to this topic, tried to limit discussion to 15 minutes. Hofford noted that this is just to vote to send an advisory to the NH Legislature. The goal is not to argue religion or what God says about marriage, but the definition of marriage and the right to vote on issues crucial to people in the state. Jager noted this proposal addresses amending the NH constitution, to request to the Legislature to amend the NH Constitution, not making laws. He explained the process the Article hopes to set in motion. Mike Otterson claimed the reason the petition is being circulated is because the government has allowed same sex marriage and people want to change the State Constitution. Most of us are not affected by this law but we should get to vote on rights of citizens. Otterson supports same sex marriage but thinks this issue is dominated by religious conservatives who want to control rights of everyone. He feels that the idea that the rights of two people to get married affects the rights of others is ridiculous. Aileen Chute noted that Hofford mentioned we wouldn't be discussing this issue many years ago but neither would Aileen be standing here to speak in front of the assembly because she is a woman. Johanna Young pointed out that interracial couples were not allowed to marry years ago and she cannot take away rights of others to marry. Carolyn Russell mentioned the marriage of her daughter to another woman that takes nothing away from anyone else's relationships and asked that the article be voted down. Lionel Chute mentioned that the divorce rate is too high and not good for society and same-sex marriage would allow more people to have stable marriages. Jager reminded everyone that this is an attempt to petition the government and is appropriate for it to be here. Bob

Thompson wondered why we are voting to change the Constitution and why do we have a petition to tell government to do what it is already bound to do. Jager pointed out that this is to urge them to start the process. Thompson wondered why it isn't worded that way. Allan Treadwell said that regardless of one's position on marriage, the amendment allowing constitutional amendments by referendum vote failed. That denies citizens the right to vote on issues. This request is about our right to vote on referendum issues and Allan is in favor of residents being able to vote on referendum issues. Lolly Gilbert asked if Allan would feel the same way if the vote was tied to slavery. Treadwell reemphasized that it is our right to vote that is at stake, not the issue. The State Legislature has too much power and they are attaching it to this emotional issue. Aileen pointed out that we vote on legislators so we don't have to vote on everything they vote on. Jed Schwartz pointed out that we are not just voting on how government is run, but this is linked with the issue of civil rights.

Hofford reiterated that New Hampshire residents need an opportunity to vote on important issues.

**Paper ballot vote: Not Passed NO 55 Yes 43 with 98 ballots cast**

**ARTICLE 31. Phil Barker moved that the Town vote to require the Selectmen to sell parcels of land under ten acres that are not adjacent to other Town owned parcels or have no other value to the Town except the resale and tax value. [This is a petition article.] Seconded by Robert Wright.**

Phil Barker claimed that small parcels of land are losing money from tax revenue and resale value. Rich Cook noted that many of these parcels are unbuildable and the Conservation Commission has suggested that they not be sold as they have value for storm water runoff control, especially in LAE. Jager asked if the Selectmen are authorized to sell. The Selectmen said yes. Charlie Fields asked if they can be sold to abutters to get them off Town ownership. There have been no abutter sales since the Conservation Commission made their request. In LAE some lots have been offered for sale but not sold. Lynn Cook pointed out that when an abutter buys a lot it does not add much to tax income because mergers do not increase the value of the land much. Krygeris said that unbuildable lots can be built on if the owners apply to DES, and he would rather not see them sold. Bob Thompson said that we need to see the costs in the proposal to see how much money would be added to tax roles and that we are asking the voters to take discretion away from the Selectmen. Jan Philbrick noted that for the properties listed on pages 71 and 72 and a tax rate of \$17 per \$1000, there would be around \$131,000 generated in tax revenue if lots were sold and reassessed at the same value. Thompson noted that mergers would not increase taxes and we don't know how much money would be brought in. Carol Andrews felt that it would be a mistake to put the lots on the market because any income would be negated by community services needed if new homes were built. Jager asked what the mechanism is for requiring the Selectmen to sell. The Selectmen pointed out that they could have a sale, but if the lots don't sell would the Selectmen have to sell the lots for any amount just to disperse them. What happens to the lots that don't sell? Lionel Chute added that it is a bad time to be selling land. We should sell when prices are high not low. Charlie Fields wondered why the Town owns sixteen pieces of land in buildable sizes instead of giving them to abutters or selling them. The values in the Town Report are not reflective of their actual value. He doesn't like the Town to own all these small parcels.

Barker offered to change 'sell' to 'offer for sale' so the Selectmen are not required to sell them if there are no offers. Most cannot be built on and would be purchased by abutters. Eastman questioned the legality of an abutter sale. Why should the sale be limited to abutters? Empty lots add to the property value of abutting lots even if abutters don't own them or pay taxes on them.

