



NORTHWOOD NH VOTERS GUIDE 2020

Explanation of Proposed Zoning Amendments-Warrant Articles 2-14:

Previously Approved Amendments

Northwood voters were asked to decide nine zoning amendments at Town Meeting 2017 and five amendments at Town Meeting 2018. While voters approved the vast majority of these amendments in good faith, it was discovered in 2019 that a former town employee had posted the proposed zoning amendments alongside the warrant, and not included them on the warrant itself as required by RSA 39:2, creating a technical legal issue. Therefore, the Planning Board, on the advice of legal counsel, requests that these items be re-adopted. In the interest of respecting the will of the voters, only those amendments which originally passed at Town Meeting have been proposed for re-adoption. These amendments have been compiled into a smaller number of thematically related amendments and appear in this document as warrant articles 2 through 8. The content of these proposed changes remains identical to those changes previously approved by the voters of Northwood in 2017 and 2018.

New Amendments

Six amendments were prepared for Town Meeting 2019 but, like the two prior years, were not included as part of the warrant as required by RSA 39:2. This problem was discovered leading up to Town Meeting and the proposed zoning amendments were excluded from the ballot as a result. The Planning Board respectfully submits these amendments for consideration by the voters of Northwood as warrant articles 9 through 14.

The full text of all proposed zoning amendments is available for inspection in Town Hall during regular business hours.

Warrant Article 02: General housekeeping and minor amendments

Are you in favor of adoption of Zoning Amendment No. 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town's development ordinance as follows:

Amend the purpose section of the ordinance to provide that one of the purposes of the ordinance is to implement the policies of the Master Plan without referring to a specific year's master plan; amend Section IV (B)(4)(c) to clarify that driveways are exempt only from front setbacks; amend the definition of a Large Scale Business to include all businesses larger than 10,000 sq. ft.; amend the definition of structure to refer readers to Section IV.B.(4)(c) which exempts certain structures from setbacks; and amend Section VI.C Agricultural Soils Overlay District to update the purpose and remove a statement that agriculture is not an important economic factor in Northwood? This amendment was previously approved at Town Meeting 2017 and Town Meeting 2018 but had not been included in the corresponding warrant.

Warrant Article 03: Content-neutral sign regulations

Are you in favor of adoption of Zoning Amendment No. 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town's development ordinance as follows:

Replace the Sign Regulations section in its entirety with content-neutral Sign regulations as required by the United States Supreme Court and delete all existing references to a Service Station Price Sign for consistency with these regulations? This amendment was previously approved at Town Meeting 2017 and Town Meeting 2018 but had not been included in the corresponding warrant.

Warrant Article 04: Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)

Are you in favor of adoption of Zoning Amendment No. 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town's development ordinance as follows:

Add a new definition for the term Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU); allow ADUs as a use permitted throughout Northwood if they comply with specific performance criteria as required by RSA 674: 71-71; and also to delete all references to Accessory Apartments? This amendment was previously approved at Town Meeting 2017 but had not been included in the corresponding warrant.

Warrant Article 05: Home Businesses and Occupations

Are you in favor of adoption of Zoning Amendment No. 4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town's development ordinance as follows:

Delete all existing references to Home Occupation and Home Business; and adopt a new definition of Home Business that allows the use of a room in a dwelling or accessory building as a home office by an occupant of that property without site plan approval if the use does not generate any traffic and certain other conditions are met? This amendment was previously approved at Town Meeting 2017 but had not been included in the corresponding warrant.

Warrant Article 06: Class VI and Private Roads

Are you in favor of adoption of Zoning Amendment No. 5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town's development ordinance as follows:

Amend Sections IV (B)(1)(b)(2) and IV (B)(1)(b)(3) to allow new building development on both Class VI and private roads which are proposed to be improved to current town standards and for which adequate security is provided to the town? This amendment was previously approved at Town Meeting 2017 but had not been included in the corresponding warrant.

Warrant Article 07: Non-Conformities

Are you in favor of adoption of Zoning Amendment No. 6 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town's development ordinance as follows:

Amend Section VII (C)(4) to no longer allow by special exception new structures on undeveloped, pre-existing non-conforming lots when waterbody and wetland setbacks cannot be achieved and to amend the criteria for development of a nonconforming lot of less than 80,000 square feet to require that the well protection radius on such lots not extend beyond the property lines? This item was previously approved at Town Meeting 2017 but had not been included in the corresponding warrant.

