

Town of Northwood
New Hampshire



Voter's Guide

2017 Town Meeting
Session #1 (Deliberative Session)
Saturday, Feb. 4, 2017 – 9:00 AM
Snow Date: Sunday, Feb. 5, 2017 – 9:00 AM
Coe-Brown Northwood Academy

Session #2 (Ballot Voting)
Tuesday, March 14, 2017
St. Joseph Church Parish Center
844 First NH Turnpike
Polls open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Residents of Northwood:

We are pleased to provide the 2017 Voter's Guide to Town residents. In this document you will find the list of warrant articles that provide funding for Northwood's operation along with administrative warrants that help the Town run more smoothly. There is an explanation of the warrants in italics below each of the warrants.

Here at Town hall we also thought it might make your decision-making process easier if we explained tax impact. You will find that explanation below:

Tax Impact Explained

Warrants with funding requests:

These are for projects like repairing Mary Waldron Beach (Article 20) and adding funds to the Red Listed Bridges Capital Reserve (Article 10); some of these types of warrants have a tax impact. These impacts are disclosing the additional cost for every thousand dollars of your assessed property value. For example, the Highway Capital Reserve Deposit Warrant (Article 5), if approved, will increase taxes by 4 cents (\$0.04) for every \$1,000 of assessed property value. So, if you have property assessed at \$200,000 your tax bill will increase by \$8 for 2017.

Assessed property value: \$200,000

Divide: $\$200,000/1,000 = 200$ (Because it is 4 cents for every 1 thousand dollars)

Multiply: $200 \times \$0.04 = \8

Some warrants will have a funding request but No Tax Impact. This is because the funding is coming from a source other than direct taxation in 2017. For example, Article 4 (the ambulance payment), has no tax impact because the funds in the capital reserve come from Ambulance fees and not from taxation. For Article 6, the \$48,541 deposit into the expendable trust funds came from user fees collected throughout the year so there is no tax impact. This type of warrant will say No Tax Impact after the language of the warrant.

Administrative Warrants:

Some requests are administrative in scope and are not asking for funds from any source. These are the appointing agents to expend (article 13), Special Duty Revolving Fund (article 18), TIF (article 17), and veterans credit (article 9) articles and the scenic road article (article 19). These warrants will say No Tax Impact after the language of the warrant.

First Session: The deliberative session shall consist of explanation, discussion and deliberation of the Warrant Articles numbered two (2) through twenty three (23). The Warrant Articles may be amended subject to the following limitations: (a) Warrant Articles whose wording is prescribed by law shall not be amended, and (b) Warrant Articles that are amended shall be placed on the official ballot for a final vote on the main motion as amended.

Second Session: The Voting Session to act on all Warrant Articles, as amended, including the proposed budget, as a result of the action of the "First Session".

Article 1: ELECTIONS

To choose all necessary officers for the ensuing year.

Article 2: 2017 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 six hundred twenty three thousand one hundred sixty two dollars (\$3,623,162)**. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be **three million five hundred sixty three thousand two hundred eighty five dollars (\$3,563,285)** 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 0.24) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 8/2)**

This article is the operating budget for the town. It contains funding for all departments and services. There are NO cost of living adjustments (COLA) included this year for Town Employees. This year's budget has a purchase of a replacement server, an update to the town Financial and firewall software both of which are no longer supported. The server reached its estimated end of life in 2012. It is outdated and no longer has a warranty. These items are required for the safe operation of the town.

Article 3: FIRE APPARATUS LEASE/PURCHASE

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of **fifty six thousand nine hundred twelve dollars (\$56,912)** for the third of five yearly payments for the lease/purchase of the new pumper truck, and to fund the payment by withdrawing the sum of **fifty six thousand nine hundred twelve dollars (\$56,912)** from the Fire/Rescue Vehicle Replacement Special Revenue Fund. This lease agreement was approved at the 2015 Town Meeting and does not contain an escape clause. **(No Tax impact) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 11/0)**

This article authorizes the yearly payment for the new pumper truck out of the special revenue fund used to purchase fire and rescue equipment. This is the third of five payments on the five-year lease/purchase.

Article 4: AMBULANCE PAYMENT

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of **forty eight thousand six hundred seventeen dollars (\$48,617)** for the fifth of five annual payments on a five year lease on Ambulance 1 and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of **forty eight thousand six hundred seventeen dollars (\$48,617)** from the Fire/Rescue Vehicle Replacement Special Revenue Fund. This lease agreement was approved at the 2013 Town Meeting and does not contain an escape clause. **(No tax impact) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 11/0)**

This article authorizes the yearly payment for the new ambulance #1 out of the special revenue fund used to purchase fire and rescue equipment. This is the fifth of five payments on the five-year lease/purchase plan.

Article 5: HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT CAPITAL RESERVE DEPOSIT

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. **(Tax Impact \$0.04) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 10/0/1)**

This is the yearly request to add funds to the capital reserve fund that is used to purchase large equipment/vehicles for the Highway Department (current balance is \$30,172). Yearly deposits to the fund provide an avenue of incremental funding for capital items resulting in reducing the impact to the taxpayer when large purchases are made.