**Voice vote: failed as moved**

**ARTICLE 32. Phil Barker moved that the Town vote to allow, without Municipal restrictions, any and all forms of PRIVATE alternative energy, such as, but not restricted to, solar, wind, water, geothermal or others. [This is a petition article.] Seconded by Allan Treadwell.**

Lionel Chute questioned whether the insertion of PRIVATE substantially changes the petition. Moderator Jager said it does not. Jager noted that this article would alter the Land Use Ordinance, but does not know if

that is its intention. The process for altering LUO goes through the Planning Board and a ballot vote. Moderator Jager brought this issue to the LGC staff attorneys who agreed that one cannot change LUO with a vote on a petition at Town Meeting. Jager reported that he had been advised by LGC staff attorneys to recommend to the people that this Article be voted down.

Phil Barker was not aware that this affected the LUO. John Sheehy noted that this would affect the use of land with regard to tower height, waterfalls, and would need to come to the Planning Board. Sheehy did not disagree with the idea, but does think it needs to follow proper procedures.

Barker said his intent was to relieve the expense of energy use for individuals and maybe give them the opportunity to get credit for putting energy back into the grid. He did not know of any current land use ordinances now, and thought this article could get in before any restrictions were put on these activities. Barker said he inserted the word PRIVATE to exclude commercial windfarms. Al Krygeris is glad that alternative energy is encouraged, but finds 'municipal restrictions' are troubling. Would this allow outside wood burners to blow smoke into other homes? Could windmills block others' views? The Planning Board needs to be involved. Tom Marshall said there are no current prohibitions besides height restrictions or setback restrictions, no current criteria to prevent these activities and the Planning Board probably will not prevent them in the future. Allan Treadwell asked if voting this article down would prevent people from using these energy sources. Jager said that it cannot keep municipal ordinances out and would not be effective even if it were voted in. Tom Taylor said that it is an important subject that needs to be addressed properly. He recommended withdrawing the article. Jager noted that the minutes could record that it was voted down for legal reasons.

Moderator Jager said that he could see no way of amending the motion to make it both legal and effective.

**Voice vote: failed as moved**

**ARTICLE 33. Dennis Kelly moved that the Town vote to establish the Town Hall and Old School Preservation and Restoration Trust Fund to be used for the collections and control of all funds collected for the preservation and restoration of the Town Hall and/or the Old School House, the Town Meeting being the agent to dispense funds. (Background: Funds being solicited in the name of Washington for the preservation and/or restoration of the Town Hall and Old Schoolhouse need to be kept under the control of the voters of the Town of Washington. This petitioned article will provide a continuous and representative oversight of our historic assets.) [This is a petition article.] Seconded by Steve Terani.**

Guy Eaton noted that a Town Hall preservation fund has been created and monies are coming into that fund which can only be expended following a vote at Town Meeting. The Schoolhouse has not been considered for such a fund.

Dennis Kelly noted that this article includes the Old Schoolhouse. Carolyn Russell assisted the Selectmen in creating the Meetinghouse Preservation Fund. She pointed out that donations given for a specific purpose must be accounted for by the recipients. Money donated for the Meetinghouse cannot be used for the Old Schoolhouse or anything else. Money donated for the restoration of the Old Schoolhouse cannot be used for anything else. Donors need to know that money they donate goes towards their objective. Tax money and donations should not be mixed. The Meetinghouse Fund already needs to be voted on at Town Meeting in order to be expended. It was suggested that this Article be amended to include only the Old Schoolhouse.

**Jim Crandall moved that the article be amended to strike the words 'Town Hall' and 'Trust'. Seconded by Phil Barker.**

Selectman Eaton noted that since a fund has been established for the Meetinghouse, the Selectmen could also establish a fund for the Old Schoolhouse without voting on it. Dennis Kelly said that the purpose of the fund is to get input from the residents of town. Tom Talpey said that Carolyn suggested that it not be called a trust fund. Jim Gaskell said that if the fund is a trust there is a payment of \$75 per year if the group is incorporated. Carolyn noted that there are more rules for a trust fund, and there must be specifications for how the money can be used if the trust dissolves, etc. A fund for the Old Schoolhouse could be changed

into a trust fund at a later time. Allan Treadwell asked if it is possible to amend a petition article. Jager answered that it is possible.