Warrant Article 08: Lot Coverage

Are you in favor of adoption of Zoning Amendment No. 7 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town's development ordinance as follows:

Add Section IV.B.(7) Lot Coverage to limit the amount of lot coverage by low permeability surfaces to 40% on residential and mixed use lots and 50% on non-residential lots? This amendment was previously approved at Town Meeting 2018 but had not been included in the corresponding warrant.

Warrant Article 9: Section III. Definitions

Are you in favor of adoption of Zoning Amendment No. 8 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town's development ordinance as follows:

Amend the definitions of a "structure" and a "driveway" to clarify that unpaved driveways are not considered structures.

Warrant Article 10: Section II. Administrative Provisions

Are you in favor of adoption of Zoning Amendment No. 9 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town's development ordinance as follows:

Add a new section to II.F regarding the Zoning Board of Adjustment referencing the expiration of variances and special exceptions approved after August 19, 2013 consistent with state law described in RSA 674:33.

Warrant Article 11: Section II. Administrative Provisions

Are you in favor of adoption of Zoning Amendment No. 10 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town's development ordinance as follows:

Add a new section to II.F regarding the Zoning Board of Adjustment scheduling the termination of variances and special exceptions that were approved before August 19, 2013 and have not been exercised. If approved, this amendment would require public notice to be posted for one year and unused variances and special exceptions would terminate two years after the expiration of the public notice.

Warrant Article 12: Section IV. General District

Are you in favor of adoption of Zoning Amendment No. 11 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town's development ordinance as follows:

Amend multiple sections of Section IV. General District to clarify that zoning provisions apply to all lots of record, not only new lots. This amendment would not impact uses, structures, or lots that have non-conforming rights.

Warrant Article 13: Section VI. Overlay Districts

Are you in favor of adoption of Zoning Amendment No. 12 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town's development ordinance as follows:

Replace Section VI.E with a new Section VI.E Steep Slope Protection Overlay District that sets a minimum threshold of 2,000 square feet of sloped area for the overlay to apply, revises the criteria and application materials for granting a Special Exception, and makes administrative changes to overlay regarding the purpose, authority, and cost statements.

Warrant Article 14: Section III Definitions; Section VII. Non-Conformity

Are you in favor of adoption of Zoning Amendment No. 13 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town's development ordinance as follows:

Amend Section III to add a new defined term, Seasonal Dwelling, amend Section V to add Seasonal Dwellings to Table V-1 as a permitted use in column 1, and add a new Section VII.D Expansion and Conversion of Seasonal Dwellings regulating their conversion to year-round dwellings.

Warrant Article 15: 2020 OPERATING BUDGET

Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling **three million eight hundred forty-one thousand five hundred eighty-six dollars (\$3,841,586)**. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be **three million six hundred eighty-one thousand three hundred ninety-two dollars (\$3,681,392)** which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. **(Tax Impact \$0.33) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 11/1)**

This article is the operating budget for the town. It contains funding for all departments and services.

Warrant Article 16: FIRE APPARATUS LEASE/PURCHASE

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a five-year lease/purchase agreement in the amount of **five hundred fifty-one thousand two hundred thirty dollars (\$551,230)** for a Tanker Truck, to raise and appropriate **three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000)** for an initial deposit payment under the lease, with said funds to come from the Fire Rescue Vehicle Replacement Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose. This lease will commence in 2021 with five subsequent annual payments of fifty-six thousand six hundred seventy-two dollars (\$56,672). This purchase is in accordance with the Town's Capital Improvement Plan. This lease shall contain an escape clause. **(No Tax Impact) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 13/3)**

This article authorizes the town to enter a new 5-year lease/purchase for a Tanker Truck with an initial deposit from the special revenue fund used to purchase fire and rescue equipment. The lease/purchase will replace a 26 year old vehicle which does not meet the current guidelines for holding capacity.

Warrant Article 17: FIRE DEPARTMENT THERMAL IMAGER

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **ten thousand dollars (\$10,000)** to replace one of the two Fire Department Thermal imagers. The current thermal imager is 10 years old. This purchase is in accordance with the Town's Capital Improvement Plan for 2021. **(Tax Impact \$0.02) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 14/0)**

This article will allow for the purchase of equipment used in firefighting, replacing older equipment.