Article 6: EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND DEPOSITS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **forty-eight thousand five hundred forty one dollars (\$48,541)**, 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 2016 for these purposes, and the appropriation shall be funded by the withdrawal of **\$48,541** from the unexpended fund balance as of December 31, 2016. **(No tax impact) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by Budget Committee 10/0)**

Cable Expendable Trust Fund \$36,253	Transfer Station Expendable Trust Fund \$11,088
Cemetery Expendable Trust Fund \$1,200	

This article requests approval to deposit the 2016 proceeds from the above listed services into the expendable trust funds set up for their individual operation and maintenance. The funds currently have balances of: Cable trust \$47,369; Transfer station expendable \$48,518; and Cemetery Expendable trust \$300.

Article 7: NORTHWOOD'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY EXPENDABLE TRUST

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **five hundred dollars (\$500)** to be deposited into the 250th Anniversary Expendable Trust Fund to support efforts to recognize the town's 250th anniversary. **(Tax Impact: Less than \$0.01) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 11/0)**

A group of dedicated citizens have taken the lead to insure that a properly funded and historically appropriate dedication of our 250th birthday is held. This article will be the catalyst to that end.

Article 8: LAGOON MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **sixteen thousand five hundred seventy five dollars (\$16,575)**, 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. **(No tax impact) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by Budget Committee 10/0)**

This article requests approval to deposit the 2016 proceeds of the operation of the lagoon into the expendable trust fund set up for its operation and maintenance. The fund currently has a balance of \$74,212. It is used to pay for monitoring of septic volume, monitoring water quality in the surrounding area and is a reserve in case of catastrophic damage to the lagoon.

Article 9: PROVIDING TAX CREDITS TO ALL VETERANS

Shall the Town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28-b, All Veterans' Tax Credit? If adopted, the credit will be available to any resident, or the spouse or surviving spouse of any resident, who (1) served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States and was honorably discharged or an officer honorably separated from services and is not eligible for or receiving a credit under RSA 72:28 or RSA 72:35. If adopted, the credit granted will be \$250.00, the same amount as the standard or optional veterans' tax credit voted by the Town under RSA 72:28 **(No Tax Impact) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0)**

In the past only veterans that served during qualifying years were eligible for this deduction.

Article 10: RED LISTED BRIDGE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND DEPOSIT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate **eighty four thousand dollars (\$84,000)** to deposit into the Red Listed Bridge Capital Reserve Fund. This fund was established in 2016 to support the replacement of failing bridges in Northwood. **(Tax Impact 0.18) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 11/0)**

The town has bridges on Bow Lake Rd. and Old Canterbury Rd. that have been deemed failing and in need of replacement by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation. If the bridges close, school busses and residents will need to go around to Strafford to get to Coe Brown and into Northwood. Deposits to this capital reserve fund provide an avenue of incremental funding reducing the impact to the taxpayer. This is the second of three requested deposits.

Article 11: BACKHOE LEASE/PURCHASE

To see if the town will authorize the selectmen to enter into a 5 year lease/purchase agreement in the amount of \$115,000 for the purpose of leasing a new backhoe, to trade in the existing backhoe, and to raise and appropriate an amount of \$20,000 for the first year's lease payment. The lease agreement contains an escape clause. **(Tax impact \$0.04) (Majority vote required) (Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 2/1) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 7/3)**

The highway backhoe is a 2000 model and is 16 years old. The town is requesting the purchase of a new backhoe.

Article 12: 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. **(Tax Impact: \$0.03) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 11/0)**

The establishment of this fund was approved by the voters several years ago as a way to limit the impact of a long-term employee retiring and collecting accrued separation benefits. Without this fund, the money would come directly from the department budget line for salary, impairing the town's ability to replace critical staff and provide services. The town's accrued liabilities as of December 31, 2016 are \$143,337; the fund currently has \$28,725.

Article 13: APPOINTING AGENTS TO EXPEND

To see if the Town will vote to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from the previously established Police Equipment Reserve Fund. **(No Tax Impact) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0)**

This is an administrative article that allows the Board of Selectmen to expend funds from the Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

Article 14: ROAD CONSTRUCTION/RESURFACING

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000)** to be used for the construction, reconstruction, and/or resurfacing of Town roads, and the refurbishing of ditches and culverts as recommended by the Highway Advisory Committee. **(Tax Impact: 0.22) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 11/0)**

The Highway Advisory Committee created a 7-year road assessment and maintenance plan. This expenditure will be used to reclaim, repave, crack seal, and maintain town roads.

Article 15: AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to establish an expendable trust fund per RSA 31:19-a to prevent the spread of invasive aquatic species, including milfoil into Northwood ponds and lakes that are not currently infested with invasive aquatic species such as milfoil and to raise and appropriate the sum of **seven thousand dollars (\$7,000)** to be deposited into the fund. Furthermore to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from this fund. **(Tax Impact: less than 0.02) (Majority vote required)**
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 10/1)

This article represents the annual request for funds to support efforts to prevent aquatic invasive species from damaging our lakes. It assists in funding multiple Lake Host Program that informs boaters, and monitors watercraft for signs of milfoil and other invasive species.