**The amended article reads: that the Town vote to establish the Old School Preservation and Restoration Fund to be used for the collections and control of all funds collected for the preservation and restoration of the Old School House, the Town Meeting being the agent to dispense funds.**

**Voice vote on amendment: passed as moved**

**Voice vote on the main motion as amended: passed as amended**

**ARTICLE 34. Tom Taylor moved that the Town vote to establish a Historic District Committee to oversee the preservation and future restoration of the Town common and the adjacent Town Buildings consisting of the Old Schoolhouse and the Town Hall, and to work closely with the Planning Board and the Selectmen. Said committee to consist of the Chairman of the Planning Board, Chairman of the Selectmen, the Public Works Director, the President of the Historical Society, AND THREE MEMBERS AT LARGE TO BE APPOINTED BY THE SELECTMEN AND ONE BY THE PLANNING BOARD THE FIRST YEAR AND SUBSEQUENTLY ELECTED AT TOWN MEETING to one year terms, by Town Meeting, beginning March 2011. The Chairman of said committee is to be elected by the committee members each year at the first meeting following Town Meeting. NOTHING HEREIN SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO ALTER THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SELECTMEN UNDER RSA 41:11a.** (Background; The Town Common, including the Old Schoolhouse and the Town Hall, comprise a nationally registered place, belonging to the townspeople of Washington. The intent of this petition is to place the well being of our registered historic place primarily in the hands of elected officials of the town, which will provide continuous and representative oversight of our historic assets.) [This is a petition article.] **Seconded by Laurie Dube.**

Tom Taylor claimed that there is concern about who gets to be involved with decisions about Washington's nationally registered center and the Town needs a group to speak to the well being of our town buildings. Moderator Jager noted the following: although Mr. Taylor had said that the Planning Board Task Force discovered that no one had oversight of town buildings, in fact RSA 41:11a is very explicit that the Selectmen have responsibility for regulation and management of town real property.

Selectman Eaton discussed his past involvement in maintaining the buildings in Washington's historic district and doesn't think that the Selectmen have been neglectful. Lionel Chute noted that Tom Taylor is concerned about adequate representation for planning for the future of the Historic District. Chute doesn't think the article is necessary because the LCHIP grant has been accepted, the Task Force and the Meetinghouse committee have been disbanded and the Selectmen are going to create a new committee with diverse representation. He wanted the Selectmen to tell us if their future committee would be as good as the committee proposed in this Article. Tom Talpey seemed to think this Article implied a new position of Public Works Director, (Ed Thayer is the Public Works Director). Stephen Vinciguerra said that it establishes guidelines for representation. Sandy Robinson said that the Selectmen have done a good job and that adding another layer of government is a poor idea. Robert Thompson pointed out that the Article says that the group will oversee but does not describe what work the committee is supposed to do. He presumed that the town volunteers would be doing the work and that the issue is being made more complicated. Grace Jager pointed out that this responsibility is already in the hands of elected officials of the Town. Lionel Chute noted that this Article potentially restricts the size of the committee while the Selectmen would have a larger committee. Jim Crandall does not like the description of the committee. Dennis Kelly insisted that the advantage lies in the fact that this group would involve the Planning Board. Jim Hofford thought that the Selectmen have done a proper job, did not think the Article should be passed because the Selectmen will create their own committee. Phil Barker added that the Selectmen are regularly available for input.

**Voice vote: failed as moved**

**ARTICLE 35. To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.**

Larry Gaskell suggested that the properties on page 71 be moved under town property not Tax Collector's deeds.

Robert Hartson asked if any revenue had been collected from residents who have not shielded their propane tanks. Selectman Eastman said they have had no reason to fine anyone. It was noted that Granite State Telephone has not screened theirs.

Carolyn Russell announced that she and Jim Russell have made a pledge of \$1,000.00 to the Meetinghouse Fund to honor Robert and Jeannette Crane.

Lionel Chute proposed the creation of community gardens across Millen Pond Rd from Camp Morgan. Interested residents should speak with Ed Thayer or the Selectmen.

Ross Jubert complained about non-resident property owners not getting to vote at Town Meeting. He thinks that people will not be able to continue to live in town with the tax rate going up and only non-residents will be able to afford to own property and will want to urbanize it.

Phil Barker asked the Fire Chief and Safety Officer about whether screening propane tanks causes a problem for rescue workers because they need to know where the tanks are when they arrive for an emergency. Moser answered that it is generally easy to find the propane tanks and that the only safety issue is that they not be closed in over the top.

**Motion to adjourn Larry Gaskell. Seconded by Guy Eaton, 5:43 PM.**

**Respectfully Submitted by,**

**Colleen Duggan  
Deputy Town Clerk**

**A True Copy – Attest:**

**Colleen Duggan  
Deputy Town Clerk**