Warrant Article 18: AMBULANCE LEASE PURCHASE

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a seven-year lease/purchase agreement in the amount of **two hundred seventy-three thousand dollars (\$273,000)** for a new, equipped ambulance, to raise and appropriate **one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000)** for an initial deposit payment under the lease,

with said funds to come from the Fire Rescue Vehicle Replacement Special Revenue Fund established for this purpose. This lease will commence in 2021 with seven subsequent annual payments of twenty-nine thousand three hundred fifty-nine dollars (\$29,359). This lease/purchase will replace a 2007 ambulance. This purchase is in accordance with the Town's Capital Improvement Plan. This lease shall contain an escape clause. **(No Tax Impact) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Selectmen 5/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 16/0)**

This article authorizes the town to enter a 7-year lease/purchase for a new Ambulance with an initial deposit from the special revenue fund used to purchase fire and rescue equipment. The 2007 ambulance being replaced is no longer in service.

Warrant Article 19: COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT PURCHASE

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of **thirty-three thousand dollars (\$33,000)** for the acquisition of communication equipment pursuant to the first year of the three-year Fire Department Mobile Communications Equipment Replacement Plan. The plan will replace all our portable and mobile radios over the next three years. Our current stock of radios are approximately 15 years old. This purchase is in accordance with the Town's Capital Improvement Plan. **(Tax Impact \$0.07) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

This article will allow the town to enter into a 3-year equipment replacement plan to fund the replacement of the current stock of portable and mobile radios, approximately 15 years old.

Warrant Article 20: EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND DEPOSITS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **seventy-nine thousand five hundred four dollars and ninety cents (\$79,504.90)**, to be placed in the following existing expendable trust funds created under RSA 31:19 - a. These amounts represent the amount of user fees deposited in the general fund in 2019 for these purposes, and the appropriation shall be funded by the withdrawal of the sum from the unexpended fund balance as of December 31, 2019. Current balance as of December 31, 2019: Cable \$34,105, Transfer Station \$54,717, and Cemetery: \$350,964. **(No Tax Impact) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 12/0)**

Cable	Transfer Station	Cemetery
Expendable Trust Fund	Expendable Trust Fund	Expendable Trust Fund
\$35,064.00	\$43,240.90	\$1,200.00

This article requests approval to deposit the 2019 proceeds from the above listed services into the expendable trust funds set up for their individual operation and maintenance.

Warrant Article 21: VESTED BENEFIT EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND DEPOSIT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000)** to be added to the Benefit Vested Time Expendable Trust Fund previously established. Current balance as of December 31, 2019: \$25,247. **(Tax Impact \$0.03) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

Vested Benefit Expendable Trust is for the accrued time earned by long term employees. When an employee leaves, their accrued time will get paid from the trust fund so as not to impact the operating budget. As of Dec. 31, 2018, the town's liability was \$81,004.

Warrant Article 22: HIGHWAY DUMP TRUCK LEASE

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate an amount of **twenty-six thousand one hundred six dollars (\$26,106)** for the second year's lease payment of the seven-year lease/purchase agreement of a highway dump truck that was approved at the 2019 Town Meeting. The lease agreement contains an escape clause. **(Tax impact \$0.05) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

This article is for the second payment of the 7-year lease/purchase of the town's highway dump truck purchased in 2019.

Warrant Article 23: HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **eighteen thousand five hundred dollars (\$18,500)** to be deposited into the previously established Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. Current balance as of December 31, 2019: \$88,447. **(Tax Impact \$0.04) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 14/1)**

This article deposits funds into the Highway Capital Reserve Fund. This fund is used for payment of equipment and/or vehicle leases and is intended to accrue until needed to avoid fluctuations in the operating budget.

Warrant Article 24: POLICE EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **six thousand dollars (\$6,000)** to be deposited into the previously established Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. Current balance as of December 31, 2019: \$20,274. **(Tax Impact \$0.01) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 14/1)**

This article deposits funds into the Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. This fund is used to offset costs to purchase police equipment.

Warrant Article 25: LAGOON MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **thirteen thousand eight hundred seventy-five dollars (\$13,875)** to be placed in the Lagoon Maintenance and Repair Expendable Trust Fund and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of that amount from the Lagoon Special Revenue Fund held by the Northwood Treasurer. Current balance as of December 31, 2019: \$103,612. **(No Tax Impact) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 12/0)**

This article is to allow the deposit of user fees into the Lagoon Expendable Trust fund. These funds are used for state licensing and monitoring of the lagoon, as well as the fees for the consultant to do the required testing of the lagoon.