Article 16: AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES TREATMENT AND CONTROL EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **ten thousand dollars (\$10,000)** to be deposited into the previously established Aquatic Invasive Species Treatment and Control Expendable Trust Fund. **(Tax Impact: 0.02) (Majority vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 10/1)**

This article represents the annual request for funds to support efforts to remove aquatic invasive species in our lakes.

Article 17: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – TIF District

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Northwood West Tax Increment Finance District with the following components:

1. A TIF district with a total area of approximately 302 acres, encompassing an area beginning just east of Main Street, north of the 1st NH Turnpike, west of the intersection of Kelsey Mill Road and the 1st NH Turnpike and south of the Eversource utility easement, pursuant to RSA 162-K:5. The boundaries of said TIF District are depicted in the map titled Northwood West TIF District, dated 10/13/2016 and on file with the Town of Northwood Town Clerk.
2. An Advisory Board for the TIF pursuant to RSA 162 – K:14, with members to be appointed and removed at the discretion of the Board of Selectmen.
3. A Development and Finance Plan pursuant to RSA – K:6, K:9 and K:10, dated 12/28/2016 and on file with the Town of Northwood Town Clerk. **(No Tax Impact) (Majority vote required)**
(Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0)

This does not increase taxes; it allows town neighborhoods to keep their tax money from going to the County, State, or School and to be used locally. Adoption of this article creates a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) zone and a citizen advisory board. Creating these zones and boards allows the town to capture tax dollars for use in the zone and in Northwood neighborhoods.

Article 18: SPECIAL DUTY REVOLVING FUND

To see if the Town will add the following language, which was omitted by error, to the previously established Special Duty Revolving Fund; Insert “These funds may be expended for all costs related to police special details, for the maintenance and replacement of police vehicles, and for police special duty related equipment. Furthermore to make only the Board of Selectmen Agents to expend from this fund **(No Tax Impact) (2/3 vote required) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0)**

This article is intended to amend the use of Special Duty Revolving Fund to allow the Selectmen to expend from this fund to include the replacement of police vehicles, vehicle maintenance and special duty equipment replacement.

Article 19: TO REMOVE THE SCENIC ROAD DESIGNATION OF SHERBURNE HILL ROAD

To see if the Town of Northwood will vote to rescind the Scenic Road designation of Sherburne Hill Road pursuant RSA 231:157. **(No Tax impact) (Majority vote required) (Petition warrant article)**

Article 20: BOAT RAMP RECONSTRUCTION AT MARY WALDRON BEACH

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **sixty one thousand dollars (\$61,000)** to be used in the repair of the beach area, beach parking area and rebuild the boat ramp at the Mary Waldron Town Beach. **One time tax impact, if approved. (Tax impact: 0.13) (Petition warrant article) (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3/0) (Recommended by the Budget Committee 4/7)**

Article 21: ELIMINATION OF THE POLICE COMMISSION

Shall the Town rescind the action taken at the 1987 Town Meeting establishing a Police Commission so that the authority over the police department shall revert back to the Board of Selectmen. **(No Tax impact) (Majority vote required) (Petition warrant article)**

Article 22: SCENIC ROAD DESIGNATION FOR RANGE ROAD

Shall the Town designate Range Road as a scenic road with all of the protections as designated in RSA 231:158. **(No Tax impact) (Majority vote required) (Petition warrant article)**

Article 23: To transact any other business that can legally come before this meeting.

NORTHWOOD PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDED ZONING AMENDMENTS

Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment #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 referencing a particular year's Master Plan?

The current ordinance refers to a specific year of the Master Plan. This amendment would remove that reference.

Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment #2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town's development ordinance as follows:

Revise the definition for *Structure* such that all driveways (even those without manmade surfaces) are now considered structures and to provide that fences are not considered structures?

This amendment is included to create consistency in the language (refer to amendment number 4)

Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment #3 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?

The current regulation refers to a 1981 roads map with only some private roads shown. The amendment will allow all private roads, not just those approved in 1981 map, to be upgraded for new building development; and makes upgrades for both private and Class VI roads meet the same standards.

Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment #4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town's development ordinance as follows:

Amend Section IV (B)(4) to clarify that driveways are exempt only from front setbacks and not from any other setback requirements?

Self-explanatory.

Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment #5 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)*; and allow ADUs as a use permitted throughout town if they comply with specific performance criteria; and also to delete all references to *Accessory Apartments*?

This amendment brings the town ordinance in compliance with state law. (RSA 674:71, 674:72 and 674:73)

NORTHWOOD PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDED ZONING AMENDMENTS

Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment #6 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?

Self-explanatory.

Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment #7 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town's development ordinance as follows:

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 amendment provides for greater environmental protection on undersized non-conforming lots and adjacent property.

Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment #8 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?

This amendment provides for greater environmental protection on undersized non-conforming lots and adjacent property.

Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment #9 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?

Self-explanatory.