Warrant Article 26: FACILITIES COMMITTEE EXPENDABLE TRUST DEPOSIT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000)** to be deposited into the Facilities Committee Expendable Trust Fund previously established for the maintenance, improvement, repairs, and replacement of general government buildings including the Chesley Memorial Library. Current balance as of December 31, 2019: \$52,952. **(Tax Impact \$0.05) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

This deposit into the expendable trust is to cover the costs of the 2020 Facilities Committee projects. Major project for 2020 is improvements at the Chesley Memorial Library.

Warrant Article 27: COMMUNITY BUILDING WARRANT

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of **forty thousand dollars (\$40,000)** to be deposited into the Facilities Committee Expendable Trust Fund previously established for the maintenance, improvement, repairs, and replacement of general government buildings for the purpose of restoration of the former Center School. Current balance as of December 31, 2019: \$52,952. **(Tax Impact \$0.08) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5/0) (Recommend by the Budget Committee 14/2)**

This article will allow the town to perform restoration of the c.1800 former Center School building located next to the Town Hall. The structure was donated to the town in 2018 by the American Legion.

Warrant Article 28: NORTHWOOD'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY EXPENDABLE TRUST

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **five thousand dollars (\$5,000)** to be deposited into the 250th Anniversary Expendable Trust Fund to support efforts to recognize the Town's 250th Anniversary in 2023. Current balance as of December 31, 2019: \$6,682. **(Tax Impact \$0.01) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

Deposits into this trust fund will be used for the town to recognize our 250th anniversary in year 2023. By depositing each year, the cost for the celebration will not impact our future budget when needed.

Warrant Article 29: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT BACKHOE LEASE/PURCHASE

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of **twenty thousand two hundred ninety-seven dollars and seventy-nine cents (\$20,297.79)** for the third of five yearly payments for the lease/purchase of the backhoe. This lease agreement was approved in 2018 and does contain an escape clause. **(Tax Impact \$0.04) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 14/0)**

This article is for the third payment of the five-year lease/purchase of the town's highway backhoe purchased in 2018.

Warrant Article 30: ROAD CONSTRUCTION/RESURFACING/PAVING AND DITCHING

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000)** to be used for the construction, reconstruction, paving, and ditching and/or resurfacing of town roads, and the refurbishing of ditches and culverts as recommended by the Board of Selectmen, the Road Agent, and the Highway Advisory Committee. This would include all Town Road Projects including paving on Tasker Hill Road and Ridge Road. **(Tax Impact \$0.73) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 16/0)**

These funds enable the town to complete road projects currently listed for year 2020 in the town's road plan. Harvey Lake Road will be paved with funds from the town's operating budget.

Warrant Article 31: AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of **seven thousand dollars (\$7,000)** to be deposited into the previously established Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Expendable Trust Fund. Current balance as of December 31, 2019: \$3,234. **(Tax Impact \$0.01) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

This article deposits funds into an expendable trust fund used to prevent invasive species from entering our lakes and ponds that currently do not have invasive species.

Warrant Article 32: AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES TREATMENT AND CONTROL EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000)** to be deposited into the previously established Aquatic Invasive Species Treatment and Control Expendable Trust Fund. Current balance as of December 31, 2019: \$284. **(Tax Impact \$0.02) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

This article deposits funds into an expendable trust fund used to control and treat lakes and ponds that currently have an invasive species problem.

Warrant Article 33: TERRESTRIAL INVASIVE SPECIES EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Terrestrial Invasive Species Expendable Trust Fund for the purpose of mitigation and control of terrestrial invasive species and to raise and appropriate **one dollar (\$1.00)** to put in the fund. **(No Tax Impact) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 15/0)**

This article creates a new expendable trust fund that will be used to control and treat invasive species on land such as the Emerald Ash Borer.

Warrant Article 34: AGENTS TO EXPEND

To see if the Town will vote to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from the Police Equipment Reserve Fund, previously established in 2001. **(No Tax Impact) (Majority vote required)**

This article will allow the board of selectmen to expend funds from this account for the purchase of police equipment.

Warrant Article 35: CABLE FRANCHISE GENERAL TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to expand the purposes of the Cable Franchise General Trust Fund established in 2000 from "creating, maintaining, and upgrading a broadcast system" to include paying for electronic communications, electronic signage, email blasts, electronic equipment, and staff to support electronic communications. Further, to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund. **(No Tax Impact) (2/3 vote required)**

This article will expand the purposes of this fund to include electronic equipment and communications not included in the original language of the fund; and to allow the selectmen to expend from the fund.

Warrant Article 36: OTHER BUSINESS

To transact any other business that can legally come before this meeting.